

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PASSOVER

We live in a world that is governed by the things we cannot see. For example, love, faith, hate, stress, oppression, depression, all these we cannot see, but we know when we come under their influence. These are the spiritual components of life. With that in mind, can a command which we must perform physically, have profound spiritual implication? By the end of this study, the answer to this question will be startle the core of your belief. We can be under no illusion that we are the last generation of this age; based on the timeline we have been given in the book of the prophet Daniel, chapter nine. Moreover, the Lord compared our generation to the generation of Noah just before the flood which devastated the entire earth. Should we be concerned about what the Lord said? Do you know or rather understand what the Lord has said? This is the word of the Lord:

Matthew 24:32-44 New King James Version

³² "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

We can easily get fixated on the fact that no one knows the day or the hour of the return of the Son of Man, while forgetting that, we have also been given certain signs and we have also been told the specific signs to watch for. Do you know what signs to watch for? If our hearts are set on seeking the truth, not what we are being told in the institutions we fellowship with,

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should we not be able to discern the signs of the times and what to watch for? The Lord will not leave His people ignorant of what He has said.

If we examine the above passage of Scripture in detail, we will realise that, just as it was in the days of Noah, today, life on earth is steaming ahead at full speed. However, we are overlooking the danger signs. Many profess to believe in God and go to church, but when you examine the practices and customs of these churches, and of those who say they believe, you will realise that what the Lord has prescribed in the word of truth is alien to them. As for some, the mention of the word "God" draws out anger and intense hatred. Others have buried their heads in the sand, ensuring that they can neither see nor hear a thing. What about you? Are your spiritual ears and eyes dead or have they been opened by the Lord?

We must remember that only eight souls survived the flood. What happened to those who professed to have believed? What about those who helped Noah build the ark? It must have been an extensive construction project for Noah's family to undertake without any help. Unfortunately, as we now know, the floods came and took them all away. We have been given numerous warnings with the same magnitude. Are you watching? If you are, what signs are you watching for? Only the Lord can open our understanding to what He has said. We need to seek the Lord as a matter of urgency to acquire wisdom, understanding and knowledge of the truth, which can save our souls.

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THE FIRST PASSOVER

In the book of Genesis, we are given an account of what happened at the beginning when the Lord our God created man on the earth. When we investigate the book of Genesis chapters one through to chapter three closely, we will realise these verses of Scripture are pregnant with information. We will also uncover the profound implications of what is involved with the command the Lord our God gave Adam. We must also understand the fact that, the Lord our God had already established a plan to restore His creation to His envisioned glory, which means it had to go through this phase to enable the Lord our God to build His family of rulers, which is the reward for all those who will qualify from this age. Not many have come to this revelation. Before we go any further, we must establish two important principles the Lord our God had set before He laid the foundation of the earth.

Hebrews 9:19-22 New King James Version

¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." ²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

We speak about the laws and commandments of God without a good understanding of the implications of sin, (the transgression of Gods laws and commandment), to God the Father whose laws and commandments we break. Blood is required for the cancellation of the penalty, the effect of sin. As we now know, God the Father had, before He created the heavens and the earth, provided a solution to this problem in His plan of salvation. Our God is a provider. We must keep this at the forefront of our minds. The second principle to consider is the fact that the penalty of sin, which is death is not imputed on us instantly when we sin:

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 New King James Version

¹¹ Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who

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fear before Him. ¹³ But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God

When we transgress any of God's laws and commandments, the Lord our God has reserved a day for us to be judged and sentenced. Surely that day will come regardless of our beliefs. Although it tarry, it will come to pass. There is a reason for this. If judgement was instant, there would be no one alive today because we have all fallen short of the glory, the standard God has set. Because of God's love, mercy, compassion, and patience, we are given the opportunity to live and perhaps rectify our mistakes. Therefore, Adam and Eve did not die instantly after they had transgressed God's commandment which set the precedent for this age..

Moreover, righteousness is not imputed to anyone. Just because we say we believe; contrary to common belief, the Lord our God will not freely give us His righteousness. We must end the righteousness that is in the Lord Jesus Christ by our works of faith after we have been justified in the sight of God the Father. For this reason, the apostle James was inspired to write:

James 2:14-24 New King James Version

¹⁴ What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

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We must all be clear on this point; justification is by faith and not by works. It is the Lord our God who renders us just in His sight. Justification comes only after we have sincerely repented of our sins. No amount of works can render just in the sight of God. But after we have been justified, we must do the works of righteousness, which is putting our faith into action. Ironically, the works of righteousness is obedience to God's laws and commandment by faith. With that established, there is something else we need to seriously consider first before we examine the first Passover.

Adam and Eve were no ordinary couple. They were placed in the garden of Eden which implies, they were senior in the hierarchy of the people God had created at the beginning. Adam was the appointed ruler over the earth. The Lord our God would not have appointed him in that position without giving him the authority and power to perform his office faithfully. Adam was full of the Spirit of God, similarly to the Lord Jesus Christ when He walked the earth. There is a simple reason for this. Only two men in this world have greatly changed the course of life here on earth, Adam, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, Adam and Eve's temptation did not come immediately after they were created. The Lord our God must have protected them from the serpent just as He protected the Lord until the appointed time when He was led into the wildernesses by the Spirit of God. So, what happened in the garden of Eden?

When the Lord our God created the garden of Eden, He also placed in the midst of the garden the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There are profound reasons why the Lord our God placed those trees in the midst of the garden.

Genesis 2:8-9 New King James Version

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life was in the garden of Eden and Adam and Eve could have freely eaten of it since they were authorised to eat of all the trees in the garden but one. The Lord our God had attached a commandment on the fruits of one of the trees.

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Genesis 2:15-18 New King James Version

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

When we closely examine this passage of Scripture, we will realise the presence of certain elements which were critical to Adam and Eve and to us today.

- The first was the instruction from God. The word of God instructing them on what they should do.
- The secondly was the command of God. The command from the Lord our God not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Thirdly they were presented with a choice. The presence of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil gave them a choice. They were strongly advised not to eat of this tree although it was in the midst of the garden. If they so wished, they could eat from the tree but the consequence of doing so was death.
- The fourth was obedience. They had the choice to obey the Lord's commandment. They had to make a conscious decision in respect to the Lord's commandment.
- The most important of all was faith. Faith, trusting the word of God who created them and gave them the commandment.

With the passing of time after the Lord our God had issued the command, Adam and Eve knew the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in the garden, and they were getting pulls from it. They introduced another layer of protection which we notice in Eve's response to the serpent. The serpent must have tempted Adam first without success. So, he turned his attention to Eve not because she was vulnerable, but because she was with Adam in an equal partnership, but Adam was the head of the family, and the burden of the Lord's command rested on him. The serpent knew the influence Eve had on Adam.

Genesis 3:1-7 New King James Version

³ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the

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garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'”

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Here, we see the same elements present; faith, obedience, the freewill to choose between two options, and the deceit of the devil. But one more element was introduced, doubt. The introduction of doubt about what the Lord our God had said caused their focus to change from God's word to the deceit of the serpent. The trust they had in the word of God disappeared and was replaced with what the serpent said, a shift in belief. By trusting in what the serpent said, Eve ate the fruit from the tree the Lord our God had commanded them not to eat. Adam was present with Eve throughout her temptation. When he saw Eve was still alive after eating the fruit, it softened his stance. When he was offered the fruit, he did not hesitate to eat of it.

Immediately after Adam ate of the fruit, a catalogue of events began to unfold. Instantly, the Spirit of God which was in them left them. They then realised they were naked because they had lost their righteousness, which was their covering. By obeying the words of the serpent who is the spirit empowering the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they, at the same instance, acquired his spirit and character, which today is called "the human nature". It is not human nature; it is the nature of the serpent since he is the lord over the entire earth. You can hear it in Adam's response to the Lord's question and in Cain's response to the Lord our God in Genesis chapter four.

Genesis 3:8-15 New King James Version

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the

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garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Immediately after Adam ate the fruit, the Spirit of God departed from them, and death entered the world since it was one of the many consequences for disobeying the Lord's command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When the Spirit of God left Adam and Eve, the spirit of disobedience from the serpent entered both Adam and Eve. This is what is commonly known today as human nature which is enmity against God, and it can never be subject to His laws and commandments.

At this point, the Lord our God gave Satan authority over the earth, because he had successfully enticed Adam, (who the Lord had ordained the first ruler over the earth), to disobey God's commandment. During the Lord's temptation, Satan did say he had been given authority over the earth and he could give it to whoever he pleased. What we see in the world today is the direct opposite of what the Lord had proposed for His creation, but everyone must go through this age to choose God's way of life because the Lord wants us to be like Him, creative and being able to make difficult decisions. After the Lord had pronounced judgement on all three parties, the Lord went on to perform the first Passover.

Genesis 3:20-21 New King James Version

²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

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These are just a few words, but they carry a wealth of information if our understanding has been opened by the Lord. If everything the Lord has done and continues to do was documented for us, there will be no living space on earth because of the number of books. Here we are told the Lord our God made tunics of skin and clothed them. The Lord had finished with creation, so where did the Lord obtain the tunics of skin to clothe them? The Lord must have sacrificed an animal. Remember we addressed the fact that where there is no blood, there is no remission of sin. Here we have the first sacrifice because of sin, and it was the Lord, our high Priest who performed the first sacrifice. This is the same sacrifice for sin we see in Genesis chapter four, verses two through to six which Abel performed faithfully in obedience to what the Lord had commanded, but Cain, like most of us today, did his own will and expect to be accepted.

In Genesis chapter three verse twenty-two through to twenty-four, we see the Lord our God protecting the path to the tree of life according to His will. This was not a reacting to what Adam and Eve had done. It was the beginning of the plan of salvation.

Genesis 3:22-24 New King James Version

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Just as during the Feast of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread in the book of Exodus, here we see the Lord performing the first sacrifice for the remission of sin. After covering Adam and Eve's sin with the blood of the animal that was sacrificed, the Lord drove them out of the Garden of Eden into the house of bondage under the control of Satan which remains until this day. This was a turning point in time when man was moved from the spiritual, full of faith to the physical which is enmity with God. The flaming sword and the cherubim was not put in place to keep Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, instead, it was to protect the path to the tree of life from the serpent.

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When the Lord called Abraham, He began to narrow His salvation plan for His creation, mankind, the earth, and everything in it, in one man, Abraham. The Lord Himself taught Abraham all His laws, commandments, precepts, and statutes, in the person of Melchizedek. It was after the King of Salem; Melchizedek had blessed Abraham that the Lord our God appeared to him and made a covenant with him.

Genesis 15:7-21 New King James Version

⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." ⁸ And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" ⁹ So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

The Lord gave a prophecy of what will happen to the descendants of Abram and made this covenant with Abram even before He changed his name to Abraham. The Lord our God promised to give the land Canaan to the descendants of Abram, but they had to first serve

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under affliction for four hundred years as strangers in a strange land. The Lord also promised to judge that nation which we now understand to be Egypt. Joseph was sent to Egypt by the Lord to prepare the way. As we can appreciate today, it was a well-orchestrated plan.

At the appointed time, the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush to send him back to Egypt to bring His people out of the Land of Egypt in fulfillment of the promise He had made to Abraham.

Exodus 3:1-10 New King James Version

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Before the foundation of the world, the Lord had specifically chosen His servant Moses to perform this task because He knew Moses will follow His instructions faithfully. We all know

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of the account of how the Lord our God plagued Egypt and Pharaoh until it came to the tenth plague.

Exodus 12:1-20 New King James Version

¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, ² “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover.

¹² ‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ ‘So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of

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work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. ¹⁸ In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.’ ”

This was the period the Lord our God began to fulfil the promise He had made to Abraham. The Passover is the event that makes the beginning of God’s salvation plan. It is critical that we understand the significance of the Passover. This is the time the Lord our God made Himself known to the world that He is the creator of all things. We are to keep not only the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, but all the feast days of the Lord listed in the book of Leviticus chapter twenty-three. If we do not keep the Lord’s feast days, we have no part in the Lord.

What is the significance of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread? The Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are deeply connected because one follows directly on the heel of the other. This is the significance of the Passover. First, we must remember that this is the Lord’s feast, not man’s feast. If we profess to believe in the truth, this is the feast the Lord has ordained for us.

Secondly, the instruction is specific because it was a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice of the Son of God, the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. The Passover had to happen first to prepare the way for the Lamb of God to come into the world. The Lord Jesus Christ had to come into the world as a human being, a child, through a nation of people who were obedient to the laws and commandments of God.

This is the significance. The blood of the lamb on the door posts and lintels of the houses where the lamb was eaten provided remission for the sins of those who inhabited those houses. But they were also instructed to eat the lamb with unleavened bread to provide

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remission for their sins until the next Passover, which is an annual event. There was a requirement for them to remain in the house of the Lord our God.

Moreover, we must also remember the Days of Unleavened Bread which carry a profound significance in the Lord's salvation plan. The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the day the Lord our God removed His people, the children of Israel, from the house of bondage to establish for Himself a nation on earth through which the whole earth was to be blessed. As Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden by the Lord to become carnal, physical people on earth, on this day, that is, on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Lord began the task of returning His people to a spiritual people to fulfil His will of growing His family of rulers over His creation. Hence, the reason why this day is to be much observed because it is the day the Lord our God paved the way for man to become spiritual as it was at the beginning before the fall of Adam and Eve.

Exodus 12:40-42 New King James Version

⁴⁰ Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. ⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

This is that night of the Lord. It might not be significant to us at this stage, but we need to quickly change how we view that night because the Lord brought out a nation from the land of Egypt, through which He will establish the Kingdom of God here on earth.

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THE PASSOVER LAMB OF GOD

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, the Lord our God gave us a prophecy on how He intended to bless the world according to His promise to His servant and friend Abraham. We must not lose sight of the fact that we are living through two promises, the promise the Lord made to Abraham and to David. The blessing the Lord had promised the world, came through Abraham's seed and that blessing is the sure mercies of David, which is the forgiveness of sins. We must also remember that, if we are the Lord's, we automatically become Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. But the God of the Old Testament had to come into the world and live as a man for that promise to be fulfilled.

Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version

⁶For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

This was the prophecy the Lord gave about His coming into the world. He had to come as a man to fulfil certain criteria to bring mankind back into the house of God and to regain the earth from Satan who is the present ruler over the entire earth. This prophecy was fulfilled when the three wise men from the East came into Jerusalem looking for the King of the Jews:

Matthew 2:1-8 New King James Version

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

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⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

This is the King God the Father said He had already set His King on His holy hill of Zion. God the Father also gave His King certain duties to fulfil, one of which was to regain the earth from Satan the devil:

Luke 4:1-13 New King James Version

¹ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" ⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' ¹¹ and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" ¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

This is the most important passage of Scripture in the entire Bible. This is the reason behind this thought. If the Lord had failed like Adam did at the beginning, nothing else would have been possible and we would have all been doomed, without hope. It was only after the Lord had defeated Satan in the wilderness that He returned to preach the gospel of the Kingdom

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of God, which was His second task. The third was to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In the gospel of John, the Lord gave us this profound truth about the fact that He is the Lamb of God who was to be sacrificed for our sins. He went even further to point out that He is the bread of life. Whoever eats of His flesh and drinks of His blood will, at the appointed time live for ever:

John 6:47-58 New King James Version

⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

⁵² The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

If we cast our minds back to the book of Genesis chapter two, God gave a command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Death was the consequence of disobeying that commandment. Significantly today, we have been given a commandment to eat from the tree of life, which is the bread of life, the lamb of God. Before the Lord was crucified as the Lamb of God on the night before Passover Lamb was to be killed, He switched the Passover symbols from the lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and blood on the door posts and lintel of the houses, to unleavened bread and wine, which spiritually is His body and blood.

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Matthew 26:26-29 New King James Version

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Many cannot spiritually discern the fact that this is the Passover which was instituted by the Lord through His servant Moses. The perfect Lamb of God, who was without blemish was sacrificed for our sins on the Feast of Passover as the Lord had appointed. This is an annual feast which we have been admonished to keep at the appointed time in its season. Many today have come up with different variations of what they perceive to be the Lord's Passover. We must remember the simple fact that this is the Lord's feast day, for His purpose for our benefit. It is not man's feast day. Anything we do apart from what the Lord has ordained is in vain.

Understanding the significance of partaking in the Feast of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread comes from the foundation that we understand and keep God's laws and commandments by faith. If we believe that the Lord fulfilled the law and we do not have to keep the laws and commandments of God, we shall never come to the knowledge of the importance of the Feast of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

If we can reiterate once again. At the beginning, the Lord our God gave a command to Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which was a physical command which carried profound spiritual consequences, one of which is death. Today, we have been given a similar physical command with an even greater spiritual benefit, eternal life. Who has ears to hear? However, we must obey and keep the commandment not according to our understanding, but with understanding that comes from the Spirit of God.

The Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are annual feast days of the Lord and we have been admonished to keep them in their seasons. On the fourteenth day of the first month, not January but the Hebrew month of Nisan, we are to keep the feast of Passover. It is a perpetual ordinance.

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Leviticus 23:4-8 New King James Version

⁴These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. ⁸But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.' "

There are two important factors that underpins the importance of the Feast Passover and the Days of unleavened Bread. The first is the fact that the Passover acts as a sign between God and His people. In other words, if you keep the Feast of Passover, the weekly Sabbaths, and the other feast days the Lord our God has ordained, it means you are worshipping the true God.

Exodus 31:12-17 New King James Version

¹²And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³"Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. ¹⁴You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

And in the book of the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord reiterated the fact that the Sabbaths are a sign between Him and His people. If the Sabbaths, which includes the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are a sign between the Lord and His people, does it not signify the fact that we are to keep the Sabbaths, today?

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Ezekiel 20:10-13 New King James Version

¹⁰ "Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. ¹¹ And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them.' ¹² Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. ¹³ Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them.

The consequence of defiling the Lord's Sabbath is death, but we currently live in the period which the Lord has set as the acceptable year of the Lord in which we are given the opportunity to amend our ways and to start living according to the precepts and statutes, judgement of our God. Who has ears to hear?

Secondly, if the Feast of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread and the other feast days of the Lord documented in the book of Leviticus which also include the weekly Sabbath are to be observed during the millennium reign of the Lord Jesus Christ here on earth and beyond, which means it is very important to us today.

Ezekiel 45:21-25 New King James Version

²¹ "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. ²² And on that day the prince shall prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering. ²³ On the seven days of the feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bulls and seven rams without blemish, daily for seven days, and a kid of the goats daily for a sin offering. ²⁴ And he shall prepare a grain offering of one ephah for each bull and one ephah for each ram, together with a hin of oil for each ephah. ²⁵ "In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast, he shall do likewise for seven days, according to the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the oil."

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, we are given a clear indication of the fact that we shall be keeping the feast days of the Lord which includes the weekly Sabbaths after the end of this age.

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Isaiah 66:22-24 New King James Version

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD. ²⁴ “And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

This passage of Scripture is addressing the time of the new earth and the new heaven which we understand to be after the Lord has reigned on the earth with His Saints for a thousand years. After Satan has been casted into the lake of fire and there is no more death, everyone alive at that appointed time will go and worship before the Lord on the appointed feast days in their seasons. The feasts of the Lord are important to us today and we have been admonished to keep them in their seasons.

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CONCLUSION

It is the truth that sets us free from the house of bondage and we should all come to the knowledge of the truth. Many today live according to man's traditions, religions, and commandments which are all vain practices. These people will instantly reject the truth because the word of God is not in them. The sacrifice for the remission of sin was instituted on the day Adam and Eve were deceived by the serpent in the garden of Eden. We must not forget the fact that, it is the Lord who provided the sacrifice. The Lord is our provider. From that day of the first sacrifice, the Lord kept open the way to the tree of life, in anticipation to the day when the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the God of the Old Testament, will come into the world as a man to be crucified for the sins of all mankind. The Lord Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God.

In the Old Testament, the children of Israel were required to provide and to kill a lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month, the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. As we now know that was the feast day God had ordained in the Old Testament as the Feast of Passover. It was ordained to be kept as a feast to the Lord perpetually, as an everlasting ordinance. God the Father provided the Lamb who took away the sins of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. On the day before the Lord was to be crucified, He changed the symbols of the lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs to unleavened bread and wine which spiritually symbolises His body and His blood:

John 6:53-58 New King James Version

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

You can clearly see the implication of not obeying the commandment of eating the body of Christ and drinking His blood at the appointed time. We cannot choose when to partake in

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this command. It should be done at the appointed time during the Feast of Passover. The apostle Paul admonished us to keep the Feast of Passover worthily:

Corinthians 11:17-32 New King James Version

¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Here we are given the reason why many have died, and some are weak and sick amongst us today, simply because we do not examine ourselves, but partake in the Feast of Passover in an unworthy manner, not discerning the Lord's body.

What many of us failed to notice here, is that the Lord sent Paul, who was an Israelite, to teach the gentiles who have been called into the Body of Christ, how to keep the laws and

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commandments of God which the Lord had given to His people through His servant Moses. What the apostle Paul was addressing here was the Feast of Passover which was first observed in the book of Exodus. It is the same feast except for the symbols, which the Lord had changed on the night before He was crucified. The apostle Paul had already admonished us to keep the feast of Passover directly, before explaining how we should observe the feast:

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 New King James Version

⁶Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

There is no ambiguity in this passage of Scripture. The apostle Paul is informing all of us in no uncertain terms that we are to keep the Feast of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. We are to keep the days of Unleavened Bread with sincerity and truth. This means we are to put away sin from our lives and walk in the way of righteousness which is in the Lord Jesus Christ. This can only be achieved if we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us.

The house of God has its laws and commandments. If we are under the illusion that God's house has no laws and commandments, we are literally deceiving ourselves. The feasts days of the Lord constitute the fourth commandment which states, "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy". The Passover is an integral part of the fourth commandment. When the young ruler asked the Lord what he should do to enter the Kingdom of God, the Lord said to him, "keep the commandments". The Lord then listed the last six of the Ten Commandments, which means the first four are just as important. If the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind, this implies the first four commandments are critical to our spiritual growth.

One of the reasons behind creation, if not the most important reasons why we are alive today is to worship before our God and Father. God the Father has set the appointed time for us to come before Him.

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Isaiah 66:22-24 New King James Version

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³ And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD. ²⁴ “And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

After the Lord would have established the Kingdom of God here on earth, it has already been appointed by the Lord that from one Sabbath to another and from one new moon to another, all flesh must go and worship before the Lord, which implies that, the Sabbath days are important to us today. If we do not keep the Feast of Passover, and the rest of the Lord's Sabbath Days now, we are certainly not going to make it into the Kingdom of God. God is no respecter of persons. God hears everyone who does His will. But if we choose to disobey His commandments and do our own will, as the Lord has said in the above passage of Scripture, our corpse will be amongst the corpses of those who transgressed against the Lord in the lake of fire that is never quenched, and their worm does not die.