

The Passover Feast

...and what it represents in the spiritual sense

The original Passover details	What this represents in the spiritual sense
<p>The original Passover Exod.ch12; Lev.23:4-8; Num.9:1-14, Num.28:16-25; Deut.16:1-8</p>	<p>The original Passover was for deliverance from the bondage of Egypt for natural Israel. This is symbolised in our lives by our deliverance from the bondage of sin and corruption. The English word 'Passover' is translated from the Hebrew word 'Pecach' which literally means, 'exemption' and is only used in Scripture with reference to this feast. Strong's No.6453</p>
<p>A lamb or goat without blemish</p>	<p>The lamb (Exod.12:5) represents Jesus as the sinless lamb of God (John 1:29).</p>
<p>No bone was broken on the lamb</p>	<p>No bone of Jesus was broken (John 19:31-37; Psa.34:20).</p>
<p>The reject of the flock</p>	<p>The reject (Lev.22:20) represents sin and is unacceptable to God (Mal.1:6-8).</p>
<p>Roasting with fire</p>	<p>Fire (Exod.12:8) represents suffering by persecution (Heb.13:11-13; 1 Pet.4:12-13).</p>
<p>The blood of the lamb</p>	<p>The blood of the lamb was a token of the people's obedience and was the means by which the people were delivered from death (Exod.12:7, 13). When Jesus' blood was shed that was the absolute proof of His obedience unto death (Phil.2:8). We obey Jesus in baptism and His blood is said to have washed us from our sins, providing us with deliverance from death (Rev.1:5; 1 Cor.6:11).</p>
<p>The feast</p>	<p>The feast was eaten at night 'with loins girded, shoes on feet etc' ready for deliverance (Exod.12:22). During this period we feast on spiritual food (Rev.3:20) during the 'night' of spiritual darkness that covers this world (Isa.60:2), waiting for our deliverance on resurrection morning.</p>
<p>The 7 day unleavened feast</p>	<p>Symbolic of a sinless period. When we develop faith in God and His Son and obey the call through baptism, we are commencing our 'feast' (Rev.3:20) and have forgiveness of sins until we are delivered at the resurrection. Only circumcised Israelites were permitted to eat of the Passover. (Exod.12:43-48) This symbolises the cutting off of the old ways of the world and putting on Christ. (Rom.6:6, 13:14; Gal.5:24)</p>
<p>Remain in house until morning</p>	<p>No one was allowed out of the door of their house until morning (Exod.12:22). We have to remain in the household of faith until resurrection morning.</p>
<p>Unleavened bread</p>	<p>Otherwise known as the 'bread of affliction' (Deut.16:3). Unleavened bread 'keeps' better than leavened. This represents sinlessness and incorruption. It also represents 'sincerity' and 'truth' (1 Cor.5:7-8). Jesus is the symbolic unleavened bread because He did not see corruption. This bread also represents the life giving message He preached ie 'the bread of life' and 'the living bread' (John 6:48, 51).</p>
<p>Leaven</p>	<p>Leaven represents false teaching and hypocrisy (Matt.16:6, 12; Luke 12:1). Leaven was not permitted in most of the sacrifices (Exod.23:18, 34:25). Leaven is pleasurable to eat, but is not long lasting. The pleasure of sin is also short lived, ending in corruption (Heb.11:25). Leaven also represents malice and wickedness (1 Cor.5:8).</p>
<p>Bitter herbs</p>	<p>Bitter herbs were eaten with the passover (Exod.12:8). The Hebrew here means, 'green grass' or 'tender shoot'. Grass is used in Scripture as a symbol of God's word as sustenance (Psa.23:2; Ezek.34:14-15). Jesus is 'the Word made flesh' and is also described as a 'tender plant' (Isa.53:2).</p>