

This festival which was instituted in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC is being celebrated as the Jewish national day. Purim means 'lot'. The day which was selected by Haman through casting lots to destroy Israel turned out to be their day of celebration.

All festivals of Israel were days of joy which teach us many spiritual truths. Praise God for the joy that we enjoy through Jesus Christ.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Explain the reasons why God instituted festivals for Israel.
2. Write down the months of Hebrew calendar in the correct order.
3. Name the seven festivals of Israel. How are they classified into three groups?
4. Is it right or wrong for the New Testament believers to celebrate festivals or special days like Israel?
5. How are the festivals of Israel different from the festivals of other nations?

## **LESSON - 12**

---

### **PASSOVER FEAST**

**Reading :** Exo. 12; Lev. 23:5; Deut. 16:1-8

**Memory verses :** 1Cor 5: 7-8

**Theme :** To live fellowship with God after being saved from condemnation and slavery of sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb.

**Introduction:** Who was the leader whom God used to liberate Israel from slavery in Egypt? How many plagues were sent to the Egyptians? Which was the last plague? How were the Israelites to escape from the last plague? What was the name given to the lamb

that was killed at that time? They started their journey from Egypt to Canaan in that night. Passover was instituted to commemorate that day every year on the 14<sup>th</sup> of first month.

Beginning of Passover. Moses was sent by God to Egypt to deliver Israel from Egypt. Moses asked Pharaoh to let the people leave Egypt. But Pharaoh refused. Nine plague were sent on the Egyptians one after the other. Pharaoh was still adamant. Lastly, the last plague of killing the first-born of Egypt was declared. But God commanded Israel to observe Passover to escape from that plague.

The head of the Israelite family was asked to set apart a blemishless lamb on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of first month. The lamb was to be killed in the evening of the fourteenth day. Blood of the lamb must be put on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the house. Its flesh, roasted in fire must be eaten that night together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The bones of the lamb should not be broken. It must be eaten in haste, with their loins girded, shoes on their feet and staff in their hand signifying readiness to start their journey.

The first Passover was thus observed in Egypt. The angel of destruction came down that night and killed all the firstborns of Egypt. The sign of blood on the door posts of Israel saved them from destruction. The Egyptians compelled Israel to leave Egypt that night. A large group of people numbering six lakhs of men and their women and children set out on foot from Egypt.

Yearly Observance: Israel were commanded to observe the Passover feast every year on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of first month.(Lev. 23:5). It can be seen from history that they continued to celebrate the feast as they were commanded (2 Chro.30; 35:12-17). It was being celebrated even at the time of our Lord (John 2: 13-25; 6:4; 13:1). Christ was crucified during a Passover festival.

Meaning of the word 'Passover' : Literal meaning of the word is : to pass over (Exo. 12:23). The name points to the night when the angel of destruction passed over the Israeli houses by seeing the sign of blood at the door posts.



## **SPIRITUAL TRUTHS AS REVEALED BY PASOVER**

1. Lamb of God : The chief objects in 'Passover' is the lamb. The lamb foreshadows Jesus Christ ( 1 Cor. 5:7). Christ is called Lamb in the scriptures (John 1:29, 36, Acts. 8; 32, 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5: 6; 6:1; 21:9). The lamb is set apart four days before the Passover. Our Lord Jesus Christ was set apart as the Lamb of God before the foundation of the world. In the fullness of time he was crucified (1Pet. 1:18; Rev. 13:8). Just as the Passover lamb was burned in fire, Christ suffered in the fire of the wrath of God. The command that the bones of the Lamb should not be broken was also fulfilled in Jesus Christ. His legs were not broken although the legs of the other two on the cross were broken.(John. 19:31-34). "Even Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us" (1Cor.5:7). Thus we are delivered from death which is the wages of our sin and from the bondage of Satan.

2. The Liberated Israel: People of Israel who were delivered from the bondage of Egypt by the blood of the Passover Lamb stand for New Testament believers. Our salvation is only through the blood of Jesus Christ. There is no condemnation for those who believe in Him(John 3:16-18; Rom. 8:1) Just as Passover marked the beginning of the year for Israel, faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ opens a new chapter in our lives (2Cor. 5:17). Putting blood at the door posts shows that we are taking refuge in Him by faith. Eating of the roasted meat points towards the need to know Christ deeply and experience Him in our lives. It also signifies the participation of God's people in the Lord's Table. Believers must grow in strength through the partaking of Christ.

3. Unleavened Bread: Leaven represents uncleanness. Believers must keep holiness in life and doctrines. God commands: Do not touch any unclean things (2Cor.6:14; 7:1, 1Cor. 5:8).

4. Bitter herb: When we are a part of Christ, there will be experiences of bitterness and sorrows in this world. Jesus warned His disciples: " In the world you shall have Tribulation: but be of good cheer" (John 16:33). Apostles exhorted believers: we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God (Acts. 14:22).

5. Eating the Passover meal in haste with loins girded, shoes on feet and staff in hand: Believers must be ready to do service as

per the example shown by our Lord. Our feet must have the preparation for the Gospel, of peace (Eph. 6:15). Like Abraham we must consider ourselves as strangers and pilgrims looking for the heavenly city. Let us always remember that we are journeying from this land of destruction to the city of Zion.

6. The Passover meal should not be eaten by a stranger: Only the saved ones have fellowship with God and His church.

Are you saved by the blood of the Lamb of God? Do you have constant fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Church of God?

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Which is the festival that is celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of 1<sup>st</sup> month? How did it start and where?
2. Prove that the Passover lamb is the shadow of Jesus Christ.
3. Israel who were delivered by the blood of the Passover lamb represent New Testament believers. In what all respects?
4. List the practical lessons taught by Passover that are to be followed by New Testament believers.
5. How apt is the name 'Passover' for that festival?