

Jesus **“He keepeth all His bones: not one of them is broken,”** Psalm 34:20. The Passover lamb was to be killed in the evening. Jesus died in the dark. **“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave Him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save Him. Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost,”** Matthew 27:45-50.



According to Jewish time, the sixth hour is high noon Roman time. The ninth hour is 3 PM. Knowing that the next day was a High Holy Day, the Jews wanted Jesus dead and removed from the cross before their High Sabbath Holy Day, the feast of PASSOVER, starting at 5 PM that evening. The ninth hour, the very same hour that the sacrificial lamb was being killed by the priest for PASSOVER, Jesus the Lamb of God, was being killed for our Redemption. The sacrificial lamb for passover was dying in the Temple, the sacrificial lamb of redemption was dying outside the Temple! Jesus was our Passover Lamb! **The Holy “Lambs” of Passover were dead.** Darkness was over the land from noon until the death of Jesus. At the death of the Lamb of God, **“... the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened ... Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God,”** Matthew 27:51-54.

The **blood** of the Passover lamb was used for salvation from the **‘destroyer’** that went by every house in Egypt that fateful night, **“And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever,”** Exodus 12:22-24. All of the protecting power of the Lord of Hosts was behind the **blood** of the slain Lamb. All of our protection is under the **blood** of the slain Lamb of God. It wasn't the fact that Israelites were in their houses, it was the fact that the **blood** of the lamb was on their door post. Going to church doesn't

make us Christians, it is receiving the Lamb that shed His **blood** that paid our sin debt and redeemed us.

If you will meditate upon the Word, you can see that the Passover preparation (and most events) occurred over days, yes, even weeks. Passover celebration changes dates from year to year. However, **Easter**, the new beginning, the celebration and Feast of First Fruits is always on Sunday – the first day of a New Week.

We have always celebrated Good Friday as the day that Jesus died on the cross. It may be celebrated as the day He died, but it wasn't. **“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an High day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away,”** John 19:31. This Sabbath day was not the weekly Sabbath day of rest, it was the High Holy Day of the Passover from Egypt. Sunday was the first day of the week after the weekly Sabbath day of rest following the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It was the first day of the new week. Jesus was resurrected on the First Day – Sunday. The first year after exiting Egypt, the Israelites were instructed by the Lord to celebrate the Passover, The Day of Unleavened Bread, and the Day of First Fruits. Jesus died on Passover, was buried on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and resurrected on the Day of First Fruits. **Jesus became the First Fruit of the Harvest.** The feast of First Fruits always falls on the ‘morrow’ following the first weekly Sabbath after the feast of Unleavened Bread, which is the first day after Passover. First Fruits celebrates an offering to the Father after He had completed the work of delivering the Israelites from the domination and bondage of the king of Egypt. Thus, Jesus is the First Fruit that follow our Father's completion of His deliverance of our bondage and curse of sin, FOREVER. Jesus is the first fruit of the Harvest. What comes next? The full Harvest! **Hallelujah** - the full harvest of our Heavenly Father is coming. A time when **ALL** of the saints (fruits of the vine) of God are going to be with Him – JOY – JOY – JOY. Oh, what a time to celebrate. And there will be a **great feast** to beat all feasts. It is called

The MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB!

“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” Revelation 19:6-9.

Your Covenant Brother In Jesus Christ, the Risen Lamb;

Phillip Buttram

HAITI UPDATE

Communications with Haiti has been slow in coming. We are so very thankful that reconstruction project on the orphanage continues even without photographs. Work is going forward and we are eager for the completion of this projects.

PASCHAL LAMB

The Passover Lamb

Greetings in the Eternal Name of Jesus - the Christ;

In just a few weeks we will be celebrating the most **‘religious’** holiday (that is ‘Holy Day’) in all of the Kingdom of our Lord. After a winter that has challenged most of the country with record breaking weather extremes, Spring is the hope of a new season and better times with budding trees, green grass, song birds singing and nest building, and a fresh new start to the year.

Many are living with-in dysfunctional families, and most of our world is living in a somewhat dysfunctional society. **Easter** brings our attention back to happier thoughts and hopes of better times to come, as we reflect upon (and hopefully celebrate) the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead by the power of our Heavenly Father through the Holy Spirit. It is in fact, a celebration of a **“new beginning!”**

Easter, like every other ‘Holy Day,’ has been polluted with the distractions of man's traditions, and the false (or partial) truths of the enemy. Staying away from those distractions, we want to look at the core, the baseline, and the plumb line of this Holy Spring Day. While the celebration of Jesus being raised from the dead justifies Spring flowers, bright colors, new dresses, and spring chicks (to say the least), let's look at the true center-most point of this Holy Day.

The Bible records that prophets raised people from the dead. Jesus being raised from the grave after three days was truly a miracle of our Father. **His resurrection from the dead is our Strength for today, and it is our Hope for tomorrow.** But it would not have been of any great value if it were not for its beginning. As the Old Western saying goes, **“Strap down your gun partner, we're not going to fight.”** For the most part, **Easter** (and all Jewish Holy days) are not totally understood by the Christian church, much less those who do not attend church, and not by non-believing Jews. The beginning of this miracle goes back in time and eternity. **“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”** 2 Timothy 1:9. It was recorded soon after the creation of man, **“The LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat all the days of your life; And I will put enmity Between you**

and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel’;” Genesis 3:14-15.

God is speaking about His Son, Jesus, who would fulfill the requirement to redeem man from his sins. God knew before there was a man that He would have to redeem man from the sins that man would commit. God made plans and provisions for that redemptive process. His prophets spoke of it many times. **“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel,”** Isaiah 7:14.

In the last few letters, we talked about how the Apostle John saw and described Jesus in the book of Revelation as **“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lamb.”** We know that Jesus is Holy because He is God.

Getting back to **Easter**, we can never look too often at the origin of this Holy Day and what lead up to it, and we can never comprehend the fullness of God's Love and Wisdom. Just to set the stage for **Easter**, let's look at Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, **“God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name.” Thus He called him Israel,”** Genesis 35:10. A nation was born in that name change. Israel's ‘baby boy,’ Joseph, was a dreamer and the LORD gave him the gift of interpretation of dreams and visions. This insight and wisdom was from the LORD. This gift from the LORD (and his coat of many colors) caused envy, strife, and jealousy among his older brothers and they sold him into slavery rather than kill him. **“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors,”** Genesis 37:3.

This evil act of selling Joseph into slavery ended up saving two nations from starvation years later and paved the way for their (and our) redemption. The Lord moved in Joseph's life and gifts which lead to his appointment as ruler over the entire nation of Egypt (second only to the ruling King of Egypt - Pharaoh). **“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours,”** Genesis 41:39-40. Joseph was able

to stockpile enough food that would feed the nations of Egypt and Israel through the three-year famine. Israel moved his entire household to Egypt for survival to keep his family and livestock from starvation. In Egypt, they multiplied in number and lived very well, until many years later when the ruling Pharaoh forgot that Joseph had saved his nation from starving to death and made him the owner of the entire land. Thus the king put the nation of Israel into slavery (*well, I don't think that he really forgot – he just felt threatened by the growing nation of Israel and was just plain arrogant*).

Under the tyranny of the hard taskmaster of Egyptian slavery, the children of Israel cried unto the LORD for deliverance. The children of Israel remembered God but weren't walking in His Righteousness or obeying His commandments.



Forty years after Moses fled Egypt in fear to be a shepherd in the wilderness, God called him from a burning bush. Speaking from the burning bush, God told Moses to lead the descendants of Israel (now a nation of millions) out of Egypt. As the arrogant Pharaoh refused to allow the Israelites to leave, even for a few days to worship their LORD, ten plagues were allowed upon the land, the animals, and the people. As these plagues came and went, they brought devastation and death to the nation of Egypt. Yet, Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he refused to free the Israelites to worship their God. The last plague, which was the death of each and every first born living creature in the country, caused Pharaoh to demand their departure. ***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether;”*** Exodus 11:1. As is the loving nature of our Father, God warns His children, and the world, ahead of time of pending danger, even death. ***“Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh ... Jonah began ... proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown,”*** Jonah 3:3-4.

From the first call of freedom given unto Moses at the burning bush, the Lord warning demonstrated that His Love for His children, and His Covenant was stronger than life itself. Meaning, that if He had to, He would release the ***‘destroyer’*** as the last plague to free His children from slavery, because they cried unto Him. The Lord gave detailed instruction to the Israelites on how to prepare themselves, and their household, before the release of the tenth plague. The tenth plague would kill, however, God would not allow the ***‘destroyer’*** to enter any house with the **blood** from the sacrificial slain lamb

on its door post. Thus, the children of Israel were passed over, ***“The LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the ‘destroyer’ to come in to your houses to smite you,”*** Exodus 12:23. [We need to remember that there was nothing righteous in Egypt, for they worshiped many gods, spirits, and practiced magic.] The Israelites that were shepherds lived away from the cities of Egypt, in the area they called Goshen, which was in the north-eastern area in Egypt's Delta of the Nile. This land was fertile ground for the livestock. Most Israelites lived in Egypt's cities and they had taken up the traditions and worship of the land, as can be seen in their rebellion against God during their 40 years in the desert.

As a young man, I often wondered why our LORD *‘hardened the heart of Pharaoh over and over? Wouldn't it have been easier to have softened his heart to release the Israelites and save all of that grief and death?’* Yes, it would have been, and that is what anyone would have expected of God. There are three points here (at least for me). First, there was an abundance of sin in Egypt, and sin has its price (penalty). Second, remember that the Israelites were living away from the one and only true God, and hadn't worshiped Him, hadn't been led by Him nor seen the might of His power of Love. The memories of His Power and miracles were long gone. The only thing left were laws, traditions, and old stories that didn't carry any power or hold their interests any longer. Over the years they had been folded into the Egyptian society's way of life and worship. Even their prayers reflected some of the teaching and curses of the Egyptians society. They did not “know” the LORD. And third, and I believe the most important, it fit into God's plan to provide the Passover Blessing for the Israelites, fulfilling the Covenant with Abraham, which led to the eternal redemption of mankind through Jesus. Also, God was dealing with the unbridled pride of power and control of a ruthless dictator.

The Messiah, The Christ, The Anointed One had been prophesied in God's Word since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. It was prophesied that He would be a Prophet, a Priest, and a King [Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:6]. Before the bondage of the Israelites in Egypt and the Passover Covenant, there had been many sacrifices and covenants between men and God. Before Abraham, all of these covenants were between God and a man for that man and his family, only. God's covenant with Abraham changed everything as it was for **all future generations**. God reaffirmed that covenant with Isaac and Jacob. The Abrahamic Covenant led to the birth of the nation of Israel. Abraham's Covenant was recorded in detail and the basis for almost all covenants made by man, including the Passover. (These two covenants have been copied by men and demons ever since.) The fulfillment of this covenant given by God to Moses was detailed and was to be remembered by celebrating feasts that encompassed three Holy Days



after the Passover Covenant the following year. Yes, it was the Passover Covenant between God and the nation of Israel, a covenant of life, a covenant of freedom, and everlasting covenant. A covenant which is still in effect with the Jewish nation to this day. Abraham's covenant led to the covenant between God and His Son, the Covenant of the Cross, which was fulfilled during the celebration of the covenant, Passover, made with Moses. The active element for every covenant made by God with man, the Passover Covenant, and the Cross of Calvary Covenant required the shedding of innocent **blood**. **Redemption of life** required that an innocent lamb die and shed his **blood** (Abraham, Moses, and Jesus). This one element became the main entity in the Passover, and of the Cross. God was very – very specific concerning the Passover Covenant Sacrifice and Calvary's Sacrifice, from its timing, its species, its age, its purity, its inspection, its death, its preparation, its consumption, its treatment, its disposal, and its **blood**.



“In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening ... And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden [soaked, saturated] at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance [internal organs] thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; ye shall burn with fire ... In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof;” Exodus 12:3-10;46.

Israel leaving Egypt was a new start, a new beginning, and therefore God made them depart from the Egyptian calendar (and their satanic holy days) and start their beginning with a new year, ***“This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you,”*** Exodus 12:2. Without studying the Holy Days (the celebrations, the feasts) of the Israelites as instructed by the Lord, the

exact timing doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. The Paschal Lamb [Passover Lamb] (setting the ground rules for the sin offering) had to be one-year old. This is based on the first fruit of the wheat (some say barley) harvest. It could be either a lamb or goat. It had to be a male. It had to be without spot or blemish. It had to be selected by the tenth day of the month and kept until the fourteenth day. Giving three full days that the lamb was cared for and inspected to insure that it was without spot or blemish. It was to be killed at the end of the fourteenth day, roasted over a fire, and eaten that night. Anything remaining was to be burned up with fire in the morning, and no bone was to be broken. Another point that became a feast celebration for the Israelites was that the Passover Lamb was to be eaten with ***‘unleavened bread.’*** I think that most of the church knows that leavened bread is referring to sin – and there is to be no sin in ones life, in ones house, in the camp, or the church [and the nation]. More about that next month.

There are so many things about the Jewish Holy days that correlate to Jesus Christ. The lamb had to be born spotless, as was Jesus. But during the first year of the lamb's life, it could have been cut, scarred, broken a leg, or whatever, making it flawed. The Passover lamb could not have received or have any cuts, scars, different colored wool, birthmarks, or other blemishes. Jesus was born without sin by the Holy Spirit, but He could have sinned as He grew up. The Scriptures clearly states that He was tempted by both man and satan, but He did not give in to temptation and was without sin (spotless) when He was put on the cross. Up to this point in His life, He lived and only held the position of Prophet. Yes, He was God, but functioned only as a man until our sins were laid upon Him. A righteous sinless man



(God), that became sin for us. If He could not sin, incapable of sinning because He was God, then there was no temptation, He would have been just passing through this world. He could sin, but, He did not, ***“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,”*** Hebrews 4:15. At that moment on the cross, He became the Holy Sacrificial Lamb Of God. When He took His Throne and sat down beside His Father, He became our High Priest, forever.

The Passover Lamb's bones were not to be broken, ***“neither shall ye break a bone thereof;”*** Referring to