

God's Prophetic roadmap Part 1 Passover

By

Former Pastor Dr. Joel Minto *

© 2018 Joel Minto (Used With Permission)

As we discussed in the introduction, God gave to Moses on Mt Sinai seven feasts which he commanded the Nation of Israel to celebrate each year:

“23 The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.”

God introduced the Seven Feasts to the nation of Israel during the time they were encamped at the foot of Mount Sinai. They were called the feasts of the Lord because He Himself instituted them- a fact that made these Feasts hugely important in the Israeli calendar. They are referred to throughout the Bible but Leviticus 23 is the only place they are listed in chronological order. These Feasts have both historic and prophetic significance. From a historic viewpoint they are Feasts commanded by God every year as part of the elect of God or the Jewish nation. From a prophetic significance they serve as types of something bigger to come.

We won't revisit the discussion on types and shadows as we did in the introduction but I would like to remind everyone of something the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Colossi. “Let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.” Colossians 2:16-17 (NASB) What Paul is saying here is that the shadow or type as represented by the feasts commanded of God are fulfilled or are the substance of Jesus, the Messiah. They reflect through Him what is to come.

I have been trying to determine in my mind just how to present these and it became clear to me that the feasts were connected or grouped for a specific purpose and that grouping should be how we tackle this topic. If you take note of the dates and times of the feasts you will see that they are clustered together in three distinct groups.

The first three feasts Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits occur in rapid succession in the spring of the year (Nisan) over a period of eight days. They came to be referred to collectively as “Passover.”

Passover (Pesach)-Nisan 14-15

Festival of Unleavened Bread (Chag Hamotzi) Nisan 15-22

Festival of Firstfruits (Yom Habikkurim) – Nisan 16-17

The fourth feast, Harvest, occurs fifty days later at the beginning of the summer (Sivan). By New Testament times this feast had come to be known by its Greek name, Pentecost, a word meaning fifty.

Festival of Weeks or Pentecost (Shavu'ot) – Sivan 6-7

The last three feasts Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles extend over a period of twenty-one days in the fall of the year (Tishri). They came to be known collectively as “Tabernacles.”

Festival of Trumpets (Yom Teru'ah) – Tishri 1

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) – Tishri 10

God's Prophetic roadmap Part 1 Passover

By

Former Pastor Dr. Joel Minto *

© 2018 Joel Minto (Used With Permission)

Festival of Tabernacles (Sukkot) – Tishri 15-22

We have just concluded Passover for this year according to the Jewish calendar and it would be good to understand not only historically but also in Moses' day, up to the triumphant entry into Jerusalem by Jesus, it was also prophetic.

This will be a bit lengthy so grab a cup of coffee or your favorite beverage and follow along and remember the things that took place for the Nation of Israel were a shadow or a type of things to come.

In Genesis 15, God promises the land of Canaan to Abraham. Here is the covenant with Abraham: **12 as the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.** So it would actually be Abraham's descendants who would take possession of the land. In the interim, Israel would migrate to Egypt and eventually become enslaved there. When the 400 years were up, God would bring them back to give them the land and would also give them the wealth of Egypt, as compensation for their time of slavery. So that there would be no misunderstandings or confusion of this God repeated this Covenant with both Isaac, Abraham's son in Genesis 26:2-3 and Jacob, Abraham's grandson in Genesis 28:10-15. After the 400 years were up God calls Moses to deliver the chosen people to bring Abraham's descendants back to the Promised Land. It was not an easy task to move an entire nation from out of captivity, especially when the entire economy of Egypt rested on the enslavement of Israel. So God uses a series of plagues to convince the Egyptian Pharaoh to release the chosen people. The final plague the death of the first born of every household not protected by the blood of a lamb or goat is the one that gets Israel released. **"The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats." (Exod. 12:1-5)** Not only does God give instructions on what the nation was to do but he also changes the calendar. Up until this time Nisan was the seventh month of the year, God orders a shift of six months and makes Nisan the first of the Jewish year. Now they had two calendars an agricultural calendar which begins in the fall and a religious calendar which begins in the spring. **"Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire-head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover." (Exod. 12:6-11)** A meal prepared in haste, blood

God's Prophetic roadmap Part 1 Passover

By

Former Pastor Dr. Joel Minto *

© 2018 Joel Minto (Used With Permission)

applied to the door posts, bread made without leaven, all done on the evening of the new first month Nisan on the 13th day after the sun sets which is actually the start of the day or the 14th of Nisan. **“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn-both men and animals-and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.” (Exod. 12:12-13)** From the narrative in Exodus we know that the death angel passed throughout the land of Egypt passes over any house that had the blood of the lamb on it and destroying the first-born of any house that did not have the blood applied. A short parenthetical pause here to remind you that God didn't spare a nation that night. He spared all those that had faith in applying the blood to the doorpost. It didn't matter if you ate the lamb or bitter herbs or the unleavened bread it didn't matter if you part of the chosen, it only mattered that the blood was applied. **“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD -a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat-that is all you may do. Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.” (Exod. 12:14-20)** As we can see here that the second feast following the hasty Passover meal was a feast which lasted from the 15th of Nisan until the 21st of Nisan. All of the yeast was to be removed from the house. Yeast is a picture of sin in the Bible and ceremonially the Jewish people were removing every semblance of sin from their homes during this seven days. During this week of unleavened bread God commands the nation to do another thing. **“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, when ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it” (Lev. 23:10-11).** This feast is a celebration of the bounty that God is going to give the nation, and in celebration of that the people are commanded to bring from their crops the first of what they harvest in the spring to the High Priest who will then wave it before God in celebration of God putting them in a fertile land. All the feasts were related to the spiritual life of the people. Passover served as a reminder that there is no atonement for sin apart from the shedding of blood. Unleavened Bread was a reminder of God's call on their lives to be a people set apart to holiness. Leaven was a symbol of sin. They were to be unleavened that is, holy before the nations as a witness of God. The feast of First Fruits was a call to consider their priorities, to make certain they were putting God first in their lives. Harvest was a reminder that God is the source of all blessings. That is the historical aspect of these first three feast, but I hope you remember that we are also looking for the shadow of what was to come or the type that was being presented to the Jewish people. The shadow of the coming Messiah. **“Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being**

God's Prophetic roadmap Part 1 Passover

By

Former Pastor Dr. Joel Minto *

© 2018 Joel Minto (Used With Permission)

slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. (Exod. 6:6-7).

During the Passover Seder there are 4 cups of wine, or one cup filled four times that are poured and consumed during the meal. They are related to this section of Exodus chapter 6:6-7. We also know that by Jesus time when he observed the Passover, drinking a cup of wine during the meal was an official part of the observance. We have ancient rabbinic sources, the Mishnah, that instructs those celebrating to drink from the cup 4 times during the Passover Seder. Pesachim 10:1

The first cup is the Cup of Sanctification, based on God saying **"I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians."**

The second cup is the cup of deliverance, based on God saying **"I will free you from being slaves to them"**.

The third cup is the cup of redemption, based on God saying **"and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment"**.

The fourth cup is the cup of acceptance, based on God saying **"I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God"**.

So what is the prophetic aspect of these first three feasts? In John 1:29 **The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** On the 10th day of the month of Nisan on the Jewish calendar the day we recognize as Palm Sunday once and only once did Jesus allow the people to celebrate Him as Messiah. While this was happening all over Israel lambs were being selected for the Passover and on the Mount of Olives the true Passover Lamb was being welcomed into the city. **9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Mathew 21:9** while the selected Passover lambs were examined for any blemish or abnormalities, the Son of God received probably the most aggressively intense questioning of his ministry. He was being carefully inspected for a flaw or some defect in His ministry. He was questioned and examined until in Mathew 22:46 we find: **46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.** The time of examination was over the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world was found without spot or blemish. It is now Sundown on the 13th of Pisan preparation day for the Passover. On the 14th of Pisan like all of those that went before Him the Messiah ate an abbreviated meal with His disciples, stopping at the third cup of wine. The cup of Redemption. He institutes a new celebration. **While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."****27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.** Only the giver of the covenant can change that covenant and from that time to this all those who

God's Prophetic roadmap Part 1 Passover

By

Former Pastor Dr. Joel Minto *

© 2018 Joel Minto (Used With Permission)

believe celebrate this third cup of redemption as it was given to us by Jesus Himself. On the 14th of the month of Nisan Jesus was arrested, tried, convicted and executed by crucifixion. Since it was the day before the feast of unleavened bread, the one where all leaven is removed from the house, all of the sin of the world was laid on our Lord and removed for all who believe. Just before Jesus died and knowing that the Passover in its entirety had to be fulfilled in Him he asks for a drink. **"Later, knowing that everything had now been finished and so that Scripture would be fulfilled Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. John 19:28-29** the fourth cup of the Passover was poured, the cup of acceptance or restoration (I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God). Finally, Jesus makes a way possible for mankind to be restored back to Him. He accepted what His Father had required of Him and in doing so restores all of mankind back to Himself. We are accepted and restored back into the family because as Paul says in **1 Cor. 5:7 "For Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.** At sundown the day Jesus was crucified Nisan the 15th and first day of unleavened bread all of the sin had been removed. Since the next day the 16th was the regular weekly Sabbath nothing could be done. The time for the Feast of First Fruits was coming, remember the day after the Sabbath on Nisan 17th while the Feast of First Fruits was being observed at the Temple the women came to the tomb where Jesus was to prepare the body since everything had been rushed earlier for the Sabbath. It was their first chance to anoint the body since He died. But the tomb was empty. He had risen as the first fruits of the first resurrection. Also resurrected that day were additional First Fruits: Mathew 27:51-53 tells us exactly what happened, **"Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many."** Jesus waved before His Father the First Fruits of the harvest as a result of his death and resurrection. In Him these first three feasts were foretold and then came to light. The shadow now revealed directly to us.

Next up the Feast of Pentecost.

* Pastor Joel has a Doctorate in Biblical studies from **Master's Divinity School** and is a contributor to Selah Life Ministries