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JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION – LESSON 1

DAY OF PREPARATION

We now take a short break from the Job series due to the upcoming holiday.

Let me begin by saying that the dates and timelines established for Jesus' "Passion Week" that was established by the Roman Catholic church over 1,500 years ago are false. They do not line up at all with the Bible, God's word. When the Protestant Reformation occurred, they simply adopted Rome's version without question because the traditions had already been in place for a thousand years.

All the celebrations from year to year of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter were artificially fabricated so as to give the people a specific fixed day of the week which they could anticipate celebrating: Sunday, then Friday, then again Sunday.

There are two timelines to look at. (1) The actual week of Jesus' "passion," and (2) how the days change every year since then. The first actual week with Jesus occurred this way. "Palm Sunday" actually was a Sunday. The crucifixion was on a Wednesday, (not Friday). His three days and three nights in the grave (the sign of Jonah) were Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. His resurrection was on Sunday, which started at sundown Saturday evening, being "early" Sunday (the first day of the week) morning.

Passover is the 14th day of Aviv (Abib) on the Jewish religious calendar. It is 14 days from the full moon, which varies from year to year on both the Julian and the Gregorian calendars that we use. It is not a fixed day of the week. Therefore, the resurrection cannot be on a fixed day annually (hence – not Sunday).

Let us discuss "the day of preparation" prior to Passover. We find God's instruction to Moses in Exodus 12:1-8. To prepare for Israel's exit from Egypt, and to be kept safe from the death plague of first-born males, they were to prepare an unblemished lamb to sacrifice. The "Passover" of death would be on the 14th day of the month. As that evening approached, they were to kill the lamb for their last meal that would be eaten at or just after sundown. The lamb would have to be slain about 3 p.m. and dressed for roasting in order to be ready by sundown on the 14th day. Therefore, Aviv 13 is the day everything had to be prepared prior to the Passover. Remember a Jewish day begins at sundown.

Yes, the day before Passover (starts at sundown) still today is the "Day of Preparation." They have to prepare the Passover meal on the 13th day of Aviv, since Aviv 14, the Passover, is a sabbath day when no work (i.e., meal preparation) can be done. They also must cleanse their house on Preparation Day. All leaven must be removed along with the unleavened bread baked, and other preparations. Tomorrow we will see why it is important to know about the "Day of Preparation" as it relates to the crucifixion of Jesus, the Lamb of God.