

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE FIRST PASSOVER: PART 1

Passover (“Pesach”) this year (2020) begins at sundown (or 6 p.m.) on Wednesday, April 8. It’s observance is tied to the Jewish religious calendar established by God over 3,500 years ago, not our Gregorian calendar, which was introduced in 1582 A.D. by Pope Gregory XIII.

It is important that we, as Christians, understand Passover because it is a very detailed foreshadow of God’s plan of salvation with Jesus, the Messiah, the sacrificial Lamb of God.

Israel had been in Egypt 430 years. The first 30 years were in peace and harmony with Egypt due to Joseph’s favor with Pharaoh. The next 400 years, after that Pharaoh died, the Israelites spent as slaves. Conditions worsened for them over time as the Hebrews (Israelites) cried out to God in anguish.

God provided them a deliverer in Moses, who was later declared by Jesus as the greatest of the Old Covenant prophets. Pharaoh resisted Moses’ multiple pleas to allow them freedom to go to the wilderness to worship and make sacrifices to God. After each denial and each broken promise from Pharaoh, God sent a plague upon the nation of Egypt. Nine different plagues, each one a strike against one or more of Egypt’s pagan gods, did not change Pharaoh’s heart, but the tenth one did.

Tomorrow we will go over the details relating to that plague and what Israel was to do. First, understand that Israel’s bondage to Egypt represents man’s bondage to sin. The act that set them free from Egyptian bondage pointed directly (and prophetically) to the act that sets man free from the bondage of sin.

To understand Passover is to understand our redemption through Jesus.

Stay tuned over the next several days as we examine Passover and how Jesus’ death relates to it; about various church traditions relating to His death and resurrection; including some unbiblical things commonly taught today.