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THE FIRST PASSOVER: Part 2

The tenth plague sent to Egypt was the sudden death of every first-born male, both human and animal. This caused Pharaoh to release the Hebrews to worship in the wilderness, taking their families and animals.

God gave specific instructions as to how the Hebrews were to avoid the death of their first-born males. On the 10th day of the month of Nisan they were to take a lamb without blemish. It was kept (prepared, sanctified, cleansed) through the 14th day. As the evening of the 14th day approached, they were to kill it, catch the blood, and roast the lamb over a fire. When the 14th of Nisan began at sundown, they were to brush the lamb's blood on the door posts and lintel of their house. They were then to eat the lamb in a meal that evening.

When they killed the lamb, they were to spread out his front legs on the spit, just as Jesus arms were spread out on the cross. The blood on the door posts of their household saved them from death just as Jesus' blood saves us from eternal death. The whole process was to save them from slavery to Egypt (a "type" of sin) just as Jesus saves us from slavery to sin. Just as they ate the body (flesh) of the lamb, so also Jesus at the last supper said eating the bread was comparable to eating His flesh. (He is the bread of life.)

Nisan 14 was when the LORD passed over at midnight wherever the blood was applied, hence the term "Passover." The destroyer killed the first born where no blood was applied.

God established Nisan as the first month of their calendar and the 14th day was to be forever observed. (Nisan corresponds between March or April in our Gregorian calendar.) Passover celebration is a sabbath unto the LORD commemorating their deliverance.

The 15th of Nisan was also established as a sabbath, a holy convocation, called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Passover was to have unleavened bread; no leaven at all was to be in the house. Leaven was a "type" or symbol of sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasted for seven days. Nisan 16, the Feast of First Fruits, followed the first weekly sabbath after Passover.

Today Jews celebrate Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits as one continuous eight-day commemoration. This seven day-week of Unleavened Bread kicks off the Feast of Weeks, seven consecutive weeks following Passover (49 days) culminating in the feast of Pentecost on the 50th day after Passover.

Jesus was our "First Fruit" of the New Covenant when he arose from the dead to bring us new life.

Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Pentecost all foretold God's plan of redemption. We shall amplify our understanding as we continue to study this tomorrow. It is the foundation for our understanding of the New Testament.