

Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread

The institution:

Leviticus 23:4-8

4 “These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. **5** In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's **Passover**. **6** And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. **7** On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. **8** But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”

The origin:

Exodus 12:12-20

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will **pass over** you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 “This day shall be for you **a memorial day**, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. **15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread**. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be **cut off from Israel**. **16** On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. **17** And you shall observe **the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. **18** In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **19** For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be **cut off from the congregation** of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. **20** You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

Two main purposes:

(1) Looking back (a memorial)

Exodus 12:14,

14 “This day shall be for you a **memorial day**, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.. **17** And you shall observe **the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

Deuteronomy 16:1-4a

1 “Observe the month of Abib and **keep the Passover** to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God **brought you out of Egypt** by night. **2** And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, from the flock or the herd, at the place that the LORD will choose, to make his name dwell there.**3** You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, **the bread of affliction**—for you came out of the land of Egypt **in haste**—that all the days of your life you **may remember the day** when you came out of the land of Egypt. **4** No leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory for seven days.. **6**you shall **offer the Passover sacrifice**, in the evening at sunset, at the time you came out of Egypt.

(2) Looking forward (a prophetic promise)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, **“This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”** **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”** **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

“7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. **8** Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Notes:

Sorry, for such an ambitious project. Don't feel overwhelmed. Keep the lesson very simple.

Just explain very simply what the feast is. Assume people have never heard of this feast, or even the idea of feasting in the OT.

Your two parts, memorial and prophetic purpose, are great. If possible, try to end with the NT and where the feast shows us there and why. Shoot for a 30 minute lesson.

I have confidence in you. You'll do great!

- An annual weeklong feast (15th to 22nd of first month) where people celebrated God's deliverance

- The act of slaying the lamb and eating it was a vivid reminder of the lamb that had been slain and its blood was smeared on the doorposts/lintels. A picture of how God had delivered Israel from Egypt.

- Quickly scarfing down the unleavened bread was a reminder of the affliction that Israel had suffered and how they had been delivered by God

- Jesus is the true Passover Lamb and was slain so that his blood could cover us and God's judgment would pass over us

The deliverance of a physical people out of physical bondage foreshadowed a spiritual deliverance of a spiritual people and it was this that Jesus intended His disciples not just to bring to the memory whenever they ate of bread and wine but to experience it in their lives for their personal deliverance.

The Passover, therefore, not only looks back to the redemption of Israel out of Egypt but, more importantly, it points forward to the Great Redemption in Christ that was secured on the cross and which His followers must now remember as they take both food and drink (that is, continually).

| eve day 13th | eve day 14th Passover | eve day 15th UB | eve day 16th UB | eve day 17th UB | eve day 18th UB | eve day 19th UB | eve day 20th UB | eve day 21st UB | eve day 22nd |
|-------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| | Lev 23:5 Num 28:18 Normal day: no sabbath restrict- ions | Ex 12:16 Lev 23:7 Holy con- vocation | Pes 7:10 - the rab- bie taught that the lamb was burnt on the 16th, or 17th if 16th was a sabbath | | | | | Ex 12:16 Lev 23:8 Holy con- vocation Ex 13:6 7th day was to be a feast | |
| | eve day | Ex Ex 12:8 12:10 LAMB LAMB EAT- BUR- EN NT | | | | | | | Ex 12:18 Eve of the day, UB ceases to be eaten |
| | Ex 12:15 Leaven put away | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| | Ex 12:5-6, Deut 16:6 - LAMB SLAIN Ex 12:18 - Eve of the day, UB begins to be eaten Lev 23:5 - Between evenings is the Passover | Lev 23: 6-7, Num 28:17 - 1st day of UB | Abbreviations used UB = Unleavened Bread FB = First Born Eve = evening (NB - The Jewish Day begins at sundown) | | | | | Deut 16:8 6 days to eat UB, 7th day a holy convoca- tion - Cp Ex 12:15 | |
| | Ex 12: 29 - Midnight FB slain | | | | | | | | |
| | Extent of the Passover according to Ex 12:6-13 | | | | | | | | |

CHART 1