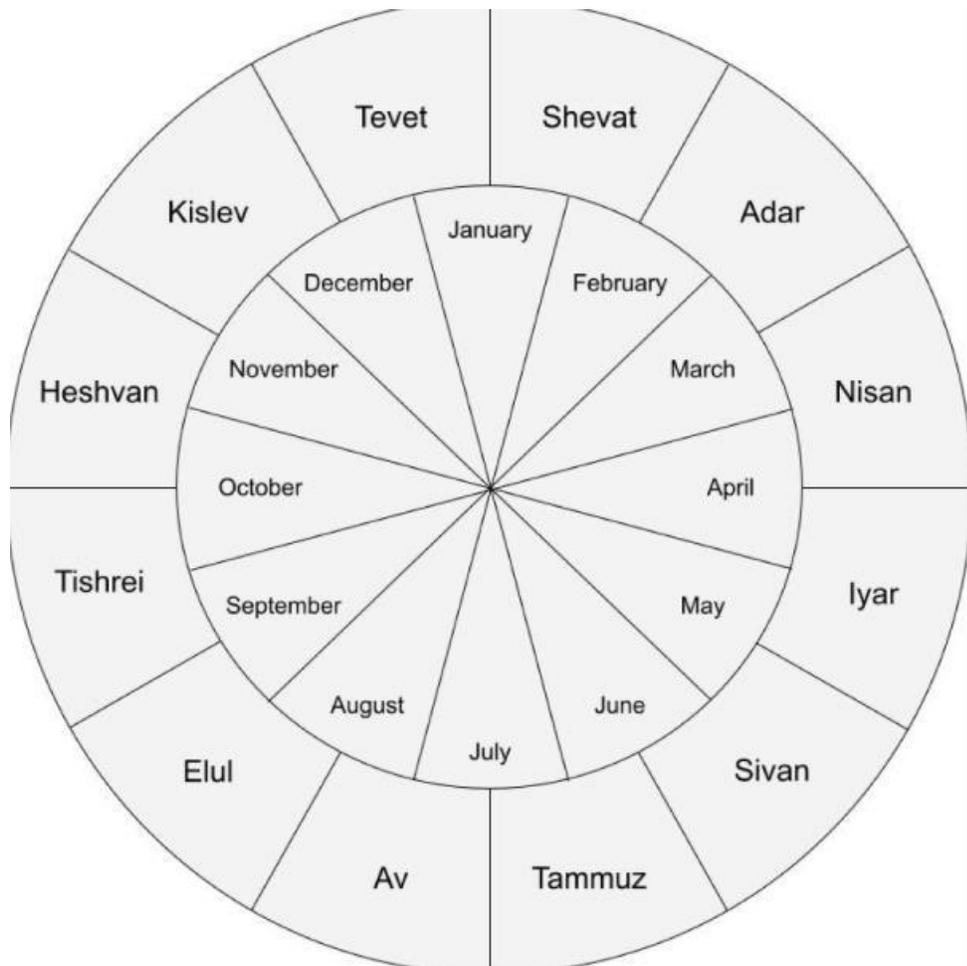


Exodus 12

Read Exodus 12: The original Passover happened on the 14th day of Nisan. This came on the 430th year after the children of Israel entered Egypt. They entered looking for food, but they became enslaved to Pharaoh over time. The Hebrews have a lunar calendar; while we have a solar calendar. God told the Hebrews to make Nisan the first month of their calendar year. Currently, the Jews use Tishrei the first month of their year. The Hebrews did not have named months at the time of the Exodus; or even for many years later. They simply referred to the 1st month, or the 6th month of the year, etc... The eventual names may have been somewhat adopted from their Babylonian captors much later on.



The key to understanding the Passover is to see it as a precursor to Jesus on the cross. We refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The sacrificial lamb's blood on the door lintel and jambs looked like a red painted cross that showed that the death angel that someone had already died here...so he could move onto the next house. The cross is the same thing. It is a big red X, like a signature showing that full payment for sin was confirmed.

God requires someone to die when we sin. It is supposed to be us who die, but God allows some substitutions.

11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’ (Leviticus 17:11)

22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22)

Table 4.10		PASSEVER LAMB	
ORIGINAL LAMB		JESUS	
Lamb selected	Ex 12:3,6	Lamb of God identified	Luke 19:37-38
Lamb without blemish	Ex 12:5	Without blemish	Heb 9:13-14, 1 Peter 1:18-19
Lamb lived with executioners	Ex 12:6	Lived with those who killed him	Matt 26:55
Communal Sacrifice	Ex 12:6	Public condemnation	Mark 15:8-13
Lamb killed at twilight on 14 th	Ex 12:6	Died at ninth hour on 14 th	Mark 15:33-34, 37
No bone broken	Ex 12:46	No bone broken	John 19:32-33, 36
Body of lamb eaten	Ex 12:8	Body of Lamb eaten	Matt 26:26-28
Miracles follow death	Ex 12:29	Miracles follow death	Matt 27:51-53
No meat remained in morning	Ex 12:10, Deut 16:4	Body gone in morning	Luke 24:1-3
Dressed for journey	Ex 12:11	Walk in new life	Rom 6:3-4

Death is the cost of sin; but this is not ultimately what God really wants. He wants more than mere atonement and whitewashing over our failures. He wants a heart full of love for God and our fellow man to walk with him into eternity. He wants to be at the center of our intentions.... not merely outwardly compliant.

22 So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15)

The ceremony of taking a cute and innocent little lamb into your home for 4 days is supposed to create a tender bond. The idea of the Passover is supposed to be revolting to our senses. The word for killing the lamb is the same word for massacre. “Why is this innocent creature being killed for something it has nothing to do with? It feels so wrong. That is on purpose to tie our thinking to Jesus, our spotless lamb who was slain for our sins. Elsewhere, we also see that various lamb sacrifices include the splattering of blood on the faces of the people, as they are watching a massacre. We are not supposed to be spectators. Jesus is being lifted up on the cross for us individually. This is about my court case case before God; not some event. He took our hits; so the least we could do is to look towards him in gratitude.

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” ⁸ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.” (Exodus 24)

The idea that the cross is an elegant piece of jewelry on a necklace loses some of its intent. It is the most horrific way that the Romans knew how to torture and kill a man. Think instead about hanging an electric chair or an impalement pole on a necklace to understand the reality of the symbol.

Invention

Crucifixion originated in the ancient Near East. The earliest documented use is by the **Assyrian Empire** in the 9th century BC, where it was employed as a method of execution and intimidation.

Perfection

The practice was later refined and made especially brutal by the **Romans** (1st century BC – 1st century AD). Roman engineers standardized the cross’s design, added features such as:

Feature	Roman contribution	Effect
T-shaped or †-shaped cross	Fixed the victim's arms in a rigid position	Maximized asphyxiation and prolonged suffering
Nailing of hands and feet	Precise placement to prevent the victim from pulling up	Prevented any chance of self-support
Scourging before crucifixion	Systematic pre-crucifixion beating	Weakened the victim, increasing the duration of agony
Public display	Placement in prominent city locations (e.g., the Via Appia)	Served as a deterrent and a statement of state power

Thus, while the Assyrians introduced crucifixion as a punitive spectacle, the Romans are credited with perfecting its cruelty and making it a hallmark of imperial authority.

Another key point is that the participants are to take as much lamb as they can handle in one meal. Most people ration their *God time*, just to *keep in good standing*. God is looking for disciples who are committed, if we can get past the *bare minimum*, and dig in. You will find the God, the bible and life become more interesting if you go beyond the minimum. Force yourself, as a test and see for yourself. God is looking for *friends who choose to spend time* with God as their daily high point. There is much there to take hold of as our appetite can handle.

Jesus is the only perfect man, so he is the lamb without blemish. The bitter herbs are representative of our old life, without Christ. It is eaten with haste, since we need to not procrastinate. It is a narrow escape; do not second guess it. Every time

that you say *later* to God it is the same as saying *No*. Every time that we say later or no our heart hardens and our ears close to the voice of the Spirit a little more. The Egyptians begged the Hebrews to leave Egypt as soon as possible, before everyone was destroyed.

Once we become identified with Christ we become like the smell of death to some people.

15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 6)

Leaven was left out of the Passover meal. That is one reason that unleavened bread was included. They did not have time to gather their sourdough starter. In addition, leaven symbolizes sin. It is something that puffs up like pride, and it is the result of dying bacteria. It was to be eaten in haste, without leaven. We are not here to just linger and savor this world's delicacies. We are passing through.

15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3)

The lamb was cooked over an open fire. What was the worst part of the cross? The physical agony and torture? Having God temporarily reject him? Going to hell ?

For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. (Psalm 16:10)

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, (1 Peter 3)

The 600,000 men may have been 2.5 million people (including women and children). They had a lot of livestock as well. Feeding and watering 2.5 million people and herds of livestock in the desert for 40 years is a miracle. There were

other peoples who tagged along with the Hebrews. The Hebrews slaves were able to partake of Passover as well. If someone moves in to the area, they must become circumcised to join the Hebrews in partaking of Passover. Uncircumcised people could not eat it. The act of circumcision was a formalizing of the pact Abraham made with God. Observing Passover became an annual requirement as a remembrance and a sign to the coming Messiah.