

PASSOVER

INTRODUCTION

The sacred assemblies of the Jews in the Old Testament are prophetic: they point to events in days to come. In this paper we explain what the Passover symbolizes. Christians can apply that knowledge to their life and to their interpretation of the Scripture.

This study will incorporate the spiritual meaning of numbers to help identify the meanings of the feasts. By two or three witnesses every fact shall be established. When Scripture makes a clear identification there is no debate. When it does not we will look to other witnesses, such as spiritual numbers.¹

SUMMARY

The Passover is prophetic of the death of Christ on the cross.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE JEWISH HOLY DAYS?

Christians are strongly recommended not to observe the Jewish rituals and holy days.

There was a group in New Testament times who wanted to bring believers under obedience to the rituals and ordinances of Moses and the patriarchal rite of circumcision. Even some apostles drifted towards this way of thinking. This approach was condemned in the strongest possible terms by Paul: anathema! (Galatians 1:9) Anathema means ‘accursed’, devoted to destruction, or eternally damned. Regarding observing feasts and holy days Scripture says:

“But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.” (Galatians 4:9-11)

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

The Bible contains types and shadows. A type is an allegory, a figure of meaning. In Galatians Paul identifies Hagar, the slave woman, as representing the Old Covenant, and Sarah, the free woman, as representing the New Covenant.² In the same passage he connects Isaac with believers in Jesus, since we are born of the free woman. A shadow is a type with a prophetic fulfillment, speaking of things to come:

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come: the reality is found in Christ.” (Colossians 2:16)

¹ For a complete presentation of spiritual numbers please refer to www.biblenumbersforlife.com The spiritual meanings of Bible numbers and the validation of those meanings is presented there.

² Gal. 4:21-31 “these things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants...”

SIMULTANEOUS PROPHETIC FULFILLMENTS FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

A single prophetic event can have implications for both Jews and Christians. For example: when Christ died “**at that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**” (Matt. 27:51) The New Testament began when Christ’s blood was shed on the cross. The Old Testament covenant ceased at the exact same time. Many prophetic fulfillments of the appointed feasts and sacred assemblies apply to Jews in one way and to Christians in another way. Some feasts have no prophetic fulfilment for Jews, but often, prophetic events for Christians and Jews are linked. This is not a contradiction, this is the divine plan.

THE PASSOVER³

The first appointed feast and sacred assembly is Passover. There is no confusion at all in Scripture as to what is the prophetic fulfillment of Passover: it pictures the lamb slain whose blood was applied to the wood door posts – the sacrifice of Jesus who bled on a wooden cross. As it is written:

“**For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed**” (1 Cor. 5:7)

Passover was the inception of the nation of Israel. Prior to Passover, the descendants of Jacob were slaves in a foreign land. They were powerless, oppressed, without hope, and facing destruction. Many plagues did not change the heart of Pharaoh but immediately following Passover the Egyptians wished the Israelites to leave. Passover was the point of conception for the nation Israel. There would be a stage of infancy, discipline, and training in the desert. Possession of the land would follow.

The Cross was the inception of the body of Christ, the Church. The Bible says: “**Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead though the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**” (Rom. 6:3-4) When Christ died, we died. When Christ arose from the dead, we arose to newness of spiritual life.⁴ For a Christian, time is not a straight line. It is two straight lines. The first line starts at our physical birth and continues chronologically. The second line starts at our spiritual death and re-birth at the cross and follows a spiritual journey out of this world’s time. We live in both times at the same time. [We hope this makes sense to you.]

Gematria Study:

There are two kinds of verses in the Torah relating to Passover: those recounting the historical events and those setting forth the regulations. We will treat each group separately. Verses that make general statements such as “The Lord said to Moses” are excluded. Only verses with information specific to the Passover are included.

³ See Exodus 12:1-14,21-36,38-51; Leviticus 23:5; Numbers 9:1-14; Numbers 28:16; Deut. 16:1-7

⁴ The baptism referred to here is ‘blood baptism’, the washing of our spirit in the blood of the lamb, and occurs the moment we believe. John’s baptism in water was a call to repentance to prepare the way for Jesus among the Jews. Even John distinguished between his baptism and the baptism of Jesus: “He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (Matt. 3:11-12).

(A) Passover Events

There are three passages of 29 verses relating to the historical events relating to the Passover:

<u>Passage</u>	<u>Gematria</u>	<u>Factors</u>
(1) Exodus 12:21-42	87,801	$3 \times 7 \times 37 \times 113 = 7 \times 111 \times 113$
(2) Exodus 12:50-51	6,345	$27 \times 5 \times 47 = 135 \times 47$
(3) Numbers 9:4-8	139,577	19×2803 [314 th prime] [314 = 2×157 [37 th prime]]

The total gematria for all three passages is 133,723 which is the 12,471st prime [12,471 = 3,457th prime [3,457 = 572nd prime [572 = 22×26]]].

The spiritual interpretation of these passages reveals truths concerning the sacrifice of Christ:

- (1) The number 3 means “God” and the number 37 means “Chosen Servant”, so the number 111 means “God’s Chosen Servant” or “Fear of the Lord”. The number 7 means “The End”. Putting these together 777 (7×111) means “The End of God’s Chosen Servant” or “The End of Fear of the Lord”. The cross was the death of Jesus Christ, or the end of God’s chosen servant. But, for the Jews to falsely accuse, to arrange a false trial⁵, and to unjustly condemn an innocent man to a horrible death indicates they had no fear of God for the repercussions he would ordain for such an act. The number 113 means “rapture of the saints”. The repercussion to the Jews of their decision to reject their Messiah meant blessing for the Gentiles who would believe in him, even rapture to heaven, and curses for them, woes and judgments in the Great Tribulation;
- (2) The number 135 means “spiritual gifts” and the number 47 means “humility” or “self-abasement”. Those who show humility and abase themselves before God, confess their sins and accept Jesus as Lord, receive more than the gift of eternal life: they receive spiritual gifts for this life. What was loss for Jesus, his death on the tree, became life and blessing for us. The tree of death has become the tree of life spoken of in the garden of Eden;
- (3) The number 19 means “faith”, the number 2 means “division”, and the number 157 means “chosen people”. Jesus said he did not come to bring peace but to bring a sword. The prophet said he would cause the rising and falling of many in Israel. John the Baptist said Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. At the death of Jesus, the nation of Israel, God’s chosen people, became divided between those who had faith in Jesus and those who did not. Those who believed were baptised with the Holy Spirit (at Pentecost) and those who did not believe were baptised by fire (the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD by the Romans being a portent of final destruction);
- (4) The total gematria of the three passages is a huge prime number which has the root prime indexes of 22 which means “light” and 26 which means “the gospel”. The events of the Passover, the killing of the lamb, the application of the blood to the doorposts, and so on, are meant to enlighten us as to who is the Lamb of God and to illustrate for us the effect of his work

⁵ According to Jewish law it was illegal to try a man in the evening

on the cross: to shelter us from the destroying angel. The Passover message is the gospel message for all time and for all people who will believe.

(B) Passover Regulations

There are seven passages of 31 verses relating to the regulations in the Torah concerning the Passover:

<u>Passage</u>	<u>Gematria</u>	<u>Factors</u>
(1) Exodus 12:2-14	52,801	7 x 19 x 397 [78 th prime]
(2) Exodus 12:43-49	17,449	[2007 th prime] [2007=3.3.223[48 th prime]]
(3) Leviticus 23:5	2,661	3 x 887 [154 th prime]
(4) Numbers 9:2-3	6,912	(2 ^ 8) x (3 ^ 3) ** ^ means to the power of **
(5) Numbers 9:10-14	21,282	2 x 3 x 3,457 [497 th prime [497 = 7 x 71]]
(6) Numbers 28:16	2,334	2 x 3 x 389 [77 th prime][77 = 7 x 11]
(7) Deuteronomy 16:1-2	<u>6,581</u>	852 nd prime [852 = 12 x 71]
Total:	<u>110,020</u>	4 x 5 x 19 x 29

The factors of the gematria for each of these passages tell a story about the significance of the cross of Jesus Christ. This continues in the theme started in the first group addressing Passover events.

- (1) The number 78 means “miraculous sign”, the number 7 means “fullness” or “The End”, and the number 19 means “faith”. Even without rising from the dead, Jesus miraculously fulfilled many prophecies in his death on the cross. For example, relating to the Passover regulations alone: he shed blood in his death, none of his bones were broken, he was a male, from the ‘flock’ (i.e. from the community of Israel), he died on the evening of Passover, and he was taken down from the cross before morning. The spiritual meaning of the gematria matches the event: “Fullness of Faith: Believing the Miraculous Sign (of the cross)”;
- (2) The number 48 means “Father’s Blessing”, and the number 9 (3 x 3) means “Judgment”. The mystery of the cross is it is “God’s Judgment” and “God’s blessing” at the same time. Jesus took our sin in his body on the tree and God loosed the fiery judgment of hell upon that sin bearer. At the same time, the sacrifice of Christ was a sweet smelling savor and resulted in the Father’s abundant blessing. Isaiah says: “it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and will prolong his days. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied” (Isa. 53:10-11);
- (3) The number 154 means “God is Judge” and the number 3 means “God” or “Truth”. My own conversion experience resulted from the revelation of this mystery of the cross. I asked myself the question: why was Jesus dying? From all I read, Jesus was upright, truthful, compassionate, and faithful to his Father. The answer that came to me was he did not deserve to die. The punishment he took was for my sin. Here it was: The truth: God is the Judge – he must punish sin. For all those who want to pretend God will wink at their sin and let them into heaven, sorry, that is not the message of the cross;

- (4) Here is a demonstration of how numbers can portray the depths of spiritual things. The number 2 to the power 8 is 256. The number 256 is 16 squared. The meaning of 16 is "sacrifice". When a number is squared it means "ultimate" or "exalted", so 16 squared means "ultimate sacrifice". The number 3 means "God" or "Truth". The number 3 cubed means "Holy Truth". Putting the two numbers together, the meaning of the gematria of Numbers 9:2-3 is the death of Christ on the cross is the ultimate sacrifice and a most sacred truth. The truth of the cross is sacred because the eternal destiny of billions of people depends on the significance of the cross. There are seven passages in the Torah dealing with the Passover regulations and this one is the middle of those seven, making it the central truth tying them all together;
- (5) The number 6 (2 x 3) means "Man". The number 7 means "Fullness" or "The End", and the number 71 means "Prophet" or "Prophecy". To appreciate the cross of Christ it is essential to know how many prophecies of the Old Testament, starting with the promise of the Seed of the Woman in the garden of Eden, have been made foretelling the coming of a Messiah who would suffer and die on behalf of man. Everything from the location of Christ's birth to the date of his death were foretold long ago. Man cannot escape the conclusion that the fulfillment of all those prophecies could only happen by the hand of God;
- (6) The number 6 (2 x 3) means "Man". The number 7 means "fullness" or "The End", and the number 11 means "Mystery" or "Protection". So, the meaning of the gematria is "The complete protection of man" and it can also mean "The end of the protection of man". Another double meaning which only makes sense at the cross. God removed his protection from the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus, at the cross. He did that so our salvation would be complete. The result of our salvation is God will never remove his protection from those who believe. By protection we do not mean we will never suffer harm in this body. His protection is from the Last Judgment;
- (7) The number 12 means "Government" or "Ruler" and the number 71 means "Prophet" or "Prophecy". The Messiah Jesus unifies the role of King and Priest. He is a priest because he brought his own blood into the temple in heaven to make a way for us. He is a King because he will return again to this earth to reign in the Millennium on David's throne. Jesus was also a prophet. Among his predictions: God will raise him from the dead in three days, Jerusalem will be destroyed for its sin of consenting to his murder, the temple will be obliterated, not one stone remaining on top of another. The cross is outstanding evidence that prophecy rules over the affairs of men;
- (8) The total of the gematria for all seven passages has the factors 4 x 5 x 19 x 29. The meaning of 19 is "Faith", the meaning of 20 (4 x 5) is "Redemption" and the meaning of 29 is "Holy One" or "Saint". By faith in the work of Christ on the cross we obtain redemption from the penalty of sin and redemption of our bodies. We escape the Last Judgment and when we are resurrected from the dead we will receive new heavenly bodies that will never decay. In God's eyes those who have faith in the work of Christ on the cross are set apart from those who do not: we become saints or holy ones and we belong to God.