

Imagery is strong in Scripture to help us picture Jesus and connect with Him.
Jesus Himself says: I am the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Light, the Bread of Life.
We can see that, and interact with it in our minds, and understand Him better.
Any of those can take you into this memorial with the right sense of gratitude.
But none of them in quite the way this one can: (CHRIST OUR PASSOVER ... SACRIFICED)

The NT author (we'll go to it at the end) wants us to see who we are.
He wants us to understand how BLESSED, PURIFIED, and HOLY we are because Jesus died for us.
To help with that, he seeks to connect our minds to the Exodus, the 10th plague, and DELIVERANCE.

- God is passing judgment against ungodly people among the nation of Egypt.
- He is sending a "destroyer" to exact the penalty of first-born death from each house.
- This penalty was all encompassing. Egyptians, Israelites, even Animals. All will pay.
- But He gives instructions to the Israelites how the destroyer might PASS OVER them.
- This is where our innocent lamb comes in. It must be slaughtered to pay that price.
 - o The blood offered by the lamb would save them from death.

Exodus 12:21-30 – This they did and they were saved BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

The innocent lambs that died that day were numerous.

And yearly, **12:5-6, 14,18** – so many lambs were slaughtered to remember this moment.

Throughout their history so much animal blood, lambs, goats, bulls were offered to appease the anger of God against sin, and to pay the price required of the people so that they would not face death.

It is with this in mind that we hear these words in the I Corinthian letter:

"For Christ our Passover has been Sacrificed." – Like Israel, we are made pure in a way the world is not. There is a penalty to be exacted on all the world, GUILT OF SIN and DEATH as its WAGE, that will not be exacted from us, because JESUS became the dying BODY and shed BLOOD for us.

John 1:29,36 – It is this pronouncement John makes right at the beginning. Jesus would be that sacrifice. He would be the sinless, perfect, only one – and He would take away our sins (penalty of sin/death). How? Well, the disciples struggled to understand that it would mean His death on a CROSS (slide).

- Blood on the posts – not the door posts but the cross posts.

John 19:31-37 – "Not a bone of him shall be broken" – this is from Exodus and Numbers where it was specifically said that the Passover lamb, at no point, not at death, or while being consumed, shall have a bone broken --- this is saying nearly explicitly --- Jesus is the Passover Lamb for His people.

Acts 8:32-35 – What a great place to start with the Gospel

- We are guilty and worthy of death. And death as a penalty for sin is coming.
- But Jesus was led to the slaughter, perfect, worthy to live, giving it all.
- He allowed His life to be removed from this earth so that we could live, spiritually, forever!

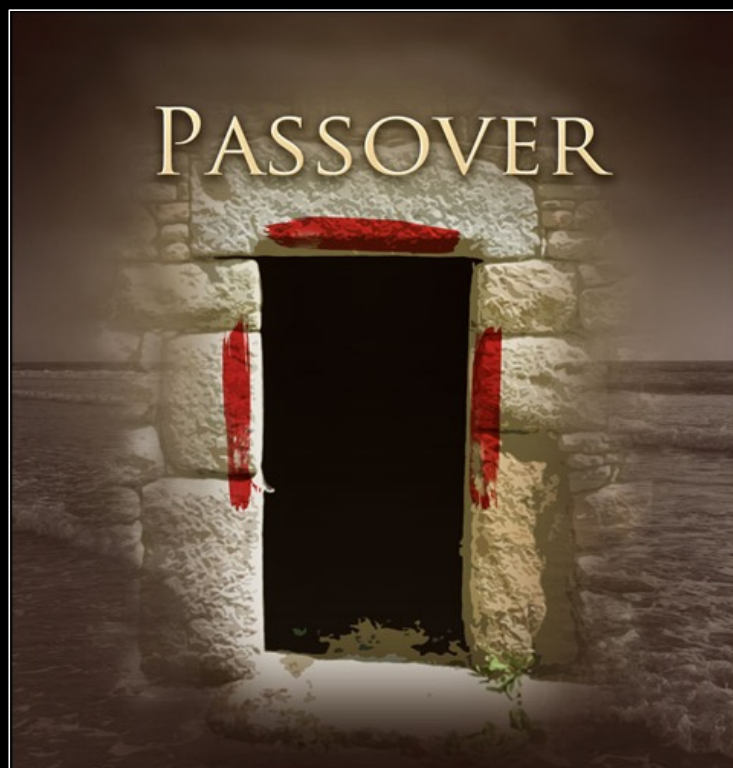
Hebrews 10:10-19 – There is this beautiful permanence because of His perfect sacrifice. This letter is more referencing the bulls and goats offered for sin daily and yearly. But it relates. Christ's one time for all time perfects us for all time, and brings us into a place of confidence in who we are – FREE FROM SIN/DEATH!

I Peter 1:17-21 – This doesn't mean – "*we can do whatever because He took care of everything.*" NO, it means what He did is so good, it effected such amazing change... that I will never waver, living in faith and hope in Christ --- **my fear** is that I malign this Passover Lamb and what was done by His Blood!

I Corinthians 5:7 (read 7-8) – Let's, together, celebrate this feast – but please, make this your call to holiness – to honor Him, because our fellowship is at stake. What if the supper was a call to leavenless faithful living by all of our church family – where none lived in sin? How powerful would that be. That is, in fact, why He died for us. Let's live like it.

“Christ our Passover has been Sacrificed”

Connecting Christ to the Lamb of the Exodus



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