



Easter Reflection - *Christ our Passover*

Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast . . .

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

We have moved through the drama of Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and now we come to Easter Sunday, the great celebration of Jesus' resurrection, when we can proclaim triumphantly that ***"Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"***

We know from the Gospel accounts that all the events of Holy Week took place during the Jewish Passover Festival, sometimes called "Pesach", one of three major Pilgrimage Festivals (the other two were Shavuot - Pentecost in Greek - and Sukkot also known as Tabernacles or Booths). All three were connected with some form of Harvest. During these festivals all Israelites who were able had to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem

The Passover commemorated the deliverance of the people of Israel, recorded in Exodus 12. The nation was in captivity in Egypt and God sent ten plagues to make the Egyptians let his people go. The final plague was the death of the firstborn of every family. Moses was instructed by God that each Hebrew family should kill a lamb and put some of its blood on their door post and lintels, and then they were to roast the lamb and eat it.

God passed through the land of Egypt and struck down the first born of every family, both men and animals, but when he saw the blood of the lamb on the doors and lintels of the Israelites he 'passed over' and they were delivered and freed.

Now 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 the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13

Now can you see the significance of Paul's words, ***"Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us"***? Jesus was our Passover Lamb. When God looks at the precious blood that he shed on the cross, instead of punishing us for our sins, he sees the blood of our Lamb shed for us and passes over us. In the words of Charles Wesley in his famous hymn, *O for a thousand tongues to sing:*

***He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.***