

January 20, 2024

Five Days In Nisan

In this week's Parsha, Bo, we read of the 10th and final plague, death of the first born. An entire chapter is dedicated to this final plague. It is unlike the others in that a preparation is required before it can commence. The other nine plagues, Adonai just did them. The 10th plague is different in many ways.

It is the final plague that will ultimately lead to the children of Israel's redemption from Egyptian slavery.

It will be instituted as a memorial forever in that it is like our Declaration of Independence that we celebrate on July 4th ever year.

Exo 12:14 " 'This will be a day for you to remember and celebrate as a festival to Adonai; from generation to generation you are to celebrate it by a perpetual regulation.

Yet, my focus today is not on the Passover itself but the days leading upto it, what I call the 5 days of Nisan.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Isra'el and say, 'On the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb or kid for his family, one per household—

Exo 12:4 except that if the household is too small for a whole lamb or kid, then he and his next-door neighbor should share one, dividing it in proportion to the number of people eating it.

Exo 12:5 Your animal must be without defect, a male in its first year, and you may choose it from either the sheep or the goats.

Exo 12:6 " 'You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el will slaughter it at dusk.

The Lamb is to be inspected thoroughly and determined to be without defect for five days.

This is for the Passover Lamb that is to be slaughtered, yet what about the Lamb of God, who was killed before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8)

Can we relate this time, these five days to Yeshua?

Joh 12:1 Six days before Pesach, Yeshua came to Beit-Anyah, where El`azar lived, the man Yeshua had raised from the dead;

Joh 12:2 so they gave a dinner there in his honor. Marta served the meal, and

El`azar was among those at the table with him.

Do the math here...if Passover is the 14th, then six days prior would be the 9th day of Nisan. It was also Sabbath

Joh 12:12 The next day, the large crowd that had come for the festival heard that Yeshua was on his way into Yerushalayim.

Joh 12:13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Deliver us!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of Adonai, the King of Isra'el!"

Joh 12:14 After finding a donkey colt, Yeshua mounted it, just as the Tanakh says—

Joh 12:15 "Daughter of Tziyon, don't be afraid! Look! your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt."

Joh 12:16 His talmidim did not understand this at first; but after Yeshua had been glorified, then they remembered that the Tanakh said this about him, and that they had done this for him.

He would enter Jerusalem on the first day of the week, after Sabbath to shouts of Psalm 118...

Psa 118:22 The very rock that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone!

Psa 118:23 This has come from Adonai, and in our eyes it is amazing.

Psa 118:24 This is the day Adonai has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad.

Psa 118:25 Please, Adonai! Save us! Please, Adonai! Rescue us!

Psa 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of Adonai. We bless you from the house of Adonai.

This would be the 10th day of the first month...

The beginning of Yeshua inspection of the Lamb of God.

We would first hear of His teachings starting in Matthew 24 and His Olivet Discourse...

Part of Yeshua's teaching on the Mount of Olives related to the Kingdom of Adonai. In Mattityahu (Matthew) 25, Yeshua conveyed the following foundational truths about the Kingdom through three different parables:

- *"The Kingdom of Heaven at that time will be like ten bridesmaids who took*

their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Mattityahu (Matthew) 25:1 (CJB)

- *"For it will be like a man about to leave home for a while, who entrusted his possessions to his servants. Mattityahu (Matthew) 25:14 (CJB)*
- *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. Mattityahu (Matthew) 25:34 (CJB)*

Then would come the trials...

six of them...

The testing of the Lamb of God would be unlike that of any Passover Lamb that came before. Yeshua would go through extensive testing and even trials validating to Adonai, not man that He is God's Lamb. A lamb without spot or blemish, not in a physical or visual sense, but in the sense He was without sin, absent of any transgression towards Torah. In other words – SPOTLESS.

Upon Yeshua's entry into Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), the murmurings had already begun regarding Yeshua...

The head cohanim then decided to do away with El`azar too, since it was because of him that large numbers of the Judeans were leaving their leaders and putting their trust in Yeshua. Yochanan (John) 12:10 – 11 (CJB)

and would only intensify further. The plot to kill Yeshua was expanded to include El'azar (Lazarus) because it was as a result of his being resurrected from the grave that crowds flocked towards Yeshua. The plot by the religious leaders originated as a result of El'azar's resurrection when some of the P'rushim (Pharisees) travelled to Beit-Anyah to offer their condolences to Marta and Miryam, yet ultimately witnessed this miracle performed by Yeshua. They went back and reported what they had witnessed to the head cohanim (Yochanan (John) 11:46). Upon hearing their report, the head cohanim called a meeting of the Sanhedrin:

So the head cohanim and the P'rushim called a meeting of the Sanhedrin and

said, "What are we going to do? — for this man is performing many miracles. If we let him keep going on this way, everyone will trust in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both the Temple and the nation." Yochanan (John) 11:47 – 48 (CJB)

Three at the hands of the Jewish leaders and three involving Rome, the Lamb of God would be inspected and tested thoroughly to where it would take false witnesses to accuse Him. Yet the test was not really to see if He was spotless before us but if He was spotless before Adonai, because it would be Adonai who would determine if He was without spot or blemish, not by our standards but by His.

Ultimately it would be the Word of Adonai that would determine if Yeshua was truly without spot or blemish, not any human trial.

Then there would be Yeshua's last Seder...

Prior to Yeshua's trials, He would partake in what would be His last Seder meal. His last Passover, or what some in Christianity call "the last supper". Much is lost when you identify this as a supper rather than a Seder. As was presented back in Chapter 1, the Passover Seder meal is a family affair. It is a time that involves family and close friends who gather together on the evening of Passover, going into the first day of Matzah (Unleavened Bread) to recount the Exodus from Egypt. This evening would have happened during the time of Yeshua and would have included a trip to Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) which was an earlier focus during our Five Days in Nisan and as is recounted during Yeshua's youth:

"Every year Yeshua's parents went to Yerushalayim for the festival of Pesach. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the festival, as custom required. But after the festival was over, when his parents returned, Yeshua remained in Yerushalayim. They didn't realize this; supposing that he was somewhere in the caravan, they spent a whole day on the road before they began searching for him among their relatives and friends." Luke 2:41 – 44 (CJB)

This custom is not just "tradition" but is based on Scripture. Each year for Passover, Shavu'ot and Sukkot, men were required to go up to Yerushalayim for these moadim (appointed times).

"Three times a year all your men are to appear in the presence of Adonai your God in the place which he will choose - at the festival of matzah, at the festival of Shavu`ot and at the festival of Sukkot. They are not to show up before Adonai

empty-handed," D'varim (Deuteronomy) 16:16 (CJB)

This was not just a man thing, but a family affair. Notice the verses from Luke's Gospel, where it conveys that there was a caravan, by definition a group of people. Luke conveys this caravan to be rather large in that it wasn't until later in the day that Yoseph and Miryam did not know where Yeshua was and therefore began searching for Him in the caravan. In other words, He went unnoticed by His parents.

Unlike any Passover to have occurred previously, this time in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) would be profoundly different. This Passover would not only be cause to remember the Exodus and everything Adonai had done, but would now reveal to us, through Yeshua's last Passover seder the promise made by Adonai through the Prophet Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah), the promise of a New Covenant.

"Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah." Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 31:31 (CJB)

It would be through Yeshua's last seder that He would reveal how this promise would become a reality. Further, Yeshua, emphasized by His words, conveys both a desire to share this last seder among His talmidim and an urgency to do so given the progression of events that are occurring rather rapidly.

During this five days, Yeshua was anointed before His death. Another comprehensive moment that requires a great deal of time to expand upon for which I will do in the upcoming weeks. Know that this was to happen and needed to happen prior to His death, in order to not violate Torah and thus Yeshua remaining free from transgression of Torah.

Then would come the conclusion of this extraordinary 5 days, culminating in the death of the Lamb of God. What many would see as a conclusion was just the beginning.

Upon Yeshua's placement on the Roman execution-stake, He would be the substitution for a convicted criminal in Bar-Abba. Yeshua would be anything but silent on the execution-stake. His spoken words prior to His death are still discussed, studied and even debated as to their meaning, to this very day. They are recounted in three of the four Gospels – Mattityahu (Matthew), Luke and Yochanan (John) and provide us with further insights and understanding. As

Yeshua's time on the day the Passover lamb is to be slaughtered is drawing to an end His words will impact those who hear them, both in the moment they would occur and into the distant future, meaning today.

Before we look at His words, I want to start with something Yeshua said just prior to being placed on the execution-stake:

"Large numbers of people followed, including women crying and wailing over him. Yeshua turned to them and said, "Daughters of Yerushalayim, don't cry for me; cry for yourselves and your children! For the time is coming when people will say, 'The childless women are the lucky ones — those whose wombs have never borne a child, whose breasts have never nursed a baby! Then They will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what is going to happen when it's dry?"
Luke 23:27 – 31 (CJB)

What is this but a warning of what will ultimately befall Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), Y'hudah (Judea) and would impact the Jewish people for centuries, that being the destruction of a nation, its capital and its Temple, the very center of its existence. Referring to the childless woman who had never bore a child and therefore would not grieve the loss of her child as a result of the destruction of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) and the nation at the hands of Rome. What Yeshua is prophesying here is of such grave angst and despair that the pain felt would not be easily resolved. The Jewish people would experience many and great calamities at the hands of Rome...murder, famine, pestilence, violent seizure of property, not to mention all the terrors of war. Yeshua would convey similar warnings earlier (Luke 21:23 – 24; Mattityahu (Matthew 24:19 and Mark 13:17 – 19), yet this would be His last opportunity to do so, just prior to His death.

When Yeshua spoke of Yerushalayim's future fate, even He would be impacted by what would happen...

"Yerushalayim! Yerushalayim! You kill the prophets! You stone those who are sent to you! How often I wanted to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you refused!" Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:37 (CJB)

Even as He is being prepared for execution, His people are still not willing to listen

to His warning, thus further acknowledging their rejection of their King.

The Gospels record a total of seven times Yeshua spoke from the execution-stake. Why did He speak? What was the purpose for His words?

Everything Yeshua said while on the stake was with a purpose. I will share that not next week but the week after.