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Cover to Cover: The Passover

*Numbers 28:16–25*

Context: After a journey of disobedience, Numbers ends with various commands as the people of Israel begin to enter the Promised Land. Today we’ll consider the Passover offerings as we “passed over” the Passover earlier in *Cover to Cover*. We’ll use this as an opportunity to better understand this important festival and how it speaks of Jesus (after all Easter is just around the corner!).

The daily and yearly offerings noted in Ch. 28–29 are one of Moses final acts as the chosen spokeman for God. An estimate of what these sacrifices amounted to was: 113 bulls; 1,086 lambs; over a ton of flour and 1,000 bottles of oil and wine! This may seem mundane but it was an assurance to Joshua that they would enter the Promised Land and be able to provide the Tabernacle with the lavish support its required.

*Think about Pastor’s sermons on Balaam this past Lord’s Day:*

* What stood out to you?
* How does the story show God’s grace, His sovereignty?

**Read:** Num 28:16–25

***Other Passover Passages:*** Ex 12; Lev 23; Nu 9; Dt 16; Jos 5; 2 Ki 23:21 (Josiah); 2 Ch 30:1 (Hezekiah); Ezra 6 (after Exile).

*New Testament*: Mt 26:2; Mk 14; Lk 22; Jn 11:55, 12:1, 13:1 (other earlier Passovers in Jn=2:13, 6:4)

*Questions*

1. (Ex 12) The first Passover was celebrated in \_\_\_\_\_\_. The blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from the \_\_\_\_\_ plague. The lamb was to be eaten. The unleavened bread represented \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_. The bitter herbs were a reminder of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They wore their cloths so that they could \_\_\_\_\_\_ Egypt asap.
2. *This was the Egyptian Passover. Then came the Permanent Passover from which the present Jewish Passover derives, similar to that celebrated at the time of Christ (minus a lamb sacrificed at the Tabernacle/Temple).*
3. *The Passover was followed for 7 days by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (often interchangeable terms). A Passover meal included prayers and blessings, unleavened bread, bitter herbs and other items of remembrance, lamb and 4 cups of wine (a fifth cup is left for Elijah, the herald of the Messiah).*
4. *The third cup was the cup of redemption (c.f. Ex 6:6) which followed on from eating some of the unleavened bread at the end of the meal. A fifth cup is also set aside at this point for Elijah, who would welcome the Messiah. Jesus gave new significance at the Lord’s Supper to the bread and these two cups, when He said “This is My body…” and “This cup represents the blood of the New Covenant.” (see Jer 31).*
5. The Passover was rich in meaning and symbolism. What did it help the Jews to remember?
6. Why was it significant that the Godly kings, Hezekiah and Josiah, reinstituted the Passover? Why had it been forgotten?
7. *Jesus celebrated the Passover as a child (Lk 2:41).*
8. *Jesus was crucified on “the day of preparation” (i.e. the day before the Sabbath or Friday), on the first day of Unleavened Bread. Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples on the eve before this (Thursday)—the Last Supper— linking what they remembered and what He would do together.*
9. Paul describes Christ as “our Passover Lamb” (1 Cor 5:7). How is this so?
10. For Christians (Jews and Gentiles), do we celebrate the Passover? (Mk 14:22; Lk 22:18; 1 Cor 11:23)
11. How does the symbolism of the Old Covenant Passover help deepen our understanding of “Christ our Passover lamb” in the Lord’s Supper (the Passover of the New Covenant)?
12. Given that Easter is almost certainly a Pagan name used by English speaking Christians for our most important commemoration (not to mention how Easter itself has been secularized), should we still use the term?