

I. THE JEWS' PASSOVER

A. Read John 2:13-17

B. Three Pilgrimage Feasts

1. Names
 - a. Passover (Pesach)
 - b. Pentecost (Shavuot)
 - c. Booths (Sukkot)
2. Deut. 16:16 – “Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:”
 - a. Big deal for all the males of the nation, around 12 years and up
 - b. Booths meant living in the streets in lean-tos and tents
 - c. For 7 days
3. We know that the Lord Jesus Christ never did ANYTHING contrary to the Law
 - a. I John 1:5 – “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
 - b. II Cor. 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
 - c. I Pet. 2:22 – “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”
 - d. I John 3:5 – “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”
4. Therefore, we know that He attended ALL Pentecost feasts
 - a. Luke 2:41&42 – “Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. (42) And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.”
 - b. Look at John 5:1
 - i. If the feast in John 5:1 was the Passover
 - ii. Then the Gospel of John recounts 4 total Passovers!
 - iii. In His Ministry that last only around 3 and ½ years!
 - c. Isn't it interesting that His ministry:
 - i. Started just BEFORE Passover
 - ii. And Ended WITH Passover
 - d. Not many days (vs. 12) and only a few days before

C. Jews' Passover

1. Vs. 13 – He went UP to Jerusalem
 - a. Jerusalem was the place the Law required!

- i. Jeroboam (King of Israel) set up a false god, a golden calf
 - ii. I Kings 12:27 he tells us why in Dan and Beth-el
 - iii. He knew that the people would have to go to Jerusalem
 - iv. And that was in Rehoboam's kingdom (Kingdom of Judah)
 - b. He told the people "it's too far for you to go..."
 - c. CONVENIENCE!
 - 2. And remember last week?
 - a. He went DOWN to Capernaum (vs. 12)
 - b. Bible is just as clear here – he went UP to Jerusalem! (vs. 13)
 - c. Jerusalem = 2472' above sea level
 - d. Capernaum = - 682' BELOW sea level
 - e. Cana of Galilee = 330' above sea level, btw ☺
 - 3. Who's Passover?
 - a. Funny how form follows function here
 - i. They'd left God out of it all together
 - ii. How remarkably different the Lord's Supper should be
 - iii. Given in memory of the Passover supper with Jesus
 - b. Passover had become a transaction
 - c. Passover had become a counterfeit!
- D. Let's see the counterfeiters at work today
- 1. We will see their counterfeit lambs
 - 2. We will see their counterfeit treasure
 - 3. We will see their counterfeit doves

II. COUNTERFEIT LAMBS

- A. Vs. 14 – oxen and sheep
 - 1. Started in CONVENIENCE once again (don't ridicule)
 - a. Seems reasonable to not drive a cattle or sheep from the far corners of the country
 - b. Perfectly allowable under the law
 - c. But this was not going to another shepherd close by
 - d. This was a BOOTH sitting in the TEMPLE
 - e. The very word merchandise (vs. 16) implies approval
 - i. The priests had to approve
 - ii. Why this sheep seller over that one?
 - iii. Who got to sell? Who won the franchise?
 - iv. Kickbacks? Special commissions?
 - v. Made for corruption
 - 2. II Sam. 24:24 – "And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver."
 - 3. It was fine to buy, but not to just go through the motions

- a. I don't imagine that each ox or sheep was perfectly inspected
- b. Honest Abahim's Unblemished Bleaters!
- c. Moyshe's Gently Used Ewes!
- d. "Guaranteed spotless or your shekels back!"
- e. These lambs were counterfeits
 - i. NOT because it was wrong to sacrifice
 - ii. Because they were checking the box
 - iii. Matt. 15:8 – "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

B. A Type of Christ

1. The Passover was a picture of the blood of Christ
 - a. The Bible tells us that directly
 - b. I Cor. 5:7 – "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"
2. The plagues in Egypt
 - a. Until the final one
 - i. So often mis-represented as "Death Angel"
 - ii. I was taught that in VBS in the SBC
 - iii. No, this is God Himself
 - iv. Turn to Exodus 12:12-13
 - b. God will pass
 - i. And when He sees the Blood He will pass over
 - ii. What blood? Exodus 12:5-7
3. Sin is our plague
 - a. It is a sickness with only one prognosis
 - b. Romans 5:12 – "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
4. But Jesus is the answer!
 - a. Romans 5:21 – "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."
 - b. Sin is the problem, Hell is the penalty, but Jesus is the answer!

C. Behold the Lamb of God

1. Look back to John 1:29
 - a. There is only one who can claim THAT name
 - b. Listen to Rev. 5:12 - "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."
2. Isn't it interesting to see the genuine article driving out the counterfeits
3. Isn't it interesting to see the star driving out the stand-ins
4. Behold the Lamb of God putting an end to temple sacrifice

5. Heb. 10:10 – “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

III. COUNTERFEIT TREASURE

- A. God never denies that the world runs on money
 1. One of the two most misquoted verses – the LOVE of money...
 2. Not money itself
- B. But this treasure represented personal gain under spiritual guise
- C. These money changers weren't there for their health!
- D. Nor were all their profits going to charity
- E. And Jesus poured out their money and overthrew their tables
- F. Money can purchase a house on earth but money cannot purchase a home in heaven
- G. Only the Blood of Christ can complete that transaction

IV. COUNTERFEIT DOVES

- A. Doves were for the poor families
 1. The ground is level at the cross
 2. No rich or poor – only wretched sinners need Jesus
- B. The dove represents a picture of the Holy Spirit
 1. John 1:32 tells us that
 2. Were these counterfeit doves?
 3. How pointless it is to worship God with a counterfeit spirit
- C. In Truth
 1. John 4:24 – “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
 2. There will be no “faking it” with God!
 3. No lamps without oil!
 4. No counterfeits accepted!

V. ZEAL OF HIS HOUSE

- A. Notice that Jesus owed no one that day
 1. He drove the sheep and oxen out - but those could easily be found again
 2. He dumped out the changer's money - but that could easily be picked up again
- B. Notice that He only spoke to the owners of the doves (vs. 16)
- C. He didn't break open the cages and let the doves fly away
 1. Come to Jesus and you won't lose – you will GAIN!
- D. Notice He only drove the unbelievers OUT of the Temple
 1. He will never try to drive the unbeliever IN

2. Never once will you see Him force anyone to believe
 3. Come to Jesus and see – The Lord, He is GOOD!
- E. Notice He cleansed the temple alone
1. None of the disciples helped Him
 2. And no one could stand up to Him
 3. Come to Jesus – He alone can SAVE!