

Passover

Tor Terry Shaguy



Key of David Publishers
Ibadan NIGERIA
A Division of Key of David Ltd

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First Published 2000 by:

Revealed Word & Grace Ministries. Int'l Publications.
Ibadan. NIGERIA

Published in 2006 by:

Regam Global Missions Inc.
Ibadan NIGERIA
email: regamglobal@yahoo.com.

Published in 2011.

Key Of David Publishers
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All scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated. All emphasis and amplification are mine.

ISBN 978-978-51677-3-3

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Cover Design: Jide Falade. 234-8034046334, 234-8054127390

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Razak. 234-8028168588, 234-8072719560

Thanks

Thank you Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. Thank you for the Ministry of Your sprinkled Blood which daily speaks for us.

Dedication

It is a great pleasure to once again dedicate this book to my spiritual and ministerial mentors, Rev. Dr. and Rev. Mrs. Olu David.

Furthermore, this book is dedicated to Honourable A.W. Shaguy, my eldest brother and the first Shaguy to meet the Lord. After studying Rahab's role in the preservation of her family, we greatly appreciate how the Lord has used and is still using you to stand in the gap for the rest of us.

Our first daughter Iveren Favour Shaguy is already writing story books at age 8. Sewuese Praise Shaguy, the Praise leader of the family and Tor David Shaguy who at less than three insists on being addressed as **Pastor David**.

Since the first edition of this book, another great young lady has been added to the family. Named “Sina” (open door) right from the womb by God, Mimi’s arrival has seen all kinds of doors graciously open for the entire family.

This book is dedicated to you, Darlings.

Acknowledgements

I acknowledge my Senior Partner and Teacher the Holy Ghost who took over the writing of this book and many times left me behind trying to catch my breath as He led me through insights I had not previously possessed. Thanks, Lord!

Like with Igniting & Sustaining Divine Favour, Pastor Debbie Bose Shaguy, my partner, proofreader and darling wife made inestimably great sacrifices, shuttling between her Masters Programme at the University, the demands of Ministry, the demands of our three children, the demands of working in our family business, my personal demands which sometimes were outrageous even to me, and contributing to this book. Honey, you are a jewel beyond qualificaton.

As usual, Pastor David Opoola and his wife Desola Opoola led Sister Felicia Babatunde and Brother Olamide Olawore in a sacrificial labour to have this work published.

I value beyond measure, the fellowship of all my fellow Pastors and brethren at Davids Family Christian Centres World-Wide, especially Pst Muyiwa Olujobi and his wife, Pst. and Pst. (Mrs) G. B. Popoola, Pst. Steven Atayero, Pst. Amos Oni, Pst. (Mrs) E. M. Aina, Pst. Victor Emmanuel, Biodun Ajayi, Yinka Tijani, Sesan Ajayi and Dele Akinrinola of University of Ibadan Staff School with his very charming wife.

Very importantly, I appreciate very dearly Prince and Mrs. E. K. Odubanjo who have become our Parents away from home.

Mention must be made of my very dear friend, Pst. Ademola Akinpelu who has been such a blessing to our family and Ministry.

Furthermore, I acknowledge Rev. David Eddy Ameh, Rev. James Okewu (Jim 'B'), Terhemen Gyuve and the entire Benue State Basket Ball Team (BENUE BRAVES) 1989 whom the Lord used at the Ibadan 1989 Championships to bring my wife and myself under the Passover Blood.

I must appreciate the valuable observations of my sister-in-law Mrs Caroline Nege in this particular edition and Pastor Chris Femi Nmor of Abifem Graphics for type-setting it.

Finally, since the first edition of this book, we have become greatly, indebted to hundreds and hundreds of benevolent individuals, families and ministries for which there is no space to mention individually. Yet, I must acknowledge Pastor Femi Emmanuel, Rev. Ibukun Falope, Prof. Arinola Sanya, Chief E. F. Ogunnaike & Mrs Adejumo who played principal roles both financially and physically, at our first book release in 2001.

To all of you out there, we bring you permanently under the blood line and declare you out of bounds to all works of satan. Amen.

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INTRODUCTION

Return! Church Return!

*T*hen Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them. Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever. And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. Exodus 12:21- 25.

From about the late 1900s till date, less and less is being heard, being taught, preached or said about the Passover. The reasons are multiple. For one, we are too engrossed in the celebration of our “Pentecostal” fad.

For another, the Church has become too civilized to emphasize a primitive bloody Gospel. The dynamics of Church administration is teaching that the Christian doctrine must be presented in a manner consistent with the diversity of traditions and cultures of the various cultural, social and academic values, worldwide. After all, didn’t our Lord Jesus command to ‘*go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*’ Mark 16:15? Consequently, since there are different backgrounds of these creatures, we are now magnifying the simplicity that is the Gospel to accommodate their various pleasures. Paul the Apostle seems to have given us much justification when he said in *1Corinth. 9.20-23* that he had become all things to all men that he might by all means save some.

Therefore, we don’t want to scare away people from the faith with too much talk of Passover which translates into too much talk of blood. There are too many civilized people in the Pews now. No need to frighten them away with a bloody Gospel. No need to repulse all those high class intellectuals and exact-cultured-special-breeds who afterall pay the largest tithes and preside over **multimillion Dollar** projects, with too much talk on something as nauseous as blood. What with all those minutely manicured and pedicured high society looks.

Furthermore, there is too much computer age faith now to bother with blood. Sufficient is the mention of Passover once every year during the Easter celebration.

Like Israel of old, we have failed to understand that there could not possibly be any *Pentecost* without the *Passover*. Israel came out of Egypt through a mighty demonstration of God's power manifested **through** the several plagues that culminated in the death of the Egyptian first born of both man and beast. Israel as a nation had been introduced to the efficacy of the Passover. They had witnessed first hand, *blood's* power to protect. However, either due to ignorance or lack of time, they did not seem to find anything to celebrate until the pursuing Pharaoh overtook them encamping beside **Pihahiroth** - Exod.14:9. It was not until the Pharaoh and his army were over-thrown in the Red Sea and Israel was once more preserved that even Moses remembered to lead a song of worship.

Perhaps, we could excuse Israel for lack of either the time or knowledge. Yet the same cannot be said of the Church today. We have both time and sufficient Biblical precedence. We can't plead ignorance. Paul the Apostle wrote in the book of **Colossians**:

Giving thanks unto the father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son: in whom we have redemption through his blood; even the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:12-14.

Of course, before we became qualified to partake of the blessings of the saints, we were first delivered from the servitude of the kingdom of darkness (the devil's kingdom). We enjoyed **redemption through His Blood**.

This is the greatest miracle we should celebrate.

Breakthrough and all other blessings must be appreciated and God praised for. Nevertheless, we must not put the cart before the horse.

How sad that many of God's children are not celebrating the miracle of Passover today? Rather, we only bring thanksgiving when a new car is bought or some other promotion gained. Say, where would Israel be singing worship in Exodus Chapter 15 had there been no Passover in Chapter 12? Child of God, what would your joy over the new house, job, marriage, breakthrough, ministerial success amount to had there been no Passover?

Passover is the message of the Gospel. It is the reason for the Gospel. It is the power of the Gospel. Passover is the Gospel. All reasons for which Passover has been relegated to the background fall pitifully upon their faces if Passover is removed.

Is the church basking in the euphoria of the Pentecostal age? Let us return and remember that even before the commencement of His earthly ministry, Jesus submitted Himself regularly to the customary observance of Passover - Luke 2:41-50. Besides, about the last thing He did with His disciples before He made the cross was to keep Passover at the border between His human and supernatural ministry - Matthew 26:1-30. This signified that the Passover was not only an all testament imperative but was indeed the basis for all the testaments whether old or new. Pentecost came about 50 days later-Acts 2:1-4.

Now, Jesus commanded a perpetual observance of the communion in commemoration of the *Lord's death* through all ages. This reiterated God's earlier instruction to Israel through Moses in the land of Egypt that the

Passover ordinance was for all generations. Compare 1Corinth.11:26 and Exodus 12:24.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.
1Corinth 11:26. Emphasis added.

And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever. Exodus 12:24

These scriptures clearly show that the Passover was intended for all ages. The emphasis and purpose was to commemorate the death of Christ who indeed is our Passover (1Corinth 5:7). But like Cain (Gen. 4) or King Saul (1Sam. 15) rather than obey God, the Church has cooked up another program and hopes, nay, expects that God ought to be impressed. Jesus said, ***celebrate my death for therein lies your salvation and deliverance.*** The church says, ***No Lord! But we would rather celebrate your birth.***

Birthdays agree with all traditions and societies. So, to find a way of compensating all people, we settle for December. It is the end of the year when most people accept vacation from all manner of vocations. Yes! A wise choice. Strike a balance between man and God.

Satisfy man's tendency for festivities and pacify God at the same time. Yes Lord! You ought to be impressed and grateful. We offer you December as your birth day.

Little consequence that December which is terribly cold in the Middle East and during which time shepherds do not take sheep out for grazing therefore, most certainly

could not have been Jesus' birth month, God, you must commend both our ingenuity and magnanimity in finding you a birth day and going right ahead to celebrate it worldwide.

You ought to be impressed, Lord!

The consequence is that we are celebrating our wisdom in sparing *the sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God...* 1Sam 15:21. We are effectively making little, the issue of our disobedience in sparing King *Agag* alive. The Church like Cain has worked very hard to come up with our hard earned offering for God.

“Come on, Lord! You ought to be impressed” we seem to say. But brethren, God says, *return, Church, to the understanding, appreciation and propagation of Passover rather than Christmas, for therein lies your redemption.*

The Church must similarly return and note that the Gospel has never and can never be intended to conform to society. The society should and must be influenced by the Gospel.

Thank God! Even Paul never hinted that the Gospel had to bend backwards to accommodate diverse passions. Yes, men may become all things to all men to win souls but once they have the opportunity, the *Gospel must* be presented as bloody as God has made it.

The Gospel is very capable of defending *itself*. The gospel message must remain sharp enough to draw blood from the hearts of hearers.

The so-called civilized pews are not getting enough blood to bring them atonement with God. Hence, we are

still conscious enough during worship services to take special care to keep our well tailored suits and salon fixed hair dos intact. The consequence is that we have well-cultured and highly educated witches, wizards, adulterers, fornicators, fraudsters, etc. leading the Praise/Worship, heading the projects committees and even preaching from pulpits. Oh! Yes, sin is comfortable with a bloodless gospel.

Finally, there is certainly a brand of faith in the Church but without blood as its foundation, this faith is neither of nor from God.

Little wonder the Church is *sick*. The message is sick, the members are sick, the method is sick, even the money of the present Church whose sources may not always be clean, is sick.

Predictably, the sick Church is employing worldly methods to source funds, attract membership, protect self and members, etc. Bandits attack Church meetings and snatch Church offerings. Testimonies are sometimes glorified lies. Female praise worshippers lead praise with one eye opened to verify that the single-young-dashing Pastor is being very, very impressed. Members die ghastly deaths. Ananias and Saphira are heading the project committees. Yet nobody is dropping dead. Why? Why are bandits bold enough to snatch the offering bag? Where, Lord is the voice of the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than the blood of Abel? Where is the blood that was meant to stop death **and Satan and all of Hell**, Lord?

We have left it all outside. We left out the blood in the services and we left out the blood in our lives. So, we have ended up with a bloodless Gospel, a powerless Gospel.

Lets return! Church, return!

CHAPTER 1

Jesus Christ, Our Passover

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: 1Corith5:7

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ... And ye shall ... kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. ...it is the LORD's passover. Exo 12:5-7, 11

SINCE the day Adam and Eve mortgaged Man's glory and awoke to the humiliating reality of their nakedness, the best man has ever attempted to find personal covering has been ridiculously inadequate. In Genesis Chapter 3 verse7, we find man desperately hiding behind fig leaves.

A gracious God arrives the garden and in verse 21, the first indication that, one, man's case is not beyond redemption and two, by blood shed shall he be covered or

rescued, is recorded. God slays an animal to produce a more permanent clothing or covering for man.

*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD
God make coats of skins, and clothed them.
Genesis 3:21*

In his time, Cain watched, green with envy and livid with anger as his effort-intensive-offering of the fruit of the ground was rejected while Abel's effortless blood offering of livestock was accepted by God.

God was still making a point. Cain had heard God's requirement but taken God for granted. Abel likewise heard the same requirement. It made little sense to either of them. Cain elected to use his sense. Abel chose to use his faith. The Hebrews account (Heb11:4) says Abel's offering was an act of faith. Since faith comes by hearing (Rom 10:17), both Cain and Abel must have been preached to.

Anyway, whether they understand or not, God was making His point. Further relationship with God must be founded upon blood.

Then came Noah, another fellow who believed the Gospel in his days. After the flood, a surviving Noah and his household gave God what I suppose was an offering that surpassed Solomon's. He offered one of every fourteen clean beasts and birds to God in sacrifice. This left Noah only thirteen of each species to start the repopulation of the whole earth. (Genesis 7:1-5, 8:17 -22). No wonder, the Lord promptly removed the curse earlier placed upon the earth in the days of Adam.

And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and

*took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, **I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake;... neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.***

Gen 8:20-21

Again, Blood had won.

Abraham was the next stop on the blood chain. God had called him out from the familiarity of his neighbourhood. In obedience Abraham departed, heading with his immediate household to a yet to be disclosed destination. In process of time, God's plan began to be revealed in exceeding great and precious and sometimes even stupefying promises.

By Chapter 15 of Genesis, Abraham could no longer contain his amazement.

And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? Genesis 15:8

In response, the Lord introduced him to a relationship that would thenceforth be consummated upon blood. God had Abraham offer a blood sacrifice. Then Abraham attempted futilely to sustain a spiritual mystery with physical ability. He waited upon his sacrifice of an heifer, a she-goat, a ram, a turtledove and young pigeon, chasing away fowls until sleep eventually overwhelmed him and he was left no choice but to entirely trust God (Genesis 15:9-12). He had learned that this new relationship would not be dependent upon his power but upon the grace of God.

Finally, Jehovah arrived, explained His programme to a sleeping Abraham and crowned His promises by walking in between the offering (Gen 15:17). This sealed His promises to or covenant with the father of faith.

Furthermore, the Lord returned in chapter 17 and declared more deliberately to Abraham that this was a blood birthed relationship. He commanded male circumcision. This prepared Abraham sufficiently for God's ultimate purpose. It apparently made him better acquainted with the imperativeness of blood in this relationship.

Consequently, when God returned to ask for Isaac in Genesis 22, Abraham was at a point in his walk with the Father where he could succumb to any demand or obey any command by God.

Indeed, the blood line was running.

Through the instrumentality of the circumcision, the generations that followed were kept perpetually reminded of the fact that blood was an imperative in their position as God's elect.

Towards the fulfillment of the Egyptian bondage prophesy, we again step over the blood line. Joseph's elder brothers had to kill a kid out of the herds to explain his loss to Jacob their father. What they little understood was that they had through the death of the kid, ransomed Joseph from untimely death not only at their own hands but even the hands of his subsequent masters and adversaries. For instance, it was not only an act of natural mercy that rescued him from death in Potiphar's house. ***The blood was talking.***

This rather uncanny, circumstantial and evil motivated sacrifice of the kid, killed when Joseph was sold away, would later also become a covering for all Hebrews

in the years of bondage to come. The Bible says once the Pharaoh that was well disposed towards the Jews because of Joseph died, the new King became very hostile to the survival of the entire Jewish nation in Egypt (Exodus 1:8-11). Noteworthy however is verse 12:

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew...

Once Israel rode upon that one strange, unintentional and accidental sacrifice by Jacob's sons in the verdant or lush wilderness of Shechem when they killed the kid instead of Joseph, the same preserving mystery went into operation on the behalf of all of them. Came the eve of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage and God unloaded the entire package. Jehovah ordained the Passover

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying,...they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:... and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the

blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. Exodus 12:1-14. Emphasis added.

The Passover in Egypt was indeed, the prototype of our New Testament Passover. As it were, God had drawn the blood line since the day of Adam and Eve when God had to

shed blood to have them effectively covered.

In the days supervening the Egyptian debut, God revealed this salvation mystery to Moses, precept upon precept, line upon line. Though they had benefited directly from the prototype, Israel still did not understand the mystery that had not only preserved them but also facilitated their departure or deliverance from Egypt.

Hence, in the ordinances, God laid down procedures for receiving forgiveness, cleansing, purging and covering. At all levels, blood was indispensable. Only blood shed could bring atonement.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Lev 17:11

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

Throughout the various dispensations of scripture, we confront this vital truth. First, it was in sketchy shadows. It began with Man's covering in Eden following the fall, Abel's blood offering, Noah's blood sacrifice, Abraham's blood sacrifice, the Circumcision, the offering of Isaac, the Kid that ransomed Joseph in the luxuriant wilderness of Shechem which finally culminated in the first organised Passover in the land of Egypt.

From that time on, the prototype continued to be celebrated pending the original which would take place

many years later. In the time being, while the wilderness wandering lasted, Israel revisited this very important feast in the Sinai plains -Num 9:5.

Next, as soon as they berthed at Gilgal the border of their inheritance, Israel once again kept the passover in the plains of Jericho -Joshua 5:10.

At this juncture, God's programme for the Gentiles began to be hinted. Accordingly, when Joshua sent spies to Jericho, it was a prostitute, the city's social wretch of perhaps the vilest order, that accommodated and aided the spies. This was a professional so despised by the society of her days, she could only find accommodation on the city wall. She was not good enough to dwell within the polished social system that must have existed at the time. It was this social miscreant that *believed the gospel* in her days and was saved with her house. This ofcourse is compatible with scripture.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.
1Cor1:26-29

Now, how was Rahab's salvation accomplished? It was

through the instrumentality of the Passover.

And the men said unto her,... Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window. Josh 2:17-19,21. Emphasis added.

Look at this ‘outlaw’! Strangers get to this city to survey the place preparatory to an imminent invasion. She does not only believe that resistance is hopeless, she also believes the only prescription they offer for her safety. Then she promptly acts upon her belief: she ties one ridiculous looking scarlet tread in her window.

Surely enough, within a few days the dreaded attack takes place. Now, what happens?

And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword. But Joshua had said unto the two men

*that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. **And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.** Joshua 6:2-22,25. Emphasis added.*

The blood line had gone right through Gentile lands and for good measure, it located a social and moral 'reject' for covering and salvation. God certainly had made the point. By the scarlet line, a symbol of the blood line, even the Gentiles could be saved.

For a while, God's people seemed to have neglected the import of the passover after the one at Gilgal of Canaanland. Nevertheless the blood element could not be eliminated from man's walk with his God even during this period. Blood continued to be a vital aspect or substance of offering when men brought burnt sacrifices.

During the kingdom period of Israel, atleast King Hezekiah-2Chronicles30:1-20 and King Josiah-2Chronicles35:1-16 are recorded to have kept the Passover.

This tradition was sustained when the returning exiles under Zerubabel revisited passover as one of their first feasts after the Temple was completed-Ezra6:19-21.

The Lord Jesus met Passover in His days and at 12 years old, accompanied His parents to keep one at Jerusalem-Luke2:41-46. He later attended another with His disciples only to discover that the feast had degenerated to a

mere commercial bazaar-John 2:13-17. He had to bring out a whip and teach those merchants a lesson or two. This action signified that the days of ceremonial passover were winding up and that it had to be accorded deserved veneration.

Ultimately, He manifested as the Passover of all ages.

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: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
1Cor5:7-8.

This mystery, nay, weapon, He passed over to the Church for all generations.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matt 26:26-28.
Emphasis added.

On the night of His betrayal, the Lord sat down with His disciples to what initially began as the Old Testament Passover. At the table however, He suddenly reached forward and drew the Passover feast across testaments. He started

by subscribing to the Jewish version of the passover when they gathered that final time He would partake of the feast here on earth. He said in Matthew26:29,

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Though He had warned them in parables of His impending crucifixion, the disciples were having too much of a swell time with the Lord to contemplate the possibility of any event aborting such wonderful fellowship.

Accordingly, when they all sat down that evening, all thoughts (except Judas' perhaps) were on what had happened hundreds of years ago on the eve of Israel's departure from Egypt. Suddenly, without the slightest indication that anything extraordinary was in the offing, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it then gave the disciples. '*Take, eat; this is my body*', He declared.

Presently, there was an uneasy calm in the room. Even the earlier revelation that one of the very inner circle members would betray the Lord had not elicited this much stupefaction or shock. Peter involuntarily rolled the piece of bread handed him between his fingers. For once, words failed him. Apostle Thomas held up his portion against the light to see whether it indeed resembled flesh. He swallowed his saliva then looked around. The others were already munching thoughtfully. Thomas gave up. He threw his into his mouth.

Just then the Lord passed them the cup.
'... drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sin',

the Lord was saying.

Judas almost spewed. Thomas leaned over to examine the contents under the light to ascertain its conformity with blood.

So far, nobody had spoken. There was an air of graveness about the entire room. An inexplicable sense of foreboding prevailed. The fact of the crucifixion began to establish comprehension in the thoughts of the apostles. Passover as a mere feast was quite all right. As a matter of fact, it was a welcome refreshment after all the hard work of boisterous storms, feeding of 4000 or 5000 people, unending visitations, sleepless nights of prayer, etc. But facing the reality that this Greatest of teachers, Master and Lord was literally the passover lamb, drew cold sweat and dried the disciples' throats.

There and then Peter made up his mind. He would defend his Master at all cost. He would not let the Lord die. There had to be a way.

Yes there was a way. The only one. The way of the cross. For that is what **Passover** is all about. And there was only one Lamb. The original. Jesus is His name.

On that one table that night, He acknowledged the old while superimposing the new. He did not discard the old. He simply instituted the new upon the foundation of the old. The **real** emanated or proceeded from the prototype. The new became the perfection of the old. The transition had been effected on that one dining table that one night.

When the next day He spread His arms on the cross, His left hand acknowledged the old while His right hand ushered in the new.

Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Hebrews 9:18-22.

On that table, Christ had given notice that He had come to perfect what Moses had earlier initiated in a figure. The blood line had interwoven testaments. The Cross was the meeting point.

Identifying Christ in the Old Testament Passover

An analysis of the Passover in Egypt is necessary for an appreciation of its place as the shadow of the testamentless Passover which our Lord Jesus Christ unquestionably is. This blow by blow appraisal will elucidate or clearly reveal the place of passover as the saint's all time, all winning and all covering weapon.

Besides, this closeup assessment will buttress the fact that the Lamb killed in Egypt was a shadow of the Christ. Finally, this appraisal will reveal the benefits that this mystery has bequeathed the believer in every age.

A. Timing. Passover was the last plague God visited upon the land of Egypt on the eve of Israel's departure (or was it release?) from captivity. Before passover, Pharaoh had displayed a bigger than Guinness-Book-of-Records-obstinacy. However, once the passover night took place, Pharaoh and all his subjects were not only willing but indeed urgent upon their hitherto servants to depart from Egypt.

And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. Exodus 12:33. Emphasis added.

So urgent and desperate were the Egyptians to see Israel leave that they were willing to do anything. They gladly parted with their choice ornaments.

And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: Exodus 12:35

Anything to hasten the departure of God's people was welcome. The timing was such that coming as God's joker, the opposition had no choice but submit. It was timed to hasten Israel's deliverance.

The passover was not necessary to protect God's

people from the plague of lice, bloody Nile, frogs, swarms of flies, etc. But when the situation meant the loss of lives, only blood could ransom blood.

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1 Peter 1:18-19.** Emphasis added.*

Passover was timed to defeat the enemy decisively while shielding the elect from death. Jesus Christ indeed was the final word. On the cross, he declared., ‘**it is finished’.**

Hell has found no reply since.

B. Choice of Lamb.

*Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male of the first year: Exodus 12:5.*

The Lamb had to be without blemish. Jesus, the Lamb of God that took away the sins of the world is the very Lamb without blemish.

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things,...**But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1 Peter 1:18-19.***

The Scribe to the Jewish converts goes on to say:

*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit **offered himself without spot to God**, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Hebrews 9:14.

It also had to be a **male** of the **first** year. There is something very piquant or symbolic about God and the first male. Unfortunately, firstborns seem to have a knack for charting their course at cross purposes God's plan.

Thankfully, the Omnipotent and Omniscience God who declares the end from the beginning has always circumvented the vacuum backsidden, unqualified or unsuitable firstborns would have created.

When Adam, God's **first** created son fell, the second Adam, even Jesus, God's only begotten Son and the **first begotten** from the dead fulfilled the Father's vision and desire for an holy seed upon the earth. John1:14 and Rev.1:5.

Esau, Isaac's firstborn, valued pottage above the rights of a firstborn-Gen25:29-34. After he traded in this right with his younger brother, God promptly established diplomatic relations with Jacob. I believe God must always have a firstborn.

Reuben, Israel's firstborn lost his place when he committed adultery with his father's concubine. God did not permit a void. Joseph became the political firstborn while Judah was elevated to the spiritual head of Israel's children and ultimately produced the Messiah-1Chronicles 5:1-2.

When the nation of Israel, God's first choice for a

peculiar people seemed blind to God's purpose and plans, He looked over their shoulder to the Gentiles for replacement.

In like manner, the Passover Lamb had to have some kind of **first** attached to it. In any case, God was sending the angel of destruction against the first born of men and beasts of Egypt. A firstborn lamb was therefore required to redeem God's **firstborn** - Exodus 4:22. However because enough blemishless first born male lambs could not be guaranteed for nearly half a million families, God instructed that it should be a male, blemishless and of the **first** year. This way, **first** was still achieved whether or not the male indeed was the firstborn.

This was necessary because of the souls to be redeemed and the eventual choice of the first born in Israel for the service of the tabernacle. This was notwithstanding the fact that the levites later substituted firstborns.

The lamb indeed had to be a type of Christ, God's **first** begotten Son-Hebrews 1:6, the **firstborn** from the dead-Col 1:18, the **firstborn** among many brethren-Rom 8:29 and Mary's **firstborn** Son-Luke 2:7.

C. Killing, Preparing and Eating the Passover.

...and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof. Exodus 12:6,8-10,46. Emphasis added.

(i) The Whole Assembly.

It was absolutely vital that the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel kill the passover. This way, everyone present was demonstrating faith in this exercise. By consenting unto the death of the passover lamb, each individual was placing his or her faith in the efficacy of this mystery.

Nobody could achieve that for another, the same way, nobody can achieve faith on the behalf of others in the efficacious sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. You have to personally believe and personally confess the Lord Jesus, to be saved.

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.
Habakkuk 2:4. Emphasis added.

Your personal faith alone can save you. It's not your father's, not your mother's, not your wife's, not your husband's, not even your pastor's faith but your own personal faith.

(ii) Roasted Whole.

The Passover was to be roasted whole. Fragmentation or mutilation was forbidden (Exodus 12:9,46). No

bone was to be broken. The entire lamb was to be roasted and served from the dining table. This agreed with Christ's own sacrifice when He would be offered without dismemberment and without any bones broken.

He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Psalm 34:20

*The Jews therefore,...brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, **they brake not his legs:** For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, **A bone of him shall not be broken.** John 19:31-33,36. Emphasis added.*

(iii). Unleavened Bread.

It was to be served with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Ex12:8). Leavened bread means yeasted or fermented bread. Leaven, yeast or ferment is a type of sin. It also means the old man or the sin-nature. The passover was meant to be partaken of only in the state of the New man. It was to be partaken of without the old nature of sin. It was to be served without leaven or without sin. This harmonizes with the Christ-passover requirement.

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: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity

and truth. 1 Cor 5:7-8.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Cor 11:28-29,31

Let a man examine himself to remove the leaven or sin before he partakes of the communion of the passover. For if we would judge the leaven or sin in our lives, we should risk no further judgement.

(iv) *Bitter Herbs.*

The Passover was also to be served with bitter herbs- Ex12:8. Why? The flavour of bitterness was intended to remind Israel of the bitter servitude from which they were being delivered. Over the years, they would remember their bitter bondage in Egypt each time they kept this memorial. This would help them determine never to resubmit themselves to any manner of bondage or slavery. The perfected version of this mystery in Christ has this admonition for the New Testament saint:

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1.

(v) *Nothing to Remain Overnight.*

Nothing was to remain until the morning-Ex12:10.

It had to be exhausted the same night. Remnants were to be burnt with fire. This tallied with the New Testament offering of God's Lamb. It was forbidden that He would remain crucified on the Cross overnight. He had to be buried the same night.

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. John 19:31. Emphasis added.

The Passover lamb in Egypt therefore had to be buried the same night. Do you still remember that the belly is a kind of grave? Jesus likened His burial and resurrection to the experience of Jonah *in the belly* of the whale or fish.

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
Matt 12:40

Remember also that man is made of earth-Gen2:7. Although you are a *spirit* and have a *soul*, the house in which you live to survive in this physical world, that house you call your '*body*', is actually earth. When you eat anything, it does not go to your spirit or soul. It remains buried in your body which is *earth*.

When you fall asleep in death, the undertaker will stand over your *house* or body and will say '*dust to dust*' or '*earth to earth*' as they commit you to mother earth.

Why all this detour?

We are proving that the *belly* is a kind of grave, sir. Hence, the lamb in Egypt had to be buried without fail in the earth of man's body the same night. The reason was that the Original, coming many years later had a definite time frame under which to complete the work of permanently routing satan. The keys of hell were still with satan and his time of reigning was up. God's programme of emancipation for the human race could not be delayed on the cross or as it were, on dining tables or barbecue. There was an appointed time by which the devil must surrender the keys and power handed over to the Lamb of God that was slain. Glory!

There was also an appointed time during which this innocent Lamb could carry on His person, the overburdening guilt of the entire world. Yes, burial must be completed the same day.

(vi) One House.

It had to be eaten in one house-Ex 12:46. There are several reasons for this. One, this protected against the risk of participants or partakers getting caught in the open by the death Angel while they shuttled between households, probably comparing dishes.

Secondly, the restriction was necessary to emphasize the uniqueness and sacredness of this particular meal.

Furthermore, this restriction underlined the relevance of *family* in God's dealings with the human race. Since you could not smuggle it out to your friend, all partakers had to be members of the same family. They submitted to the headship of the family head.

God is very concerned with the family structure.

He looks for a man around whom God establishes a family. Whether after the flesh (biologically) or after the spirit (spiritually), God's search for a man is the first step towards establishing a family. God deals with entire nations through families. Little wonder, the Bible states that:

God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. Psalm 68:6

Since ordaining the first family in Eden, God has continued to honour, promote and defend the family structure. There are both biological and spiritual families. The biological families are the ones in which we are born naturally. We had nothing to do with choosing which family we will come through. The *All Wise God* decided that.

The spiritual families on the other hand are the Ministries and Local Assemblies where we worship God. In His wisdom, God sets us in these spiritual families. He knows where we can best maximize our potentials. He knows where we can best be mentored or '*pastored*' to be our very best both for Him and ourselves. He knows where all our provision is because He in fact put it there. The problem many times is that we want to have a say in choosing our *spiritual families*. When we are bent on choosing our families or Churches or Ministries, the danger many times is that we may be guided by our fleshly sentiments. When this happens, we have missed the mark and it does not matter how much the devil has convinced us that we are all worshipping the same God. The truth is that this missing the mark in ***our choice*** of our spiritual families can become very critical to our entire destinies and the

devil loves it this way.

Those who have therefore rejected the Fathers's choice of spiritual family for themselves or who are too sufficient to need a family may discover that they are in rebellion. For such people, there is only one place; a dry land.

Regarding the Passover, there is indeed, the family dimension.

*And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month **they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:** And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; **Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.** And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: **There shall no stranger eat thereof:** But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. **A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.** **In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house;** neither shall ye break a bone thereof. And **when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD,***

let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. Ex 12:1,3-4,21,43-46,48.

Emphasis added.

There is one major message in this long quotation. That message is the fact that all who will partake of the Passover must not only be family members but must do so in their specific families.

(vii) *Not for Strangers.*

Foreigners, hired servants and the uncircumcised were all termed strangers. These strangers were not permitted to partake of the passover. Should any so desire, he had to first of all accept initiation into the Jewish nation through the instrumentality of the circumcision. Circumcision thus became a token of pledge to accept and serve the God of the Hebrews. This qualified such strangers for full privileges of Israelites of which participation in the Passover was one-Ex12:48. Now who are these strangers today?

a) Strangers and Foreigners are those who are not members of the family of Abraham the Jew. They may even be members of our physical families and therefore may have access to the passover either in our homes or when we force them to follow us to Church.

b) Hired Servants may be those who are making a living on the Gospel and their only motivation for appearing in God's presence is to make a gain. They may be hiring equipment, rendering some other service or even playing

the instrument at a fee. I know of atleast one Muslim who attempted to enlist me to help find market among Churches and Ministries for his musical equipment. He confessed he had invested in Public Address Systems because he had noticed that crusades were such big business. There are also many Pastors who want *good* music in their services so desperately that they are not particular about the faith state of commercial instrumentalists who have sprang up all over the place. Now these classes of people seek neither a relationship with the Lord nor do they care a hoot about the welfare of God's Church. They are hired servants. They serve strictly for profit.

c) The Uncircumcised. These are also in Church circles and may even be very zealous about church programmes and activities. They unfortunately have not established a personal relationship with the Lord. They may even shout very impressive *haleluyahs*. Yet, they fall asleep any time you are preaching anything apart from prosperity. They have other *very important* and *urgent* things to do on every prayer day. They watch TV for between 4 to 7 hours at a stretch but will champion the campaign to have the Sunday service curtailed to a maximum of One and a half hours. Praying in tongue? They think its not only ridiculous but its all a fraud.

God commanded that all these classes of strangers must not partake of the Passover unless they first made their way right by submitting to circumcision.

Today, the standard has not changed but because it is now a strictly spiritual circumcision of the heart, we may not always be in a position to enforce who qualifies or not. Nevertheless, the faithfulness of God stands sure. Our failure to reap commensurate benefits from this

explosive mystery and weapon stems from our failure to observe vital basic conditions. One of such basic condition is that all partakers must be of the household of God and members of the Commonwealth of Israel.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; Ephesians 2:19.

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. Romans 2:28-29.

D. State While Eating

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover. Exodus 12:11. Emphasis added

(i) *Loins girded & Shoes on Feet.*

The girding up of ones loins suggests preparation for energy-intensive activity. It also suggests covering or dressing, especially in readiness for either travel or activity. The girding of loins is synonymous with manhood. It also connotes courage.

Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Job 38:3.

It also evokes thoughts of focus, attention and order.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
1 Peter 1:13

Similarly, shoes on feet denotes an atmosphere of being ready to move. It evokes thoughts of preparation for journey. It also suggests the decoration or beautification of the feet. This calls to mind the propagation of the Gospel.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Isaiah 52:7

Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!...Nahum 1:15.

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:15

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Eph 6:15.

Partakers of the Passover were therefore required to be ready to move. They were required to be in a state of readiness for journey. They had to be ready to narrate the good news of their deliverance both to their children who would demand an explanation of this blood business -Ex12:26-27 and the strangers they would encounter during their sojourn henceforth.

This indeed collaborates the demand of the Christ-Lamb Passover. These partakers must be prepared to go with the Gospel to every creature.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

(ii) Staff in Hand.

A staff ordinarily would be either for walking, support, guiding, striking or divining. However, against the background of shod feet and girded loins, we see a picture indeed of one ready for travel. Again, when we recall the indispensability of the staff in the hand of Moses and Aaron in the events leading up to this night and the events that will follow, we deduce that the staff in the hands of Israel at this level was for a combination of authority, direction and God's presence.

When the young David went after Goliath, his staff was in his hand besides the sling and five smooth stones-1Sam.17:40. (By the way, watch out for our very compelling book: **The 4 Stones of David**).

Gideon made a feast for the Angel sent to him. The Angel in accepting the feast, touched it with the tip of the

staff in his hand and God's presence as fire, consumed the offering-Judg 6:19-21.

The Psamist declared..

*I will fear no evil :for thou art with me; thy **rod** and thy **staff** they comfort me. Ps23:4*

Jesus implored His disciples to each carry a staff, a type of His presence-Mark 6:8.

Shepherds generally carried staff to guide and direct their herds. Staff was therefore a symbol for shepherds.

Conclusively, staff in the hands of the Hebrews that night while they ate the Passover, bestowed upon each man the responsibility of shepherding his household through the journey that lay ahead, while also assuring them of Jehovah's presence, guidance and support.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20.

Indeed, the New Testament partaker is assured of the Lord's presence in an even more awesome and glorious fashion. **He dwells in the Lord and the Lord also dwells in him!!!**

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. John 6:56.

(iii) Haste.

Haste was crucial in eating the Passover because deliverance was abrupt. They had stayed under bondage for several hundreds of years but their deliverance when it came, was accomplished suddenly. Besides, it was important that the meal was through before the death Angel began his task over the land of Egypt. The captive exile likewise had to hasten towards his deliverance.

*The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed,
and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his
bread should fail. Isaiah 51:14.*

Furthermore, it was a short work that God's Lamb slain from the foundation of the world was going to do upon the earth.

*For he will finish the work, and cut it short in
righteousness: because a short work will the Lord
make upon the earth. Rom 9:28.*

E. Blood: the main substance of the Passover

*And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in
the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel
and the two side posts with the blood that is in the
basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of
his house until the morning. Exodus 12:22.*

Blood has always been and will always remain, the main life of the Passover. Believe me, whether it is God slaug-

tering some animals to use hide for Adam and Eve's covering or Abel's weeping blood, whether it is Noah's offering or Rahab's deliverance at Jericho, whether it is the event in the land of Egypt that taught the Egyptian firstborns a thing or two, or the Lord's supper (Holy communion), the main substance of the Passover is the blood.

When the Lord commanded the Hebrew Passover in the land of Egypt, He had some specific instructions concerning the blood.

(i) ***Method of Application.***

God demanded that the slain animal be held over a basin and its blood collected. This blood was then to be applied on the two side posts. This required striking one side post and reaching horizontally to strike the second side post. This motion leaves in its wake, a line across the door. The third place the blood was applied was on the Lintel or upper door post. We know that any kind of liquid applied in the amounts necessary for the Angel of death to see and be turned back, would naturally drop vertically on the threshold. This would therefore result in another line. The final result consequently was a **cross**. God was emphatic and lucid here in revealing that the eventual deliverance of the human race from everlasting bondage was going to be consummated by the lamb of God on the cross. This was the life of Jesus the coming Christ, spread across the doors of the Hebrews, in a figure.

Note worthy is the fact that they were specifically instructed to apply the blood thrice. The threefold application confirmed that the Holy Trinity was giving consent to man's redemption through this method. It represented the unity of the Godhead for God the Father, the Son (Word) and the Holy Ghost bear witness in heaven and the

Three are always in agreement.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 1 John 5:7.

The second implication of the threefold application was that the eternal sacrifice to be perfected in Christ was going to bring about forgiveness of sin, healing and redemption from eternal destruction.

Bless the LORD... Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction... Psalms 103:2-4. Emphasis added.

This three fold salvation would then result in threefold blessings viz; material prosperity, health and reconciliation with God or spiritual prosperity.

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou **mayest prosper** and **be in health**, even as thy **soul prospereth**. 3 John 2. Emphasis added.*

The Lord further emphasised these provisions when He not only caused a strange transfer of wealth to the advantage of this young nation but also kept them healthy throughout the wilderness wandering. What is more, God re-established communication with a nation during that period, winking even at their many errors.

And the LORD gave the people favour in the

sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians. Exodus 12:36.

Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Deut 8:4.

He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes. Psalm 105:37.

For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. Deut 7:6.

This threefold application of the blood therefore put paid to the devil's threefold ministry of killing, stealing and destruction. The blood's threefold application was a perfect antidote.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10 emphasis added.

Finally, this threefold application described the coming Lamb that would perfect what the shadow had initiated. It introduced the threefold office of that Lamb.

1. He is the Prophet

But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. Matt 11:9

2. He is the King

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. Rev 17:14

3. He is the High Priest

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Heb 6:20

The threefold application of the blood was very significant.

(ii) Threshold not applied

Notwithstanding the fact that the blood from the lintel or upper door post would eventually drip on to the threshold below, it is of tremendous significance to recognise that deliberate application on the said threshold was suggestively avoided . The reason is evident. The life of the flesh is in the blood.

For it is the life of all flesh; the blood ... For it is the life of all flesh: the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner

of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof...Lev 7:11,14.

According to the scripture above, the life of any flesh is its blood. Therefore, the life of the lamb that was being sacrificed as Christ's shadow was in truth the blood that was sprinkled. As this was a type of Christ, it was forbidden that the blood be deliberately trampled under feet. That would be tantamount to doing despite to the life of Christ and the coming supreme sacrifice

Of how much sorrier punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:29

Oh yes, in obedience to gravity the sprinkled blood could drip and touch the ground. But, no, in reverence to the life of the coming Christ, none dare deliberately sprinkle the blood on the ground!

(iii) *Passive Potency until Sprinkled.*

The killing of the Passover Lamb was no doubt an imperative in God's salvation and deliverance package for Israel then even as it is now for the whole world. Nevertheless, the power and potency of this weapon would have been lost had the Hebrews stopped at killing alone. They had to go the extra mile; they had to sprinkle the blood. Without sprinkling, there could be no covering and security.

The potency was triggered at the point of sprinkling.

Certainly, these Hebrews had killed and eaten flesh on previous occasions. Hence, the mere act of killing the Passover alone presented no important suggestions to them. Had they therefore gone to bed on the assumption that the Passover had already been killed and they were on the consequential basis of the mere killing, home and dry from danger, I suppose all their firstborns would have woken up in heaven. Why? Because it is the sprinkled blood that speaks in our defence, child of God.

But ye are come unto Mount Zion...and to the Blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. Hebrews 12:22,24. Emphasis added.

It is the sprinkled blood that speaks in our defence. Sprinkling imports our faith in the blood.

(iv) Once applied, remain within the covering.

Once the blood was applied, none was to desert the haven of its security until the morning. By then the Angel of death would have completed his assignment and danger ceased. Protection only covered those on the inside.

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. Exodus 12:22.

Behold,...thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. Josh 2:18-19.

F. An Everlasting Memorial

*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance **forever**. And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons **forever**. Exodus 12:14,24. Emphasis added*

This event was to be commemorated throughout all generations. It was intended to be celebrated forever. The Lord Jesus Christ did not in anyway abolish the Passover. On the contrary He attended it regularly - Luke 2:41, John 2:13 and John 6:4.

Of no small importance indeed, is the fact that His last Ministry among His disciples before His crucifixion was the final ratification of this all-testaments-ordinance at the same table and the same night where He instituted the Lord's supper or communion. All that the Lord did on that table that night was to shift man's attention from the

shadow to the real, which is Himself.

Very crucial is the understanding and celebration of this mystery that Apostle Paul, coming many years after Jesus had resurrected to glory, still received by revelation, the details of the passover or communion.

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
1Corithians 11:23-26

Why reveal this ordinance to Paul by direct revelation? It is because this is an indispensable pillar of the Christian faith.. Books or witnesses could not be sufficiently depended upon to convey its import to Apostle Paul who had the ministry to the Gentiles. In Acts10 the Lord began the process of engrafting the Gentiles into the Church through the conversion of Cornelius and his household. Peter however put up a stiff resistance. Even after the Lord convinced him in a vision and he went to lead the centurion's household to Christ, Peter was arraigned before a sanctimonious Church Council who sought to make salvation by faith in the Messiah, the preserve of the Jews.

The Lord therefore had to raise Paul who was not corrupted by this determination to keep salvation a strictly Hebrew affair, to spearhead the ministry to the Gentiles. Similarly, because this Passover or communion issue was inseparable from the Gospel, the Lord had to personally hand it over to Paul by revelation, for onward consignment to the Gentile brethren.

Apostle Paul confirms his Gentile ministry as follows:-

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 2 Tim 1:11

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: Rom 11:13

It was of tremendous importance that the Gentiles also understood and forever commemorated this feast in all their generations. It was imperative that the entire Church of Jesus Christ (whether of the circumcision or the uncircumcision) understand the indispensability of this mystery. Hence the Lord by direct revelation handed it to Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles.