

The First Memorial

So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. **Exodus 12:12.**

The first memorial found in the Law of Moses is to perpetuate the memory of the night The Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, while 'passing over' the houses of Israel having the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintel.

The intent and purpose of this memorial feast is given as an answer to a question expected from the children of the household.

And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It *is* the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. **Exodus 12:26&27.**

In passing over the firstborn of man and beast among the people of Israel, a special relationship was established between the Lord and the firstborn, and the consideration of this fact carries over to the feast of unleavened bread.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and beast; it is Mine.

And it shall be, when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, that you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males *shall be* the Lord's.

Exodus 13:1,12,13.

Thus, the firstborn males who open the womb became the purchased possession of the Lord. This also was established as a memorial for every generation. For more on the significance of the firstborn, please refer to Memorial Of the Firstborn, available in the archives of this blog.

The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are linked for this purpose, to perpetuate this memory.

And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, *This is done* because of what the Lord did for me when I came up from Egypt. It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Lord's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year. **Exodus 13:8-10.**

Many consider the observance of the Passover to commemorate the children of Israel coming out from Egypt and the deliverance from the bondage of slavery. This is actually given as the basis for keeping the Sabbath.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. *And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,* and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. **Deuteronomy 5:12-15.**

This makes the following exchange between Jesus Christ and the Jewish citizens of Jerusalem all the more fascinating.

The Truth Shall Make You Free

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, *and have never been in bondage to anyone.* How can You say, 'You will be made free'? Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. **John 8:31-36.**

The intended memory to perpetuate in the keeping of the Sabbath failed to produce the desired remembrance!

