

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS  
LEVITICUS 23 – GOD'S HOLY DAYS – PASSOVER  
PART 4

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Leviticus. This lesson will focus on the Passover – part 4.

Say – Let's take a look at what Christ, our Passover, was doing 4 days before the Passover. Just outside of Jerusalem in the city of Bethany, a city on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives, Jesus' day began. He and His disciples were at the home of his friends, Lazarus, Martha and Mary. It was four days before His death and the week of Passover was before Him.

Say – Jesus, the King, the Great Messiah and Deliverer was coming to Jerusalem for the Passover (not Easter). Many pilgrims swarmed into Jerusalem for the Passover and with them the multitudes brought their “lambs without blemish” which had been chosen four days before as God had instructed them, Exodus 12:3-5.

Say – Christ, the Son of God, had been chosen as the perfect “Lamb of God” “...as a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup>Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world (was part of God's plan), but was manifest in these last times for you, <sup>21</sup>Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God” I Peter 1:19-21.

Say – Christ was entering Jerusalem to lay down His life for (us) His sheep, and He was the only one who could “...take away the sins of the world” John 1:29. Remember “For it is not possible that the **blood of bulls** and of **goats** should take away sins” Hebrews 10:4.

Say – What we have learned about sacrifices is that something innocent had to die for our sins. The lambs sacrificed were without sin and Christ was without sin; Christ our Saviour was innocent of sin and paid the penalty for our sins so we can have eternal life in Him, Hebrews 4:15.

Say – Just a couple of days before, Christ had talked to His disciples and Friends about this day. Christ had given them instructions concerning a little colt He would need for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Christ sent two of His disciples to the neighboring

village and told them "...there will be a colt tied, loose him and set him free" Luke 19:30

Say – Christ said, "If anyone asks why do you loose him, say it is because the Lord hath need of him" Luke 19:31. Jesus Christ was very well known around Jerusalem and the disciples relayed the message Jesus had given them.

Say – Soon they brought the colt to Jesus draped with their garments and He sat upon the young donkey. With His disciple by His side it was time to head towards Jerusalem, Luke 19:35, 36.

Say – Just outside Jerusalem "Multitudes joined with the disciples and they began to rejoice and praise God with loud voices for all the mighty works they had seen (Him perform) Luke 19:37. It is no wonder they joyously waved palm branches and laid their garments on the road before Him and continued shouting "Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven and glory in the highest, Hosanna, save us now, Hosanna in the highest" Luke 19:39.

Say – Inspired by the holy spirit of God, the multitudes knew who He was. He was their Messiah, their Redeemer or Savior and they were giving Him the greatest tribute they knew to offer.

Say – God the Father was in control of all the events of that day just as He was everyday and now entering the city for one of His last visits, the world through the praises of the multitude, would know of the Messiah, the Saviour of the world! Someday soon all the world will recognize the one true God as He changes the world and its government for all time.

Say – Now well into the city, in an abrupt contrast, the joyous mood ended as Jesus on the young colt suddenly stopped and looked out over His beloved city of Jerusalem and began to weep. Finally, grief stricken, through continual tears, He said, "If you had known and even now, the things which make peace, (I could gather you unto me at this last moment), but now they are hid from your eyes" (it is too late) Luke 19:40, 41. Then He told them with certainty of what was to come upon them and the city of Jerusalem.

Say – He said, "The days will come when your enemies will cast a trench about you and your city and will encircle you round about and keep or (hold you as a prisoner) on every side and they shall (level both city and buildings) to the ground along with your children;

and they shall not leave one stone upon another; because you knew not the time of your visitation" Luke 19:43. See "[Jesus' Death Four Days Before Christ Death](#)" for more detailed information

Say – Now it was three days before the Passover. Many times long before daylight Jesus would escape to the Mount of Olives to pray and talk privately with His Father and probably today, three days before His death, was no exception.

Say – Jesus had not taken time to eat with His disciples this morning and the Bible tells us, "He was hungry as He entered Jerusalem and up ahead, as He approached the city, He saw a fig tree" Matthew 21:18. The fig tree was a welcome sight to any traveler for many times its beautiful large leaves provided much needed shade and protection from the hot desert sun. The fig tree also produced the first fruit of spring and was a great delicacy in the Middle East for the hungry, weary traveler, Isaiah 28:4, Jeremiah 24:2, Micah 7:1. It was just what Jesus needed to satisfy His hunger.

Say – The fig tree produced fruit at the same time the leaves sprouted so when Jesus saw leaves on the tree, He thought there would be figs also. But the Bible tells us "When He saw a fig tree he came to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only, and He said unto it, "Let no fruit grow on henceforth (meaning ever again). And the fig tree withered away" Matthew 21:19. God used the fig tree to teach us a spiritual lesson about the penalties of not bearing Godly fruit. Just as the fig tree had "withered away", so we too, if we do not produce Godly fruit would be without hope of eternal life in the future coming Kingdom of God and we would "wither away" just as the fig tree. Go to "[Jesus' death Three Days Before](#)" for more detail.

Say – It was two days before Passover, two days before Christ's death and again that morning Jesus with His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. As they walked, they passed by and saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. Peter said to Christ, "Master, look the fig tree you cursed is withered away". As always Christ taught His disciples and us a valuable lesson as they continued to walk towards Jerusalem.

Say – Listen to the answer Christ gave to His disciples, "... I say unto you, if you have faith, and doubt not (doubt is the opposite of faith), you shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if you shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done (and)...have faith in God (believe in Me only), Matthew 21:21, 22.

Say – What was the “mountain” Christ was talking about? Go to “[Jesus’ Death, two days before](#)” for the details. Two days before Christ’s death was a very busy day you will see as you read the lesson.

Say – Now it was one day before the Passover; what did Jesus do on the last day before His death? It was the preparation day and Jesus knew of His death but first Christ ate the Passover Supper with His disciples and gave them instructions for the New Covenant. Please go to “[Jesus’ Death, one day before](#)” and there I have written a poem to describe the last twenty-four hours of Christ’s life with much more detail.

Say- In another place we are told, “Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends”, John 15:13. How do we know if we are His friends? Christ told us, “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you”, John 15:14. Just as Christ loved us while we were an enemy of His, we are to love our enemies. We can do that by looking beyond the moment or the immediate act and realize they are our brothers and sisters and in the big picture of God's plan will be converted also.

Say – “<sup>19</sup>What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (spirit) which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (God is the one who owns us, we are not to play games.) <sup>20</sup>For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” I Corinthians 6:19-20.

**Finally here is how the week of Passover went for Jesus our Passover.**

**End of the 13 or Night of the 14<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday** – The New Testament Passover was instituted by Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday – the 14<sup>th</sup>** – Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, our Passover, and the Preparation Day prior to the first day of Unleavened Bread, an annual Sabbath. **Christ was put in the tomb prior to sunset on the 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thursday – the 15<sup>th</sup>** – A high Day, The first Day of Unleavened Bread, John 19:31.

**Friday – 2<sup>nd</sup> day in the tomb**

**Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> day in the tomb**

**The Bible tells us** “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” Matthew 12:40.

Wednesday night – 1 night

Thursday – 1<sup>st</sup> day

Thursday night – 2<sup>nd</sup> night

Friday – 2<sup>nd</sup> day

Friday night – third night

Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Say – We are to guard ourselves against sin; stay attached to the Vine, Jesus Christ “<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” John 15:5.

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR YOUTH AND TOTS  
ALSO I WOULD LIKE THEM TO READ EVERYTHING WHICH IS IN  
“BLUE” ABOVE FOR EACH DAY FROM THE 10<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY AND  
THERE ARE PICTURES TO COLOR AS WELL.

IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE A BOOK ON GOD’S HOLY DAYS  
THAT IS WHY I HAVE SENT THE COLORED PICTURE WITH THE  
SABBATH DAY LESSON.

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