

Themes to Consider as we Tip-Toe into the Passover Season

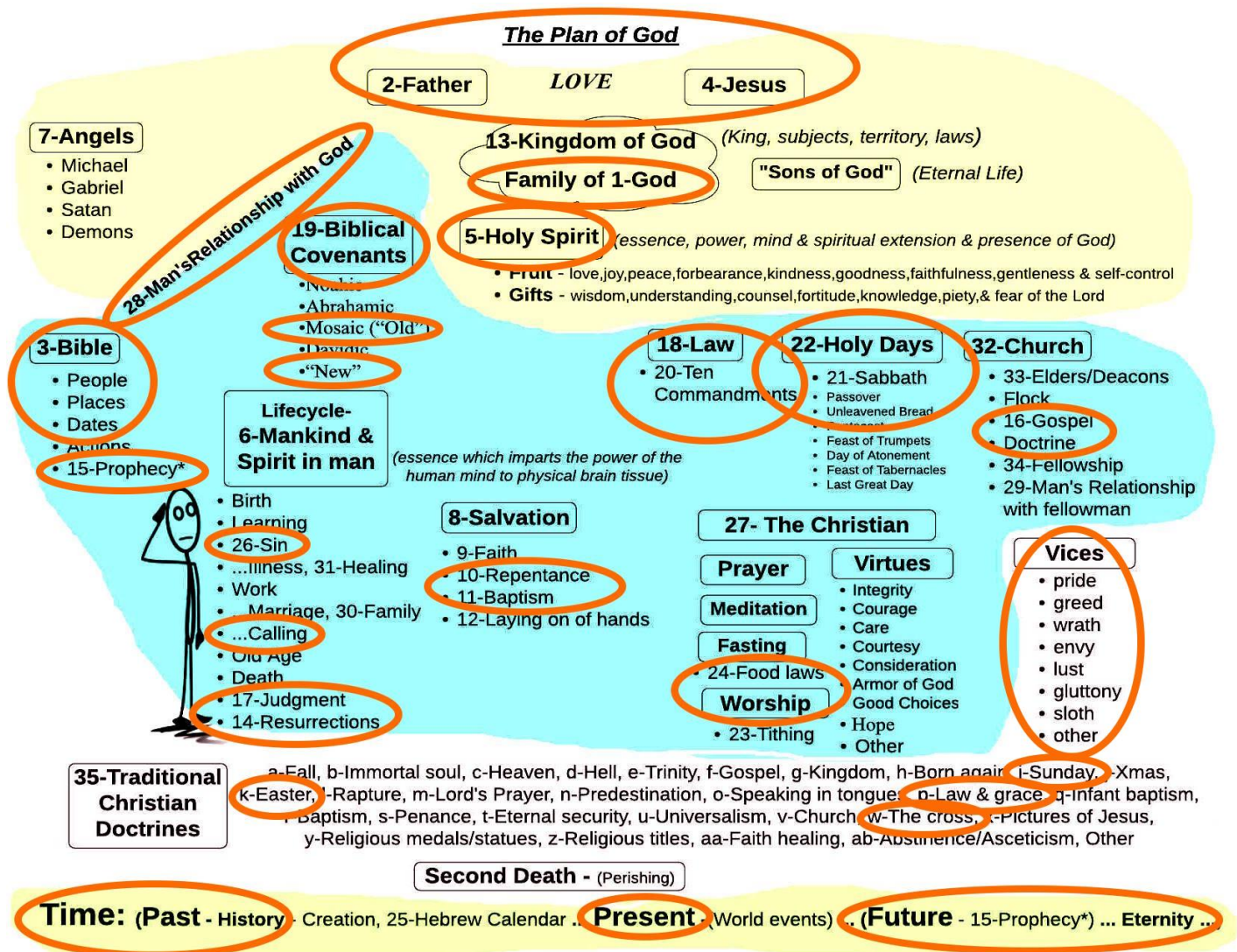
In Church of God tradition ... the pastors KNOW that they answer to the Father & Jesus Christ (... as *each member does too!*) ... and so Jesus' words (in THIS scripture) is a focus to pastors ALL YEAR long ... & especially during the Holy Day season...

Mat 24:45 (KJV) Who then is a **faithful & wise** servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Psa_145:15 The eyes of all look expectantly to **You**, And **You** give them their food (KJV-meat) in due season. (also *meat vs milk ... 1Cor 3:2 & Heb 5:12*)

Pro_15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, & a word spoken in due season, how **good** it is!

The purpose of today's sermon is to equip everyone with reminders of All of the themes of the spring Holy Days ... for our review & study as the days approach! No one wants to arrive at the Passover or appear before Christ realizing ... I only remembered 25% of the rich meaning of these days! ... So I am unprepared!



Themes to focus on as we approach Passover ...

1. Appreciation & Thankfulness

- For the Plan of God for mankind (from before the foundation of the world!)
- For Jesus ... His incarnation, life, suffering, death, burial, resurrection & leadership of His church today -- It's ALL about Him (Php 2:10 ... every knee will bow to Jesus to the glory of the Father)

2. Our Obedience - God instructs us to keep this - and we do!

1Sa_15:22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in **obeying the voice of the LORD**? Behold, **to obey is better** than sacrifice, **And to heed** than the fat of rams.

Rom_6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves **slaves to obey**, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether **of sin** leading to death, or **of obedience** leading to righteousness?

3. Spiritual Renewal & Cleansing ... we NEED it!

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, & renew a steadfast spirit within me.

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself & so let him eat of the bread & drink of the cup

4. Historical Remembrance & Continuity - Don't let society (or Satan) *erase* our history!

Exodus 12:26-27 & 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 & delivered **our** households.

Psa 145:4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread ...



5. Freedom & Liberation - (From Physical & *Spiritual* bondage)

Exo_6:5-6 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, & I have remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm & with great judgments.

Exo_6:9 So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of **anguish of spirit** & **cruel bondage**.

Joh_8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Joh_8:36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

5. Sacrifice & Redemption

1 Corinthians 5:7 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Joh_1:29 The next day John (*the Baptist*) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!"

6. Identity & Belonging

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Romans 11 ... Gentiles are grafted into the olive tree (Israel)

7. Reflection on Oppression

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Deu 5:15 & **remember** that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, & the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand & by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

8. Future Hope - Anticipation of Christ's Return

Mat 26:29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Rev 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: '**Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**' " & he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

9. Continuity & Tradition

Joh 17:20-21 I do not pray for these alone, **but also for those who will believe in Me through their word**; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endures forever ...

1Co 11:26 For **as often** as you eat this bread & drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.



10. Renewal of Covenant

Luke 22:20 This cup is the **new covenant** in My blood, which is shed for you.

Rom 6:4-5 Therefore we were **buried with Him through baptism** into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly **we also shall be** in the likeness of His resurrection,

Springtime is an *awesome* time for Baptism ...

If anyone is considering baptism ... See Me!

11. **Accept the Truth & Reject error** - Easter bunnies & Sunrise services are not of God



Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days & three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days & three nights** in the heart of the earth.

Deu 12:29-32 When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

Deu 12:30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'

Deu 12:31 You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

Deu 12:32 Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; **you shall not add to it nor take away from it.**

Eze 8:16-17 So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house; & there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch & the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD & their faces toward the east, & they were worshiping the sun toward the east. & He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here?"

STP Doctrinal Statement on EASTER

As any encyclopedia will note, Easter is an adaptation of an ancient, pagan, pre-Christian festival for celebration, which was adopted by traditional Christianity in place of the biblical Passover. **Easter is nowhere mentioned in the Bible as a Christian holiday.** Instead, the **Passover** should be properly observed on the correct date in accordance with Christ's example and Paul's instructions. The Church of God recognises that references such as Ezekiel 8 are specifically about "sun worship" (rather than an Easter sunrise service tradition), but the curious practises today of eggs, bunnies, candles, and sunrise services, are foreign to scripture and **more akin to** characteristics of ancient sun worship and spring fertility festivals.

Deuteronomy 12:30-32; Jer 10:2-5; I Corinthians 11:2,23-26

12. **Servanthood & Humility** - we call it the “footwashing attitude”

Luk 22:24-27 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

Luk 22:25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'

Luk 22:26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

Luk 22:27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

Joh 13:6-7 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

13. **Be Unleavened** ...

1Co_5:7-8 Therefore purge out the **old leaven** (*vice & sin*), that you may be a **new lump** (*pure ... free from corruption*), since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with **old leaven**, nor with the **leaven of malice & wickedness**, but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity & truth**.

14. **God our Healer** ...

1Pe 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

15. **The death stake** ... It is *good* to be careful about the details

Php 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the **cross**. (G4716 stauros - stake or post)

STP Doctrinal Statement on THE CROSS

The use of crosses, crucifixes or the "sign of the cross" in prayer or worship is non-biblical and non-efficacious in a Christian's relationship with God and Christ. The image of a cross has **no intrinsic spiritual value** and apparently originated in non-Christian religions; for these reasons it is avoided. God instructs His people to worship Him without such external devices. And furthermore, a case can be made that He was crucified on a stake, or tree, pole—a "stauros" in Greek—not a crux, meaning cross—which was used in the Latin Vulgate, describing the instrument used to crucify Christ. The cross is an ancient Chaldean pagan symbol.

Exodus 20:4-6; Leviticus 26:1; John 4:24; Acts 5:30



16. How we are reconciled ... substitutionary atonement ...

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Isa 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Isa 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. Isa 53:5 **But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,** And by His stripes we are healed.

17. The Roles of Blood

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, & I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for **it is the blood that makes atonement** for the soul

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**



Irony ... blood *cleanses*!?!

Protection & Salvation

Exo 12:7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Exo 12:13 Now the blood shall be a **sign** for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, **I will pass over** you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Heb 9:18-22 Therefore not even the first **covenant was dedicated** without **blood**.

Heb 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

Heb 9:20 saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD HAS COMMANDED YOU."

Heb 9:21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

Heb 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are **purified with blood**, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

18. **God is in Charge -He CAN & DOES intervene**

Deuteronomy 4:37 & because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; & He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power

Psalms 105:43-45 He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness. He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, & they inherited the labor of the nations, that they might observe His statutes & keep His laws. Praise the Lord!

Jeremiah 32:21 You have brought Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs & wonders, with a strong hand & an outstretched arm, & with great terror."

Micah 7:15 As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders."

19. **Inclusion & Hospitality & Fellowship**

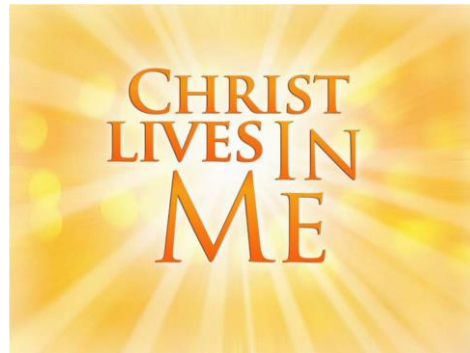
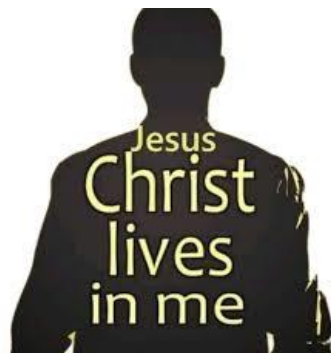
Exodus 22:21 You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

1Co 10:17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Eph 4:32 & be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

20. **Personal Exodus Narratives - Arriving at our destination**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.



Help "the Preacher" ...

Did I miss any important themes for our Passover preparation??
