

# The Door That Leads to Eternal Life

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Scripture tells us that "...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and the "...wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). Therefore, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24). Jesus said, "I am the **door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...**" (John 10:9).

We know that Jesus is the door that leads to eternal life, but what if two doors are set before us, and one of them is a counterfeit? How can we be sure that the door we are entering is the correct door? The starting point on our way to eternal life is pictured by the Passover ceremony. There are two options, or doors, that are set before us. They are the fourteenth of Abib, and the fifteenth of Abib, and one of them is a counterfeit. We are going to examine the evidence to see which one is the correct door, and which one is the counterfeit.

## The Bloody Door

On the "tenth day of the first month" the children of Israel were to take a lamb "without blemish ...[Y]ou shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the children of Israel shall kill it in the evening [lit. *between the evenings*]. And they shall take of its blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, **wherein they shall eat it**" (Exodus 12:3, 5, 6, 7).

The children of Israel were required to eat the Passover inside their dwellings. "In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house..." (Exodus 12:46). Inside their dwellings they were protected by the blood of the sacrifice. "And the blood shall be to you for a **sign** upon the houses where you 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" (v. 13). The blood on the door is our first piece of evidence.

The blood of the sacrifice is absolutely crucial to the Passover ceremony, for we are "...**redeemed** [3084, *to ransom, deliver, liberate*]...with the precious **blood** of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18, 19). The sacrifice of the Passover has to precede the Passover ceremony, because "...**without shedding of blood is no remission** [859, *deliverance, forgiveness, pardon*]" (Hebrews 9:22). We see then that a Passover ceremony without the shedding of blood **first** is useless.

Jesus died at the ninth hour on the fourteenth day, which is the midpoint between noon (the zenith of the sun) and sunset. The ninth hour corresponds to about 3:00 P.M. Therefore a Passover ceremony that precedes Jesus' death is impossible, because He is the Passover sacrifice. It is through Jesus' sacrifice that "...we have **redemption** [629, *deliverance procured*

by a ransom paid] **through His blood**, the forgiveness [859, *pardon*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

No one has ever observed the Passover ceremony prior to the sacrifice of the Passover, because it is **NOT** possible. Without a sacrifice there cannot be a Passover ceremony. Since it takes the blood of the sacrifice to be delivered from death, then how can the removal of sins take place prior to the sacrifice? God’s plan follows a logical sequence of events.

The bread and the wine that are used at Passover are symbols of Jesus’ death—**not His life!** “For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you **do show** [2605, *announce, proclaim*] **the Lord’s death till He come**” (1 Corinthians 11:26). Jesus was not dead on the night of the fourteenth when He presented these symbols. The symbols were pointing to His death that was to occur at mid-afternoon on the fourteenth, which means that a Passover ceremony on the night of the fourteenth **cannot show Messiah’s death!**

After Jesus was dead, “...one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out **blood and water**” (John 19:34). It was after Jesus was dead that His blood spilled out, and this is when He fulfilled the bloody door in Egypt. This is the bloody door that we must pass through in order to observe Passover.

### **Unleavened Bread**

What do we find when we enter through the bloody door? Do we find leaven? No, because leaven represents sin. “...Know you not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” (1 Corinthians 5:6). The fourteenth is not a day of unleavened bread, but of leavened bread, and that means that the fourteenth **cannot picture the removal of sin**. Leaven is another piece of evidence. There cannot be any leaven in the dwelling when Passover is observed.

When the Passover is observed on the night of the fourteenth there isn’t a bloody door to enter through, because the time frame is prior to the death of “Christ our Passover.” The fourteenth “Passover” ceremony is observed with unleavened bread and wine, which supposedly pictures the sacrifice of Jesus. The problem is, His death did not occur until the following afternoon. Following this “Passover” ceremony you are free to imbibe in all of the leaven (sin) that you desire until the end of the fourteenth day. What a wonderful picture of salvation the so-called “Passover” ceremony on the night of the fourteenth presents.

On the other hand, the fifteenth is a day of unleavened bread. “And on the **fifteenth day** of the [*first*] month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD: **seven days** you must eat unleavened bread” (Leviticus 23:6). When you observe the Passover ceremony on the fifteenth you are passing through the bloody door, and you are entering into the Feast of Unleavened Bread, where leavening (sin) is not allowed. Therefore you will not be eating anything with leaven in it after the Passover ceremony.

The fifteenth Passover ceremony is observed in a time frame that is **after** "...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 Corinthians 5:7, 8). Notice the order that is given. First there **is** the sacrifice, and then the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

### **Passover is a Commanded Assembly, a Holy Convocation**

"And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and **unleavened bread**; and with bitter [4844, *grief, bitterness*] herbs....For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**...And this day shall be to you for a **memorial**; and you shall keep it a feast to the LORD...by an **ordinance forever**...**Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread**...And **in the first day there shall be a holy convocation**, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation..." (Exodus 12:8, 12-16).

When you enter the fifteenth day it is a holy convocation, i.e. an assembly called by the authority of Almighty God. All of God's commanded assemblies are holy convocations. There isn't a holy convocation on the fourteenth, which is a common day. By whose authority, then, is an assembly ordered on the fourteenth? It must be the Church, because there isn't any scriptural authority for it.

### **The Water and the Opening and Closing of the Door**

When Jesus' side was pierced by the spear, then "came there out **blood and water**." Two things were required to bring Israel out of Egypt. The first was blood, and the second was water. Israel was not completely out of Egypt (sin) until they crossed the Sea on the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Egyptians pursued after Israel and caught up to them at the Sea, but "...the pillar of cloud...came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to [*the Egyptians*], but it gave light [*to Israel*]...and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground....and the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea....and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared...and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea" (Exodus 14:19-27).

The door, as the pillar of cloud, separated the Egyptians and the Israelites. The dividing of the sea was the opening of the door for Israel, and the returning of the sea after Israel came up and out of the sea was the closing of the door. The door represents Jesus Christ, "...He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens" (Revelation 3:7).

The door separated the Israelites from the Egyptians (sin), beginning on the first day of unleavened bread with blood, and concluding on the seventh day of unleavened bread with water. The crossing of the sea represents baptism. "...All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all **baptized** to Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (1 Corinthians 10:1, 2).

On the Day of Pentecost the apostle Peter proclaimed, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made that same Jesus, **whom you have crucified**, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this they were pricked [2660, *to pain the mind, the emotion of sorrow*] in their heart, and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:36, 37).

Remember that the children of Israel were to "...eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and **unleavened bread**; and with **bitter** [4844, *grief, bitterness*] herbs" (Exodus 12:8). The "bitter" represents repentance. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return [7725, *turn about*] to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

"Then Peter said to them, **Repent** [*Passover*], and be **baptized** [*water*] every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ [*the Passover sacrifice*] for the remission [859, *forgiveness, pardon*] of sins..." (Acts 2:38). Repentance (blood) and baptism (water) equals the complete removal of all sins. The seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread picture the complete removal of sins through blood and water.

**Conclusion:** The Passover ceremony has to occur in a time frame that is after the death of "Christ our Passover." The night of the fifteenth is after the crucifixion, but the night of the fourteenth is not. Unleavened bread is part of the Passover ceremony, and the fifteenth is the first of the seven days of unleavened bread. The fourteenth is a day of **leavened bread**, and you can eat leavened products even after partaking of the "Passover ceremony," which is supposed to picture the removal of leaven (sin).

The Passover ceremony is a holy convocation, and the fifteenth is a holy day. The fourteenth is a common day, and there isn't a holy convocation on it. The seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread picture the complete removal of sins through blood and water. The fourteenth is a preparation day for the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

All of the evidence points to the fact that the fifteenth is the door that leads to eternal life and the fourteenth is a counterfeit door.