

Attic Answer #7:

Does the Old Testament Matter?

Do We Really Even Need to Know What's In The Old Testament?

Christ's Death and The Passover:

The Old Testament Foundation Brings Deep Meaning & Understanding...

The Passover and the Cross

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” John the Baptist declared this statement which was wrought with meaning. This meaning was inextricably linked to the Passover Lamb of the Exodus account rooted in Israel's rich history. Without a doubt John knew what he was saying when he uttered these powerful words. Jesus was to be the same as the Passover lamb. Much could be written and detailed as to the many nuances that manifest in this comparison of the Christ and the Passover lamb. For the purpose of this exposition the highlights will be addressed. The Passover and the Cross have much in common. With each of these the shedding of blood instituted and initiated a covenant between man and God. In each of these substitution takes place; the Passover lamb taking the place of the firstborn child and the Christ taking the place of mankind. Each of these also highlights the necessity of shed blood. The old hymn states, “When I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass over you.” The shedding of blood of the Passover lamb applied to the doorpost of the house provided salvation for the Israelites, and the shedding of blood on the Cross by Christ applied to the sinner at baptism provides salvation for the penitent believer. The parallels are many and rich with meaning.

The Passover and the Lord's Supper...

As there are as many parallels between the Cross of Christ and the Passover, there are just about as many parallels with the Passover and the Lord's Supper. It is clear in hindsight that God was orchestrating these events for this very moment in time in order that all these events would be woven together like a majestic patchwork quilt. This very moment in time was the setting of the Passover. With the backdrop of the Passover layers upon layers of meaning and significance would be added to the already momentous events which were to take place surrounding the Crucifixion. The primary purpose of the Passover Meal tied to the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to simply look back. So many places in Scripture is emphasized by God for mankind to remember, to look back. The Passover annual celebration was instituted for this very reason. This is exactly what Christ was attempting to set in place as he uttered the words, “Do this in remembrance of Me.” The need to look back and to remember is crucial for the Christian to be able to move forward. The events which surrounded the Cross must never be forgotten, but also they must be kept fresh, front and center. This was the goal of the Lord's Supper. Another interesting parallel is where Christ took the phrase, “the bread of affliction which of forefathers ate” and turned it into, “this is my body which is broken for you.” The bread played a key role in each institution. Another interesting parallel is that Communion is a corporate event, a shared meal. Morris states, “Passover reminds us that we are members of one another.” (Morris, 104) The exact same dynamic takes place in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We see and

celebrate all those who have been delivered from the bondage of sin. We belong to one another and to the Lord.