

Morning Sermon October 6, 2019

"The Last Lamb" John 19:31-37

I. *Thursday or Friday?*

³¹Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. John 19:31 (NKJV)

1. *Some say Jesus died on Thursday, why?*

A. *it was the Preparation Day; they take this as referring to the Passover. This seems to be backed by what is said earlier that morning –*

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. John 18:28

B. *Jesus as our Passover ... For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 B It seems fitting that Christ as the Lamb of God would die on the very day of the Passover, when Passover lambs were killed!*

C. *Thursday allows for Jesus to be dead three full days!*

2. *Why I believe Friday is the correct day:*

A. *Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover together, I believe on Thursday, the same day all others would –*

And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples." ' " So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. Matthew 26:18-19

This is what is clearly taught in the other Gospels! Thursday forces a seeming contradiction.

B. *The Passover, as a phrase, could be and was used by the Jews to describe an entire week's celebration and meals, not just the eating of the Passover Lamb, John 18:28 does not say Passover lamb, just "Passover."*

There is ample evidence that 'the Passover' could refer to the combined feast of the paschal meal itself plus the ensuing Feast of Unleavened bread (e.g. Lk. 22:1: 'Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching'). If then the Jewish authorities wanted to continue full participation in the entire feast, they would have to avoid *all* ritual contamination. D.A. Carson

C. *The Preparation Day mentioned in John 19:31 then is preparation for the Sabbath, the Saturday after Thursday when all the Passover Lambs were slain, and Friday, when Jesus died -*

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The fact is, every Sabbath would require preparation, and this was a special sabbath as it happened on the Passover Week.

D. *Jesus being crucified the day after all the other "Passover" lambs fits more with Scripture than if He were crucified the same day! Why?*

D1. *Because all these other lambs foreshadowed Christ's coming and dying for our sins!*

D2. *Because Christ is the true Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world in a way none of these other lambs ever could be –*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Hebrews 10:4

II. *Jesus as the Last Lamb fits gloriously with all of Scripture –*

1. *First this passage –*

³¹ Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not

break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.” ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.” John 19:31-37

A. *Jesus legs were not broken, His side was pierced instead, fulfilling Scripture –*

He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Psalm 34:20

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me Whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:10

B. *Also fulfilling, Scriptural Passover Lamb requirements -*
In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. Exodus 12:46

They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it. Numbers 9:12

2. *Second other Scripture: lambs in Scripture foreshadow Christ, He is the Last Lamb –*
 - *The animal slain to clothe Adam and Eve – Genesis 3:7 & 21*
 - *The lamb slain which was Abel’s better offering –Genesis 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:12*
 - *The ram slain in place of Abraham’s son Isaac – Genesis 22:11-13*
 - *The lambs slain whose blood was placed on the doorposts of the children of Israel, protecting them from the Angel of Death – Exodus 12:1-14*
 - *Christ Himself is proclaimed the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world by John the Baptist – John 1:29*
 - *The Lord’s Supper itself remembers Christ’s death which also had been foretold by the Passover – 1 Corinthians 5:7*

- *In the Book of Revelation Jesus is the Lamb slain – 5:6, 5:8, 5:12, 5:17; 6:1, 6:16; 7:9-10, 7:14, 7:17; 12:11; 13:8; 14:4, 14:10; 17:14; 19:7, 19:9; 21:9, 21:14, 21:22-23, 21:27; 22:1 & 22:3*

III. *Jesus as the Last Lamb is the One, we are to look to for salvation –*

³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.” John 19:31-37

1. *We are called by John the Baptist to “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29*

2. *A saving look at Christ is described in Zechariah 12:10 –*
A. *It is the product of God’s Holy Spirit –*

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me Whom they pierced.

B. *This saving “LOOK” includes mourning & grieving –*
Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:10

A grieving for your sin that put Jesus on the cross –
“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Acts 2:36-37

C. *This saving LOOK is not consistent with procrastination –*
Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. Revelation 1:7

When Jesus returns, the seeing will be too late -
Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:14-17

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