



Study Guide #6

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Welcome back to VISION 2020, dear friends. When this study launched early this year, no one knew what crisis was building at that time and ready to explode on the scene. The coronavirus that soon became known as COVID-19 had already rooted itself in China and other Far Eastern countries and was making its way around the world. By mid-March the US began its journey into the unknown and is now encountering the full brunt of the ruthless virus. If you missed the last study guide entitled [*Is COVID-19 a Sign of the End Times*](#), be sure to check it out. Though parts are already outdated, the end message is the same: for Christians, there is no need to fear because King Jesus still sits on the throne, and He is returning soon to take us to be with Him for eternity!

VISION 2020 is designed to help us discern the time and season in which we live. Looking back often allows us to see shadows of things to come that were cast in ancient times. (Keep that thought in mind, because we will also end with it!) We're getting plenty of C-19 news, so let's set our sights on things much more exciting! As we enter the most sacred time of the year for Jews and Christians, we will focus on the Jewish feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits (which all occur in a bunch), and the Christian celebrations of Palm Sunday, Passion Week and Resurrection Day (Easter). We'll discover how looking back to the foundation of these significant remembrances brings the future into view.

I'm asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate this study as it is written and as it is studied. May you be greatly blessed! Let's begin!

Part 1: Laying the Biblical Foundation of Passover

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

~[Exodus 12:13](#)

Virtually every practicing Jew looks back to one specific time and one specific person as the most profound in history: Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. The Jewish people lived through slavery and bondage in Egypt, but God planned a very unique deliverance, described in Exodus 12. But hold that thought...we'll come back to it!

Ironically, the previous 5 chapters ([7-11](#)) describe plagues and pestilences that God sent to convince Pharaoh to let His people go:

THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

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-  **BLOOD** (7:14-24)
The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
-  **FROGS** (7:25 - 8:15)
Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
-  **GNATS** (8:16-19)
The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
-  **FLIES** (8:20-32)
Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
-  **LIVESTOCK** (9:1-7)
All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
-  **BOILS** (9:8-12)
Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
-  **HAIL** (9:13-35)
Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
-  **LOCUSTS** (10:1-20)
Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go.
-  **DARKNESS** (10:21-29)
Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
-  **FIRSTBORN** (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.

Not to trivialize the current coronavirus and its dramatic impact, but it does not hold a candle to the devastation of those 10 plagues! Sadly, it was Pharaoh's rebellion and obstinance that caused those plagues. I'm wondering...could God be sending a message to a world full of rebellious and obstinate people today? If so, just like Pharaoh, all we must do is relent and God will cease the onslaught! My friends, I'm afraid we, as a global society, have shaken our fists in the face of God far too long. As Christians, are we repenting on behalf of ourselves and our nations? [2 Chronicles 7:14](#), though written to the Jewish people, delivers a basic principle to us all. What is it?

Enough about plagues and coronavirus, though! Those ancient plagues led up to Passover and that's where we need to focus. Passover commences at sundown on April 8 and lasts until sundown on April 16, 2020. But just what are the Jewish people commemorating? It is spelled out in [Exodus 12](#), so open your Bible and read the full chapter.

In speaking to Moses and Aaron, verses 1-13 describe the Passover lamb. Each family was to select an unblemished lamb, bring it into the house for four days, then the whole assembly was to gather and kill Passover lambs at twilight. What interesting instruction was given in verse 7?

According to verses 12-13, what was the significance of following that instruction?

We will return to the Feast of Unleavened Bread (verses 14-22) later. But drop down to verses 23-29. The Lord promised His people (verses 23 and 29) that He would go throughout Egypt striking all the firstborn unless He saw blood on the lintel and the two doorposts. If the blood was there, He would PASS OVER and not allow the destroyer to come!

Verses 24-27 give us a hint of what the Israelites did, and what they do to this day! During a Jewish Passover Seder, the children ask the question recorded in verse 26, and parents reply with very similar words found in verse 27. Write out the children's question and the parents' response:

According to verses 33-41, the Israelites departed Egypt. One quick note: verse 37 tells us roughly how many men left Egypt. It says nothing about the number of women and children. So, here is a math problem for you! If at least half the men were married and had small families (2 children), about how many Israelites did Moses lead out of Egypt? Math geniuses have already figured it out, but for the rest of us, that is at least 1.5 million people...and that is a very conservative estimate! Scholars estimate at least 2 to 2.5 million, and verse 38 indicates a mixed multitude (including some Egyptians who likely went with them) as well as flocks, herds and livestock exited Egypt. Think about the logistical problems associated with moving that many people and animals through the barren wilderness! Where would they get sufficient water? Where would they get enough food? How would they care for those with medical needs? Where would they get clothing and household supplies? How would they feed and care for the animals? What an endeavor! Considering the logistics alone, this was a major miracle of God!

Now, back to our passage! It was at this point the Lord initiated the ordinance of Passover, and Jews still commemorate it to this day. According to verse 42, who is to observe Passover and why?

What did the Lord do for the Israelites, according to verse 51?

That, my friends, is the foundation of Passover. As you see, it is distinctly Jewish, as it has everything to do with the Lord redeeming the Israelites from Egyptian captivity. Led by Moses, they would wander for 40 years, missing their initial opportunity to enter the Promised Land; they would become rebellious and seek to worship a golden calf; and every grown man except Joshua and Caleb would die in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. But that is an entirely different Bible study!

Once in the Promised Land, Jews throughout history, including in Jesus' day, traveled three times per year to Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts. Why three times, when there are seven major feasts? Because some of the feasts are grouped together. For example, the celebration of Passover actually encompasses the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of First Fruits, so one trip to Jerusalem would include those three. (A second trip was made for Pentecost, and a third trip was made to celebrate another bunch of three: Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur and the Feast of Tabernacles. But that, too, is an entirely different Bible study!)

Good work so far! This provides a good stopping place for us, so if you wish to take a break and pick it back up a little later, this is a good spot to do so. However, if you're really into it and want to move on to the next part, go right ahead, you over-achiever! 😊

Part 2: Getting Beyond the Shadow to the Substance

Now, Bible students, what Christian commemoration is often associated with Passover? If you said Easter (Resurrection Day), you are right. But are Passover and Easter related?

Trick question, so I'll answer it! Technically, no. Physically leaving the bondage of Egypt is distinctly Jewish and is recognized by Jewish people as the most memorable event in their ancient history. However, spiritually, God has woven the two together to create a beautiful tapestry!

(By the way, a simple editorial note: my preferred phrase for this highest Christian commemoration is Resurrection Day, as it seems much more descriptive. However, like many of you, I grew up on "Easter," so for this study, we'll use the two interchangeably!)

New and Old Testament, Bible-believing Christians very rapidly tie Easter to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, something the Jews do not do. But keep in mind that Jesus, our risen Savior, was a Jew! He celebrated all the feasts! He lived a Jewish lifestyle, according to Jewish laws and traditions. Yet it was all a foreshadow of something yet to come. Something He Himself would fulfill!

Again, the Passover celebration is actually three feasts closely associated with one another and bunched together: Passover (sundown April 8-16 this year), the Feast of Unleavened Bread (sundown April 10-11 this year) and the Feast of First Fruits (sundown April 11-12 this year). Let me show you how those feasts were only shadows, and how Jesus Himself became the substance when He fulfilled them!

First, read [Colossians 2:16-17](#) and fill in the blanks below.

¹⁶ Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a _____ or a new moon or a Sabbath day— ¹⁷ things which are a mere _____ of what is to come; but the _____ belongs to Christ.

Here, Paul is teaching the people of Colossae that festivals and such are mere shadows (forerunners) of what is to come. The substance belongs to Christ! In other words, certain things God created or instituted simply point us to the substance, and that substance is Jesus Himself! Let's find out how He fulfills each of the three feasts we're talking about.

Passover

Jesus was the Passover Lamb. In Exodus 12, we learned that, at the Lord's direction, a lamb was slain and the blood placed upon the doorposts. The angel of the Lord "passed over" those houses and did not kill the first born. Compare that idea to [John 1:29-37](#) and [1 Peter 1:18-20](#). What was Jesus called in those two passages?

Ironically, it was God's only Son (the first born) who gave Himself as a sin offering for us. The Jews were saved by the blood of a Passover lamb, and we (Christians) are saved by the blood of a Passover Lamb.

Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem was also in fulfillment as the Passover Lamb. Like all Jews, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the annual feasts. Sacrificial lambs were chosen 5 days before the sacrifice. Jesus arrived in Jerusalem 5 days before being sacrificed for you and me!

Another fulfillment of Jesus as the Passover Lamb has to do with a very odd occurrence involving two Passover meals. A Passover meal, known as a "seder," is a traditional family gathering focused on the father telling his children of the great and mighty works of the Lord in redeeming the Jewish people from bondage from Egypt. (Remember the children's questions and the adults' response?)

In a seemingly strange turn of events, Jesus celebrated a Passover seder with His disciples. Read the account in [Mark 14:1-31](#) or [Luke 22:1-38](#). The discussion was not the traditional Passover conversation regarding redemption from Egyptian bondage, but was Jesus' opportunity to illustrate the real substance of the Passover. What did Jesus illustrate to His disciples?

Interestingly, [John 19:14](#) tells us that the day after this Passover meal with His disciples was "preparation day for the Passover!" Two Passovers! That was not usual. Jesus shared the seder with His disciples a day early because He *became* the actual Passover on the very day the rest of the land traditionally celebrated the Passover meal! Jesus became the Passover Lamb at the appointed time.

Jesus was our Sacrificial Lamb, crucified on the very day that sacrificial lambs were sacrificed. In those days, the priest would blow the shofar the moment the lamb was sacrificed (3pm), prompting the people to pause and contemplate the sacrifice. At 3pm, while Jesus was being crucified, He said, "It is finished." The sacrifice of the Lamb of God was fulfilled at the exact hour of the traditional Passover sacrifice! Another interesting fact: sacrificial lambs were born and raised in Bethlehem (just outside Jerusalem). Jesus, our Sacrificial Lamb was born where? Bethlehem!

Passover is the shadow.... Jesus is the substance!

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Jesus also fulfilled the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In the Bible, leaven is often a symbol of sin. This is the Feast of Unleavened Bread...no leaven. Our Messiah was sinless (no leaven), in order to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Look up [2 Corinthians 5:21](#). What did Jesus become, and why?

While in a field, teaching His disciples, Jesus illustrated the concept another way. Read [John 12:23-24](#). Describe what you believe Jesus was referring to in that passage.

Now, read the next two verses (verses 25-26). Who is He talking to/about in those verses, and what is the message?

Indeed, Jesus was buried during this feast, the “grain of wheat” dying, then bursting forth as the “bread of life.” (Read [John 6:35](#).) By the way, the picture you see here is unleavened bread. Read [Isaiah 53:5](#) in both the NASB and NKJV versions of the Bible. How does the unleavened bread you see here illustrate Jesus’ fulfillment of the feast, according to Isaiah 53:5?



From unleavened bread (sinless) to the bread of life (our salvation and sustenance), Jesus became the substance displayed by the shadow, the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Feast of First Fruits

Jesus also perfectly fulfilled the Feast of First Fruits. The three feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits) all weave together in amazing ways. Here is one. Friday at sunset marked the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Jesus was pierced, bruised and striped with whips at His crucifixion. But then, Jewish feasts dictate that grain from their early harvest be taken to the Temple as a sacrifice, offering God their “first fruits,” and trusting Him to provide a bountiful harvest. It was at this point that Jesus was buried...planted in the ground to be raised as the “first fruits” of those raised from the dead!

But, if there are “first fruits,” that implies there will be others! Check out [1 Corinthians 15:20-23](#). Verse 20 clearly describes Jesus Christ as the first fruit of those raised from the dead. Describe the promise made in verse 23, or write out the verse here:

That is prophetic! As we look back, we see ahead. Throughout time Jesus has spiritually “raised” many from the dead, giving them new life in Him. Baptism of believers is a symbolic picture of that! “Buried with Christ, raised to walk in the newness of life!” But one day, the Bible tells us of a great physical “raising of the dead” as well! Look up [1 Thessalonians 4:13-17](#) and describe what will happen to all who believe in Jesus and trust Him as their Savior:

The very next verse says to comfort one another with these words! Who will you comfort with that truth, and when will you do so?

May the coming harvest of believers (rapture) be bountiful!

What a journey we have taken in Part 2! End this section in prayer, acknowledging Jesus as the fulfillment of each feast, and asking Him to reveal more and more to you as you look to Him, the Author and Perfecter of your faith! Shalom for now!

Part 3: Timing of the Jewish Passover and Christian Easter

Welcome to Part 3, fellow Bible students! We spent some time examining the foundation of Passover, and going beyond the shadow to the substance, which is Jesus Himself. In Part 3, we'll take a look at the dates of these two spiritually significant events.

This year Passover and Easter overlap for the second year in a row. Passover begins at sundown on April 8 and ends at sundown on April 16. Christians celebrate Palm Sunday April 5, which launches what has become known as Passion Week. Good Friday, commemorating Jesus' death occurs on April 10, followed by Resurrection Day (Easter) on Sunday, April 12. However, Passover and Easter do not always coincide or overlap. In fact, the two can be weeks apart. But why? Moreover, if Jesus died at Passover, how did the two become so distinctly different, and how did Christian come up with the day in which to celebrate His resurrection?

Thankfully, there is a good resource for this, and I will refer you there for Part 3 of this study guide. Produced by One for Israel, a well-respected evangelical Christian ministry in Israel, please take a few moments to consider:

[Why are Passover and Easter Celebrated at Different Times?](#)

How is the date of Passover set?

Jesus was a Jew, and so were His first followers! However, a split occurred between Messianic Jews (those who followed Jesus) and orthodox Jews. How did the split occur?

The split between the Jewish and Christian communities was heartbreaking. Why?

We live in exciting days, however, as Jews and Gentiles are being drawn together. What did you learn about the healing of the "terrible rift between Jew and Gentile?"

These are, indeed, exciting times, and none more exciting than Passover and Easter! Please end Part 3 by spending some time in prayer, asking the Lord to draw Jews and Gentiles together. Below is the promise He made to His people. Why not use it as the basis of your prayers for our Jewish friends.

²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

~Ezekiel 36:25-27

Part 4: Palm Sunday and He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

Early on in this study guide, we focused through a Jewish lens, laying the foundation of Passover and seeing Jesus as the fulfillment of the Jewish feasts, and we learned about the split between Jews and early Christians (many of whom were Messianic Jews).

We will begin to look at the foundations of Christian commemoration, with the understanding it is impossible for us as Christians to disassociate from our Jewish roots! After all, Jesus was Jewish! Now we set our sights on Palm Sunday.

To get the full picture of the significance of Palm Sunday, we must go all the way back to the Old Testament prophet, Daniel. [Daniel 9:24-27](#) is the famous “70 weeks of Daniel” passage, in which we see God’s end time plan laid out.

Daniel wrote from Babylonian captivity, and it is important to know that for 490 years prior to captivity, the Jews had violated Sabbath years. The land was to lie fallow every 7 years, so the people, in essence, owed 70 Sabbath years to the Lord. In a 70-year captivity in Babylon, God recouped those Sabbath years, and then revealed a future 490 years. (70 weeks of years)

Read [Daniel 9:24-27](#). If you have studied with me before, you are familiar with this passage and where we are going with it. So, we’re going to move quickly through this particular detail. (If you are not familiar with Daniel’s prophecy here, please see [An Overview of the 70 Weeks of Years Described by Daniel](#) and [Prophetic Accuracy Proven in Daniel 9](#).)

Study of that passage (including accurate calculation of days) leads us to believe 173,880 days would pass between Artaxerxes’ decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the cutting off of the Messiah. In the midst of Jesus fulfilling the Jewish feast of Passover, He also fulfilled part of Daniel’s prophecy by riding into Jerusalem exactly 173,880 after that decree! Just as the Bible predicted!

Palm Sunday was no accident. But now let’s examine another aspect of it.

The Bible describes this event as Jesus’ “Triumphal Entry.” Take a look at [Matthew 21:1-11](#). What were Jesus’ instructions to His disciples in verses 2-3?

According to verses 4-5, why do you believe Jesus gave those instructions?

Indeed, Jesus was about to fulfill yet another Bible prophecy! Hold your place here in Matthew 21 and navigate to [Zechariah 9:9](#). Read it very carefully, comparing it to Matthew 21:5. There is a key phrase in Zechariah 9:9 that is not included in Matthew 21:5. What is it?

I often wondered why the most important part of Zechariah's prophecy was left out! When Matthew wrote his Gospel and quoted Zechariah 9:9, why did he leave out, "...He is just and endowed with salvation"? Let's see if we can find some clues.

The prophet Isaiah referenced the coming of salvation in [Isaiah 62:11](#), and [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#) describes a king who will reign with justice and righteousness, and will save Judah. You see, it was a given that the Messiah would deliver and save. In fact, that is what a "messiah" does. He delivers. He saves. Those who witnessed Jesus ride into Jerusalem knew and understood the prophecies. No one had to tell them what a messiah does!

In fact, the people confirmed their understanding when they welcomed Him. Based on [Matthew 21:9](#), what did they say as He rode into Jerusalem?

They further recognized Him by the words recorded in verse 11. Write those words here:

The word "Hosanna" (used twice in verse 9) is an Aramaic word meaning "to rescue, to save." Aramaic was a common language of the time, and probably spoken more regularly than Hebrew. However, if you believe Hebrew is the appropriate language in which to gain meaning, I have a nice surprise for you! The Hebrew variation is actually "Hosianna" and, in the Hebrew Bible, is used only in verses that translate into "help" or "save, I pray!"

Okay, are you ready for a nugget? Read [Psalm 118:22-29](#). To whom does this passage refer? (Who is "the stone which the builders rejected?")

The Psalmist is prophetically identifying Jesus! He is that stone. He is the Chief Cornerstone. But look carefully at verses 25-26. What is their plea, and to whom are they pleading?

Write the first phrase of verse 26 here:

Now, go back to Matthew 21:9! Do you see the plea (“hosanna” = save, I pray), and the same proclamation: “Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!” They saw, and seemed to identify their Messiah, but oh how things would change in the week to come! Had they really identified Him, or is there something more to this story?

Part 5: Palm Sunday Fades from Memory

Oh, how quickly our human hearts and minds become deceived! Old Testament prophets recorded hundreds of prophecies, many of which Jesus fulfilled right in front of Jewish religious leaders and ordinary citizens. Yet, they either didn’t recognize them, or quickly lost sight of their veracity.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, some of those prophecies came to mind, and many acknowledged Jesus as the One who saves. “Hosanna,” they shouted, as they acknowledged the One who comes in the Name of the Lord. Yet, within days, Jesus would go to the cross and His people would not recognize Him as the Messiah promised by the Old Testament prophets.

How did that occur? Well, let’s shine the light on our generation for a moment. How often does God show us His goodness, righteousness, sovereignty or grace, yet we lose sight of it quickly. Need examples? What about churches filled to capacity after 9/11, only to shrink back to meager attendance only a few weeks later. Currently, we’re experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic and can’t attend large gatherings, such as church services. Christians are bold online, are engaging in prayer initiatives and are spending more time than usual in God’s Word. Will it last? I hope so...I pray so. Yet, history teaches us differently. Even with Jesus right in front of them, the Jewish people soon lost sight of what the sages of old prophesied. Let’s take a look and apply some Bible principles to our own lives.

As we noted in Part 4, Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of Daniel and Zechariah (as well as others) when He rode into Jerusalem just as predicted. [Mark 11-13](#) (sister passages to Matthew 21-24) provide insight into the next couple days Jesus spent in and around Jerusalem.

For example, Mark 11:12-14 tells us that, after riding into Jerusalem, Jesus took a look around then left. The next day, however, He cursed a fig tree. What’s up with that? Well, rather than re-write the explanation, please refer to:

[Why Did Jesus Curse the Fig Tree?](#)

What is a “Breba crop” and why is it significant to this Biblical account?

Jesus expected to “find spiritual leaders feeding spiritual fruit to the hungry pilgrims,” but that wasn’t the case, so He uttered, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” (Mark 11:14). Do you see that happen today? If so, share an example:

But, Jesus Himself provided a solution! Read [John 15:5-6](#) and summarize it here:

We believe it was likely Tuesday of that week Jesus journeyed across the Kidron Valley to Temple Mount, with at least a few of His disciples in tow, to answer questions regarding the last days. Pick it up in [Mark 13](#) or [Matthew 24](#). We have studied those chapters often, so will not dive into all the detail now. However, jot down a few things Jesus said will characterize the last days:

Did you realize those things were spoken in the last week of Jesus' life? Jesus was a prophet, priest and king. Here, He prophesies about what is to come. According to [Romans 8:34](#), it is He who died and was raised, and who intercedes for us while sitting at the right hand of the Father! He is our priest! Soon, He will return as King! Prophet, Priest, King....that is our Jesus!

Part 6: Approaching the Inevitable

Friends, I pray what we are studying here is enlightening, but also provides principles to live by, not simply knowledge to be gained. If it is not your habit, I strongly encourage you to pray before you study, asking God to reveal great and mighty things which you do not know. ([Jeremiah 33:3](#), [John 15:15](#), [1 Corinthians 2:9-10](#), [Ephesians 1:7-10](#))

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Jews were expecting a conquering king. They saw Him as a savior, and even pleaded for Him to be so, yet their hope was He would save them from oppressive Roman rule. Saved from sin was not what came immediately to mind for them. They were sick of living under Roman tyranny.

Luke records something about that Palm Sunday entrance the other Gospel writers leave out. Let's start Part 6 by examining Luke's exclusive perspective. Read [Luke 19:41-44](#). That passage says Jesus wept. Describe why you believe Jesus wept:

Isn't it ironic that, though the people were saying the right words, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord," Jesus was weeping? Jesus knew He would be rejected by His own, yet He pressed on toward the cross.

As we pick up our study, we are now about mid-week between Palm Sunday and crucifixion day, and Jesus was undoubtedly still bereaved over His people. We know Jesus shared a Passover meal with His disciple (see Part 2). We also know He took some of His disciple to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, where they fell asleep and, ultimately, Judas betrayed Him. From there, He was led away and put on trial, not once or twice, but six times (3 religious, 3 civil)...each illegally!

In this part of the study, I want to take you through those trials. Take your time reading the narrative and considering the pictures found here:

[Jesus on Trial](#)

[Jesus Before Pilate and Herod](#)

Part 7: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Following the six illegal trials of Jesus, we know He was led to crucifixion. The account is one of the most documented events in human history. Obviously, the most significant accounts are recorded in Scripture and I encourage you to read at least one of them:

[Matthew 27:33-66](#)

[Mark 15:22-47](#)

[Luke 23:33-56](#)

[John 19:16-42](#)

More importantly, throughout Scripture we are told prophetically, as well as after the fact, that Jesus was risen from the dead! For example, [Isaiah 53](#) undeniably describes Jesus. In sets of three verses each, Isaiah 53 tells us much about Jesus. How is He described in each of these triads?

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-6

Verses 7-9

Verses 10-12

But verses 10-11 can only be understood in terms of the resurrection. Jesus cannot fulfill those verses as a dead man! There must have been a resurrection!

[Psalm 22](#) is another place we see Jesus' resurrection prophesied. Again, one cannot read that chapter without knowing full well it is a description of our Lord. Likewise, one cannot interpret verses 25-27 apart from Jesus' resurrection. All the families of the nations worship before God BECAUSE of the resurrection.

Read [Hebrews 11:17-19](#). Here, the writer compares Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac to the Heavenly Father's sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. Abraham was certain that God could raise his son from the dead. This was a precursor to God raising His own Son from the dead.

Perhaps the most obvious example is found in [Matthew 12:40](#). Write Jesus' prophetic words here:

Indeed, we know that Jesus was raised from the dead to defeat sin and death, and to redeem us from bondage! For Christians, that is what Resurrection Day is all about! (Read [He is Risen!](#) For more detail and pictures.)

But, wait a minute! We have now come full circle!

What was Passover about for the Jews? Remember the feasts we discussed? God, in a miraculous way, delivered the Jewish people from the bondage of Egypt. Passover required the blood of a lamb to be put on the doorposts so their homes would be "passed over." Jesus is our Passover Lamb. It is His blood that saves us! God instituted the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Leaven represented sin, so the people had to rid themselves of it. Jesus was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed. Jesus is our Unleavened Bread. The Feast of First Fruits reveals that Jesus was the first of many to be resurrected. We will follow Him!

The Jewish feasts associated with Passover actually do correlate on a spiritual level with Jesus' death (Passover), burial (Unleavened Bread) and resurrection (First Fruits)!

For some of you, this may be the most important part of the entire study, so please focus with me a few more minutes.

In [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#), the apostle Paul delivered that of utmost importance. Summarize what you just read there.

This is the most important message Paul could deliver, yet it was very simple: Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose on the third day...all according to Scripture. Why? To save every person from sin and death.

Yes, we will sin...but it does not master us. Yes, we will die...but it will not defeat us. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead as "first fruit," we will be raised with Him to live eternally with our Lord and Savior.

Eternity is forever and, just like in real estate, it is all about location, location, location. Everyone of us will spend eternity somewhere: either in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; or in the utter darkness and eternal fire of hell, which was made for Satan and his demons. God sends NO ONE to hell. But He is a gentleman and will not force us into a decision to trust and accept Him.

It is our choice, and ours alone. Our parents can't make it for us. Our spouse can't make it for us. Neither can our relatives, our pastor, our friends nor anyone else. What is YOUR decision this Resurrection season?

If you don't know Jesus and do not have a personal relationship with Him, now is the time. None of us is guaranteed another breath, so please consider your eternal future now. To begin a relationship with Jesus, [CLICK HERE](#).

What an incredible day! If you just made a decision to know Jesus, you have made the most important decision in your entire life! Welcome to the family of God! Please share it with someone who is able to help you grow. There was a place on that website to enter your name and information. No one will bug you, but they will reach out to you to offer help as you go! You need a Christian friend, so allow one into your life!

Part 8: A Look Forward

When we began this journey together, I asked you to keep a thought in mind because we would end with it! Well, we're ending...do you remember the thought? Of course not, so here it is:

Looking back often allows us to see shadows of things to come that were cast in ancient times.

We have examined past things that give us a glimpse...a shadow...or what is to come. The Bible is true from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, and we can trust it implicitly.

Let's go back to Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Re-read [Matthew 21:6-9](#). What were the people shouting as Jesus rode toward the city gates of Jerusalem?

At that moment, they saw a potential savior. "Save, I pray," they said, as they recognized the One who came in the Name of the Lord. They asked for salvation and Jesus went to the cross to answer their prayers!

But, we also learned in [Luke 19:41-44](#) that Jesus knew immediately they would reject Him and His gift of salvation. Write the last phrase of verse 44 here:

Can you imagine the depth of grief Jesus must have felt? Are there people in your life for whom you grieve because they have rejected the Savior? Jesus most certainly knows your grief and shares it. Jesus prayed...and is still praying for lost souls. Are you?

But that is not Jesus' only lament over Jerusalem. [Matthew 23:37-39](#) records another lament that is also prophetic in nature. Read that passage and record the familiar statement you find there.

Indeed, Jesus repeated the phrase the people had shouted as He rode into Jerusalem! Only, this time it is used much differently. Luke 19:44 indicates God's people had missed the day of their visitation. Jesus

“visited” them, yet they missed it. Here in Matthew 23:37-38, Jesus’ grief dives deeper as He laments the fact that He would have gathered them under His wings if they had only been willing. Then, He spoke prophetically, using the very same phrase they shouted to Him only days before:

*“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say,
‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”*

~[Matthew 23:39](#)

Friends, Jesus will return when He is invited back! As soon as His people once again say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,” He will answer their call to “Save, I pray!”

They may have missed the first chance, but they will not miss the second! What does [Romans 11:26](#) say will happen one day?

In His infinite wisdom, God had a plan for the world from the very beginning! [Ephesians 1:4](#) tells us that He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world! That wasn’t just for Christians. There were no Christians or Jews before the foundation of the world! God was speaking of mankind! It was for everyone, and I can only imagine the day Jesus saves all Israel. It will trigger a glorious celebration in heaven and on earth!

So, Jesus is awaiting His invitation from the Jewish people. But invites us to join in the chorus as well! Christian friends, our invitation perfectly complements the Jewish invitation. What sweet, harmonious music it must be to the ears of our Savior.

Our part of the concert is found in [Revelation 22:17](#):

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”

We are the Bride of Christ and the Spirit lives in us. Together, we join the Jewish people in 3-part harmony!

Jesus responds to that song! According to [Revelation 22:20](#), what is His response?

Dear friends, we have looked back in order to better understand the future! This week, as you celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be reminded that He told us very clearly that He is coming soon!

Share that truth with a world who is starving for it! Blessings!