

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
April 7, 2021
The Passion

As we considered Palm Sunday on last week's study let us now dig into the final act of this passion week. A look at passover. Much could be shared but in the brevity of time we find some interesting details illustrating Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the passover lamb. Reading through Exodus 12:3-7 we see that 5 days before the Passover each Jewish family would select a Lamb and set it aside for sacrifice. They would spend the next 4 days examining their lamb to make sure it qualifies to be their perfect Passover sacrifice. It must be perfect without spot or blemish in order to qualify as a perfect sacrifice to the LORD. Note the impression of the cross in the blood on the door posts. It is no coincidence that in these next 4 days Jesus would be under close scrutiny, examination & trial by the religious establishment. Jesus' scrutiny over the next 4 days would culminate before Pontius Pilate and he would declare; "I find no fault in Him". Luke 23:4, Hebrews 4:15, 9:28, 2 Corinthians 5:21. Pilate himself will exonerate this man yet be forced through political pressure to turn Jesus over to be crucified. John 19:12-16. The Lamb of God was inspected and examined in every way and yet found to be without fault. Jesus is the only one declared faultless & sinless. This was an essential qualification for His sacrifice. If He did have any sin He would have to die and be punished for His own sin. Once Jesus was crucified and risen and later provided His disciples with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles understood their bibles like never before. Isaiah 53:3-10, Ps 22:1-19 and others took on a whole new meaning! Compare these to Mark 14:65, Luke 23:34, John 19;1-5, 23-24. This can be an exhaustive study but it is presented in basic form to refresh us. We must however secure our faith on the indisputable facts of this part of history. None other than the famous historian Flavius Josephus documented this history as well as many others of the time. The following is copied from his writings

3. (63) Now there was about this time Jesus, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. (64) And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day (see page 662)

As noted above, this historian even vouched for the Resurrection. History today would truly love to rewrite that fact but it is undeniable. Roman records even track this event. The literal bodily raising of Jesus from the dead promises and guarantees us of the same future. John 11:25, Romans 6:5, 1 Corinthians 15:42,52. The word Resurrection (Anastasis in the Greek) appears 40 times in the new testament spoken by Jesus, Paul, Luke, Peter and John. It was quite a point of argument among the Jews of the day. Matthew 22:23-34, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. Want OT references? Of course! Isaiah 26:19, Job 19:25-26, Daniel 12:2. God created the earth and the heavens. He made the earth to revolve around the sun. He created time and the seasons. From this we enjoy the repetition of time known as the year. That gives us the ability to record events and relive them every 365 days. As we once again enjoy this

Easter season let us rejoice in the memory of our sacrificial and risen Savior and in the thrill of one day joining Him. When we've been there 10,000 years we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun!