

Maundy Thursday 9th April 2020

Good morning!

In the Jewish calendar, last night marked the beginning of the Passover festival.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord - a lasting ordinance." (Exodus 12:14)

"Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying 'go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.'" (Luke 22:7-8)

For followers of Jesus, Passover recalls how God delivered the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt. It is also therefore a powerful depiction of how Jesus' blood delivers us from bondage to sin.

Four things for today:

- 1) As noted in 7:14 yesterday, we're encouraged to **fast** today, as a way of uniting and intensifying our prayers. Many UK churches are doing this. Even if you choose to miss just one meal, how about spending that time in 'extra prayer'?
- 2) Do join the Maundy Thursday online all-age celebration **tonight at 6pm**, with its focus on worship and encouragement from the first 'Last Supper' narrative.
- 3) Read Exodus 12!
- 4) Passover is primarily about **deliverance from slavery into freedom** because of God's **mercy**.

Let's pray for his mercy across our nation and his powerful deliverance from all that ensnares and holds people in slavery:

For example:

- those with COVID-19, struggling to breathe freely
- those trapped in alcohol, gambling, porn, tobacco, social media and other addictions

- those experiencing the prisons of hopelessness, bitterness, jealousy or fear
- those enslaved by ignorance of the love of the Father, and of the forgiveness, peace and freedom found in Jesus