**Passover or Prosperity?  
Book of John Series Ch 2:12-25   
Vol 5 by John McGlone**

John 2:12-25 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days. 13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE HAS EATEN ME UP." 18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said. 23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men,* 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.   
  
**Isa 56:7** Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *Will be* accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

**Jer 7:11** Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it,*" says the LORD.

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**This was the first time that Jesus drove out the money changers a few days after the first miracle of water to wine and the Passover was at hand.**

**Passover or Prosperity Gospel**

Often men seek to use religion to make a buck on the Lord. So, it was in every time that Jesus cleared the Temple which was supposed to be a house of prayer but became a house of covetousness during the feasts. Buying, selling, animals for sacrifice and changing money became big business for the Jewish religious leaders. We have had the same problem in the ‘church’ ever since.   
  
Jesus spoke often, as we do, against the ‘traditions of men’ or ‘traditions of your fathers’ which nullify God’s Word and keep people from entering the Kingdom. Often, I hear unbelievers sneering at the thought of going to ‘church’ because of the selfishness or corruption of many Christian so called ministries.  
  
Isa\_10:2 To rob the needy of justice, And to take what is right from the poor of My people, That widows may be their prey, And *that* they may rob the fatherless.

Mat\_23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

Act\_6:1 Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Jas\_1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

**Jesus’ Love Whipping**

Many bleeding hearts in our day would look at these passages and say something like, “Jesus loves everyone, though He made a whip of cords, it didn’t really strike anyone.”  
  
My counter to this idea is that supposes that whipping people physically is not love.  
  
Heb 12:3-11 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM; 6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us,* and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Pro\_3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

Pro\_15:10 Correction *is* grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: *and* he that hateth reproof shall die

Pro\_22:15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Pro\_23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

**Zeal for the Father’s House**

Are you zealous for prayer? Do you pray to be seen of other people? Is your house, your body, in continual prayer?  
  
Mat\_5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Mat\_6:5-7 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are:* for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do:* for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.   
  
**Jesus Prophecies His Resurrection**

Many predictions that Jesus spoke of concerning His death, burial, and resurrection were not realized until after He rose from the dead. Will we be the same way with His Second Coming? We won’t really believe the promises or threats until AFTER He returns?  
  
Mat\_20:19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him:* and the third day he shall rise again.

Mar\_8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mar\_10:34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Luk\_13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

Luk\_18:33 And they shall scourge *him,* and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

**Disciples Remembered**  
  
Luk 24:6-8 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, **7** saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " 8 And they remembered His words.

Mat\_16:9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Mar\_8:18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

Luk\_24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

Joh\_15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Joh\_16:4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them….

**Sign Believers**

Do you require a sign to believe that Jesus is God? Do you require provision/prosperity/healing to believe that God is real? The Bible tells us we are blessed when we believe without signs. The unbelievers are constantly challenging us and more importantly God to give them a sign, ‘Strike me from heaven, God!’  
  
Mat\_12:38-39 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Mat\_16:1,4 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. …4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

Mat\_24:3…30 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" …….30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mar\_8:11-12 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation."

Luk\_11:29 And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.

Joh\_6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."   
  
Joh 20:24-31 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here,* and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed." 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**In conclusion,** let us see the true Passover of Christ and not some other Gospel. Let us not despise the chastening of the Lord as this is love from Him. Let us have as more zeal for prayer for the Lord’s will. Let us recognize the supernatural authority of Jesus in predicting His own victory over death. Let us remember all the many great and glorious works that Jesus did then, does now, and will do in the future. Let us not seek after signs, but be looking for the ones that will tell of His soon appearing.

**Next week,** I want to divert again from the John series to do an overview of the main Jewish feasts; Passover, Unleavened Bread, Trumpets, Tabernacle, First Fruits…etc I will get in more detail then. Should I wait until Marvin returns and let him teach it?  
  
According to John, Jesus’ public ministry extended over a period of at least three and possibly four years. During this time Jesus goes several times from Galilee to Jerusalem. The synoptic Gospels appear or seem to describe only one journey of Jesus to Jerusalem (the final one), with most of Jesus’ ministry taking place within one year.

According to John’s Gospel, Jesus attended at least three annual Feasts of Passover through the course of His ministry: one in [John 2:13](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%202.13), another in 6:4, and then the Passover of His crucifixion in John 11:55–57. Just based on that information, Jesus’ ministry lasted 2 years, at the very least.   
  
For example of this time explanations we see in John within just one chapter between John 6 to 7 is almost six months of time between the feasts of Passover in April and the feasts of Tabernacle in the fall.  
  
April 10-18, 2017 is Passover includes the feast of unleavened bread for 7 days.  
  
Oct 5-6, 2017 is feast of Tabernacles  
  
**Joh 6:3-4** And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near  
**Joh 7:1-2** After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

However, Most scholars agree due to the amount of activity and travel that Jesus did he would have participated or not in another unrecorded Passover between John chaps 2 & 6, thus making His ministry approx. 3 ½ years long.

**Mat 21:12-14** Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a 'DEN OF THIEVES.'"   
14 Then *the* blind and *the* lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

**Mat 21 account is definitely last Passover account**

Mar 11:15-18 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS' ? But you have made it a 'DEN OF THIEVES.'" 18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.   
 **Mar 11 account is definitely last Passover account**

**Luk 19:45-48** Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER,' but you have made it a 'DEN OF THIEVES.' " 47 And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, 48 and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.  
  
**Mar 11 account is definitely last Passover account**

So how many times did Jesus drive the money changers out of the temple? For sure we see at least two separate times but maybe as many as three times! We see it at the beginning of His ministry in John 2 and then we see his do this at the end with Matt 21, but