

## MATHEW 26:02

### PASSOVER AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

*“As you know, the Passover is two days away — and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” **Mathew 26:02***

Note Jesus’ words “you know.” The disciples did know both facts. The Passover was only two days away, and Jesus had been telling them for months that He was to be killed. Why, then, was He pointing out facts that the disciples already knew? What Jesus was doing was revealing to the disciples that His death was tied to the Passover (Mt. 26:17-19). The Passover throughout history had pictured His death. Christ was fulfilling the Passover with the shedding of His own blood upon the cross.

1. *Historically*, the Passover refers back to the time when God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage (Exo. 11:1f). God had pronounced judgment, the taking of the first-born, upon the people of Egypt for their injustices. As God prepared to execute the final judgment, those who believed God were instructed to slay a pure lamb and sprinkle its blood over the door frames of their homes. The blood of the innocent lamb would then serve as a sign that the coming judgment had already been carried out. When seeing the blood, God would pass over that house.
2. *Symbolically*, the Passover pictured the coming of Jesus Christ as the Saviour. The “lamb without defect” pictured His sinless life (see Jn. 1:29), and the “blood sprinkled on the door frames” pictured His blood shed for the believer. It was a sign that the life and blood of the innocent lamb had been substituted for the first-born. The “eating of the lamb” pictured the need for spiritual nourishment gained by feeding on Christ, the Bread of Life. The unleavened bread (bread without yeast) pictured the need for putting evil out of one’s life and household. □