

Computer Generated Transcript - We're going to be starting a new series this is a series that I've preached through before can you believe it was seven years since we walked through this some of you were here that long ago and some of you were like I didn't even know you were around seven years ago and that's all right but we started this all right I preached a series last time our pastor Pastor Brian had died shortly before this and we were pretty I was preaching every other week and Pastor Brian book was you're preaching on the other weekend and so for was fourteen weeks we walked through this series on that won't take that long this time and take seven because I'm not preaching every other week anymore but we walk through this idea of the feast of the Lord and I know some of you are. Of the mindset that the Old Testament you know kind of did its day and we don't really need to spend a lot of time there anymore and I guess not that I wholly disagree with you but I think that there are vast and important lessons that can be learned by looking at the Old Testament I do want to say a couple of things as we launch into this series All right we're going to be talking about the feast of the Lord the phantom Leviticus Chapter twenty three I would encourage you to read through that a couple of times over the next few weeks some of it is really confusing and that's OK We're going to go through some of these things and look at it because Chapter twenty three God talks about the Sabbath at the beginning of it and then he talks about how the Lord appointed certain festivals all right and how God set these festivals apart like they are God's ideas right we have a celebration for almost everything right I mean like I don't know what's today if you look at your calendar for whatever weird holiday is it's probably like vanilla yogurt day or something like that you know I mean like there's there's a there's a holiday for everything but God has seven right there are seven holidays that were instructed and given by God in the Old Testament and I think that that's important now the other thing I would like you to do really quickly if you can turn with me to Colossians Chapter two that's in the New Testament not in the Old we're going to go. Back to Leviticus in a little bit and will be an exodus today but I want you to look at Colossians chapter two verse sixteen Colossians chapter two verse sixteen that's in the New Testament it's part of four really little letters that Paul wrote. Philippians Colossians K That's right in that spot collage in chapter two and I'm going to start at verse sixteen All right it says so don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink or for not celebrating certain holy days or New Moon ceremonies or sadness for these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come and Christ Himself is that reality and I want you to hear that today because when I'm preaching these things I'm not trying to say we need to start doing these these holidays just the way they are in the Old Testament OK I want I want you to hear that I'm not trying to say if you don't serve a Passover Seder meal as we get going into into Easter week here that you somehow failed God that is not my intention at all with this I want to show you how Christ is the fulfillment of everything that is in Leviticus Chapter twenty three all right how Jesus Christ is found in Leviticus Chapter twenty three I don't know about you but when I read through the Bible in a year the Bible chronologically one of my least favorite I know some people are like I can't believe you're going to say this out loud as a pastor but one of my least favorite books to read in that time is Leviticus who's with me be honest all right Leviticus I'm not saying there's nothing good in there please don't misunderstand what I'm saying I'm not saying it's not inspired by God I'm not trying to be blasphemous in any way in that way I'm just trying to tell you as a personal favorite it's not in my Top Ten OK there's a lot of regulations and rules and all of these kind of things that I don't really understand all the time and why these different things are but right in the middle of that is one of my favorite set of verses in the Bible and it's this Leviticus Chapter twenty three I think we see so much of Christ's plan. For all time wrapped up in one neat little section of feces all right and so again when we talk about this this is not to try and reinstitute these fees for you OK this is just to show you Jesus in them and as we're approaching the Easter season it was a very intentional decision to preach this series as we're coming into this thing because the first three really piece we read about are all about Jesus's death Jesus his burial and Jesus is resurrection All right these first three feasts these first free fall feast that it talks about are exactly in line with what we see Jesus doing then there's three Spring feasts that happen a little bit later in my mind I just flipped around I'm sorry those are the Spring feasts in the fall feasts are later

I just messed that up this Spring feasts are in spring right that's why Easter is in the spring OK those are the first three about the death burial resurrection of Jesus then there's a fourth spring feast and then there's three set fall feast basically or about the End Times about how they foreshadow everything that Jesus is going to be doing in the future and the one that ties those things together the one that ties what Jesus did for what he's going to do is Pentecost and we're going to land on that one really hard in a few weeks all right because that one really ties these things together but you're going to see as we approach Easter exactly what these things are all about and that's the point to see Jesus on the page it's not about a feast and it's not about eating bad tasting food and it's just like Paul said and kolache ans All right it's not about the piece itself it's about seeing Jesus revealed in those things and he was all the way back and Leviticus Chapter three we see him reveal all right and so this is a big deal so we're going to be talking through these fees so we're going to be looking through them we're given these seven fees and and they bring so much understanding and so I really again I just to say this as we go toward. The feast of Pentecost I really believe if you want to see the clearest example or clearest explanation for what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for what Pentecostals for that's not necessarily found in Acts I really genuinely believe that's found in Leviticus Chapter twenty three. I just absolutely believe that I say we see such a clear picture we see so much foreshadowing in so much of these things and so as we go we're going to we're going to be talk through these things all right the Old Testament is not is not just a separate god right you hear people talk this way that there is the God of the Old Testament and a God of the New Testament and the God of the Old Testament is a mean old man with a big long white beard that can't wait to smite people right and the God of the New Testament is the loving generous compared compassionate Jesus who died on a cross once can I tell you that if you think of them as two separate gods that's that's polytheism that's not Christianity that's not what we're this is the same God The Old Testament God and the New Testament God are the exact same with the same character with the same personality with the same things in that way it is just got. And we will see Jesus Christ in the Old Testament concealed right Jesus Christ was laced through the pages of the Old Testament he's just foreshadowed or concealed and then you see it come alive in the New Testament. And it's such a cool thing when you begin to watch those things happen the first piece anybody got it you already looked at the bit of history every twenty three or you already knew what the first beast. Anyone nope not to fifty weeks that's a good guess you got a one out of seven chance OK. Anyone so we were like look in real quick now I hear it happening Passover is the first week or the first feast all right that is the first spring feast and that's what we're going to be talking about that you know that many historians today believe that the Feast of Passover is the longest continuous celebration in human history currently it's been running every year for Jews for about thirty five hundred years for a long time I mean. Right anybody could look at us at something thirty five hundred years it's crazy and I want to I want to lay out the back story and you'll find this in Exodus Chapter twelve OK Exodus Chapter twelve is where we see this story really begin there is a feast of Passover and there was one Passover and the Feast of Passover is to remember Passover all right and you see that in Exodus the Israel lies have lived in Egypt as slaves for about four hundred thirty years they've been there they've been in slavery they've been in bondage they've they've done all these things just as a side note as a little rabbit trail when you talk to people how often have you heard like God is somehow the bad guy of exodus of the Ten Commandments stories because like he was mean to the people who were holding all these people in slavery for four hundred years you know what I mean like God is represented that way all the time and we're really cheer in against you know like we're cheering for Pharaoh somehow sometimes people are like wow what did he just really didn't deserve what he had people in slavery for four hundred years all right they this was an empire built on the back of slaves and you see the story the Israelites have been there in Exodus twelve forty the time has come to lead them to the promised land that God promised them all the way back in Genesis and God takes Moses from a burning bush back where he was raised back into Egypt all right and he comes and he stands before a man he had grown up around there's a lot of debate on who this is and what their relationship is and it really doesn't matter all we know is is that the Whoever was pharaoh that

time Moses would have grown up around him whether they're brothers as some people say or or you know I mean some people want to try and point to it as like this was his you know his adopted dad or there's all kinds of different ways that people can look at this and like I said that doesn't matter but Moses would have known who he was and he would have known who Moses was Moses was raised in the palace. All right he was a part of the thing in the stands before someone that he had called family and he says Let My People Go. And Pharaoh says absolutely not I will not let your people go and nine plagues occur right if you look through it we see nine plagues locusts and boils and darkness and all of these different things and Pharaoh still will not let God's people go and so the stage is set for the tenth and final plague and this one is a big deal all right and you can see in Exodus Chapter eleven and twelve God begins to lay this out at midnight the angel of the Lord is going to pass through and firstborn is going to die as a big deal. OK I mean this is a huge deal this is the culmination of all of this stuff happening this is a culmination of of Pharaoh even saying to the Israel it's we're going to kill all their babies I mean this is the stage has been set for years for this showdown and this this horrible things this horrible thing happens and God gives instructions for how to avoid what is going to happen and now the other thing that I want to point out is like sometimes when we read the Bible don't you sometimes read it in a vacuum you know what I mean like you read it and you kind of already know the end of the story sometimes and so we forget how big a deal this is I'm going to get to this in a second but if there are thousands and more some people estimate millions most most likely millions of slaves that all go into the streets to sacrifice a lamb that wants do you think some of the Egyptians might have seen that happen we don't ever think about that right so many times when people think about it like well how could they have known what was going to happen all they had to do was look it was happening all around them everywhere I mean there are millions most likely of lambs that are going to be slaughtered on this day this is happening like God didn't send darkness to Farrow's palace right he sent it to Egypt and so the entire nation of Egypt is watching this thing play out this didn't happen in a vacuum just with Pharaoh average Egyptian who is in this point would have seen every one of these plagues pennant played out and every single one of them would have had an opportunity to say you know what their god is winning. This isn't done in a vacuum this is very public and we see God starts to lay this out for his people this is how you can get get over it you can look see it again in Exodus chapter eleven verse twelve select a one year old male lamb in his prime it must be a perfect lamb no flaws or D. Flix we do not bring our worst to God we bring our best to God it was to be taken on the tenth day of the month and kept until the fourteenth of the month this serves two purposes and I want you to think about this for just a second you take this lamb and now you take a lamb and you bring it into your home for four days dads where yeah Dad look at me for just a second if you bring a lamb or a pet into your home with just an animal in general into your home for four days and you have little girls what's going to happen right mom. I want you think about this for just a second if you bring an animal in your home for four days it's going to happen in your own heart probably going to get a little bit attached there's a difference between an animal outside in a barn and an animal inside your home. Right. There's a big difference even dads I know we like to pretend we're tough My dad was just had to go through he was a farm kid right he was raised on a farm and ranch they they you know they they still they raised cattle for meat that's what you do on a ranch right I mean you raise you don't get attached to the animals or animals raised for meat he had a little shi-tzu do for thirteen years. That had to be put down in his hands. My dad the farmer wept that day over this little dog. I never saw him weep over an animal OK to think he's getting old OK. You know it's true Dad All right and second there's something different about an animal that's outside in the past year or in the bar and the animal that's in your home this takes it from being a lamb to being your lamb. Right and that is very very intentional by God This is not just some lamb. This is my lamb. This is our lamb you get four days to make sure it's without defect but you also get four days to get attached. Four days for that to happen and those of you no matter how many times you did this you know particularly if there are kids in the house there is no way to stop that from happening. There is no way that that land doesn't become part of your family that it doesn't become your land it's just enough time to get

attached. Because it's intentional This was designed to cost. Because there's a sacrifice made for your protection there's a sacrifice made for your salvation there's a sacrifice made that stood in the doorway of the homes of these Jews and the angel of the Lord and on one side of that doorway is certain death and on the other side of that doorway is safety. And that's that sacrifice should cost and it's such an important thing you see that in chapter twelve verse three it goes from being a lamb to being there lamb in chapter twelve verse five. The nature of sacrifice is a big thing on the fourteenth the lambs were to be killed publicly the lambs are to be taken out and in a very public way they are to be killed. Everyone is responsible for the deaths of the Lambs they are all together they're all responsible they are collectively as a whole responsible for the death of all these lambs yet each family is to apply the blood of their own lamb to the doorpost of their home. So not only are they collectively responsible they're personally involved. And that blood on the doorposts of their home. That innocent lamb that and that that land that did nothing wrong. Becomes a sacrifice. Allowing the judgment of God to pass over. Pass over what they did and to go they're supposed to eat it right that night everyone who did not follow this command everyone and again I want to point out that this would have been so public there's no way for this not to have been public that night everyone who did not follow this command had their first born home their first born in their home day. Even pharaoh who decreed himself a guy Sunday harsh no way to to say it any other way no way to say it any other way and yet it wasn't done in a vacuum it wasn't done in secret it was told beforehand and everybody had the same opportunity to do something different but instead they did not believe. In the God who had told him what was going to happen. That's the backdrop for this god institutes the feast of Passover so that people would never forget what it cost to be free. So that that it would they would never forget the cost of freedom that's why God put. Passover in place there are so many pictures of our faith today in this the Lord's Supper has so many foreshadows if you ever study out a Seder meal and I would encourage you to take part in one sometime just so you can see how awful it is OK. I'm a Seder meal is the meal that they still traditionally serve on Passover a Jewish family I mean it's it's bad but it's supposed to be I take that back there's parts of the meat that are really good but for the most part it's designed to be bad and painful. And and and you you take it but there are so many foreshadows of communion even in this and when you see Jesus taking the last cup you can see him it actually mentions that that they dip on the third cup right he washes their feet instead of traditionally their hands is a part of this Matthew records that they sang a hymn and went out to pray which is another part of the feast don't forget that this is not done in a vacuum Jesus was a Jew who was celebrating Passover that night with his disciples and there's so many foreshadows in all of those things but the part I really want to focus on today and I'm sure this will be no surprise especially especially as we're coming toward the Easter weekend is the sacrifice that was made. There was a spotless Lamb a perfect lamb a lamb that was innocent a lamb that was absolutely the best of what it could be that had to have its blood shed so that people could be safe. So that the wrong would be passed over for our sins to be passed over and you can see again we ask why all the time why did Jesus have to do that why I don't know the beginning of it but I know. That fifteen hundred years before the infant Jesus the Jesus that took on flesh took his first breath. There was a system in place that demanded a blood sacrifice for the passing over of cents fifteen hundred years before the infant cried in the manger there was a feast set in place that foreshadowed everything Jesus would have to do. Fifteen hundred years before Jesus took his first step as a baby. His path was laid out for him. Fifteen hundred years before Jesus hung on that cross. There was a lamb whose blood was shed so that people. Could live and Jesus came to this earth the final spotless Lamb the last Lamb who ever needed to give his life willingly went to a cross willingly allowed himself to die so that your sin could be passed over. So that as Jesus looks at us as God himself looks down at us. We're not just a collection of our failures that he sees how we so often see ourselves right it's so hard not to do that but so many times we talk about who are you one of the first things that pops into our mind especially if we're in a church type setting is a list of everything we've ever failed at writing so many times and wrongfully we think of ourselves as a list of our sins but that is not how God sees you because Jesus Christ gave his wife and she had his blood. So that that could

be passed over and forgiven and now Jesus doesn't see you as a collection of failures. He sees you as son or daughter. Redeemed and it's a big deal it's a big deal in John Chapter nineteen you can see this a picture of Jesus walking. To his death and in crucified we're going to continue to talk about that in the coming weeks we're going to lace a lot of that together as we go through all of this stuff but really. There's a couple of questions that I would like to ask you in just a moment turn first Corinthians Chapter five or seven First Corinthians Chapter five or seven Paul's writing to the church again and you see the same picture we're going to really dive into this next week because Passover happens as as a part of another feast was actually three fees that are just tied together the first three spring fees First Corinthians five seven says clean out the old leaven. So that you may be new so that you may be a new lump just as you are in fact eleven for Christ. Our Passover has also been sacrificed some people might look at a series like this and be like Man you really you know that you know I mean and we've all seen it we all seen people take a really specific portion of Scripture and have to lift it out of context to make it fit what they want to say. Right like you take a verse or whatever and you just you completely remove everything that's around it and you can make the Bible say anything you want right I've given this example before the Bible says. You know that Judas went and hung himself and the Bible says that go thou and do likewise and the Bible says what you do do quickly. The Bible doesn't say go kill yourself quickly like Judas but if I take three three passages of Scripture and lift them completely out of their context I can make it say whatever I want. You don't have to do that at all with the feasts you there's no fancy trickery you read through this stuff and you look at the life of Jesus and everything just is there everything is just so clean and clear and just like Paul said that the Passover lamb died for us. We can see it that way again and so here's here's my question as we approach this Easter season. OK Just a couple of things I want you to just genuinely do a little bit of self-examination and it is easy to say that we're celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus but what's dominating your thoughts as you're moving toward Easter OK that's one of the questions it's easy to say that we're remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus but what's dominating your thoughts is it my family's going to be here it's not a bad thing it is a dominating years US is it man I got a lot of food to cook it's not a bad thing but what's dominating your thoughts is it wow we really got I can't believe it's going to be Easter in three weeks I'm used to this being later we haven't made a reservation yet. And we've been thinking about the whole the whole time I'm preaching you're like texting each other we've got to make a reservation what's dominating your thoughts thoughts about a bunny that's about how you were going to hide the candy bags for your kids my grandma always had bad candy bags for us I love that except one time she hid my sister's candy bag I think it was Alyssa's in the roaster of the oven Yeah you know what happened right melted bag of goo comes out when Alyssa finds it and of course it's my sister it's not just because she's a girl she's just the most emotional of us right and now her bag is just warm Goo It's a dark day it's one of my favorite memories. What dominates our thoughts. I'll tell you why again they had to bring that lamb into their home. Because it was personal because it was about. Them they were a part of this whole situation the Lamb had to die for them personally. Not just for them collectively. But for them personally there was a personal cost involved in this stuff and a lot of personal reflection as they came to know that land and care for that land. And I would ask you just really simply as we're approaching the Easter season. Do you think about it that way do you take time to count the cost. Or is it just. Another day. To day with good food or a lot of people dress up and get cheap candy or is it a day that we realize that there was really a sacrifice made for us. And that sacrifice came at a tremendous cost and was a deeply personal thing that happened as we approach that Easter season as we're coming toward it it's two weeks away now I would challenge you at some point in time and this time to really just sit down and reflect and also if you don't do good with quiet Who cares I don't either make some quiet sometime in the next couple of weeks and make this thing personal make this thing. Personal. Yes Jesus died for the whole world. That's awesome I'm so glad. But Jesus died for me he died for Micah he died for Jan died for Andrew personal it was a great cost that day when the Son of God laid down his life let's not overlook it let's not let it slide by it's just another day where there's a nice meal by all means have a nice meal. One

of our traditions as we go I will probably do in the next week here we go and we let our girls pick out their own Easter dress it's like the only time in their lives where they pick out their own close so a big deal imagine those three little girls running around and all that sparkly craziness those things are not bad. They're just not the point count the cost understand it's real and understand. Who is for you. Not just because Jesus loved you yes he loved you absolutely. Because you had no other way. You couldn't earn salvation just like me you were hopeless without the cross. There's no way for our sins that we can't be good enough. To somehow not need the cross we can't just somehow make it through the day and make it through our life. Being good enough people that we didn't require that sacrifice can't do it so Jesus paid the way but he paved the way that had been set out and laid out. Fifteen hundred years. Before he came as a man I'm not trying to say Jesus started on that day God is eternal. Talking about Jesus taking on flesh when he became Emmanuel God with us there was a great cost it was when we compare ourselves so I'm going to just ask you real quick we're going to go through this. We're going to we're going to take some time here but if there's somebody in here you've been listening and this whole thing is new to you you've you know you've heard about Jesus maybe and you've known a few people who have talked to you about it but you've never really taken on the forgiveness of Jesus and I give you that opportunity in just a moment OK and maybe you're in here and you've been doing this Christian thing for a while and it's kind of just become something you've done. You know you go to church you read your Bible you kind of do that stuff. And we probably all have been through times in our lives where it was just something we did. Instead of something that we really really. Sold out for something that really impacted our day day in and day out we've been talking about the two weeks leading up before this about pursuing Jesus longing for God what that looks like how to go after that maybe you've just kind of been in one of those phases where that's not where you're at this time to see that change. It's time to count the cost be reminded of what happened start moving ahead intentionally. All right so I'm asking about your head and close your eyes it's going to ask this question real simply if you're in this place you never chosen Jesus before and you'd like to would like to give you an opportunity you've got this morning you never chosen Jesus in this morning you're ready. I'm not going to call you up here I'm not going to Paris you want to give you a chance to respond to Jesus is there anybody in here are you not chosen Jesus and this morning you're ready I'd like you just raise your hand when pray with you or anybody you are not going to wait long. When I get a second. All right. If you have a look at me I want to encourage you to leaven forty six so there's fifteen minutes before we start the meal you're going to go get your kids anyway because they're all still going out there we're going to meet in a few minutes we're going to pray or we're going to we're going to have a meal together and I'm excited about that we're going to auction off some desserts to people on a missions trip which is an awesome thing. As are all great things. I want to encourage you in this place just take a moment. You don't have to pray and if you're ready to go you can go but I'm going to encourage you to just take a moment and allow. The lamb. To be your lamb and some of you might be doing better than you ever done in your face you want the beauty of pursuing Jesus is is that even if you're better than you've ever done even if you're if you if you're more in love with him than you've ever been and you're living your life in a way that that is is lining up with Scripture and you're doing all there's still more. There's still more because you'll never be able to fully figure out an infinite God. So I'm just going to encourage you for the next few moments. To allow the land to be your life. If you need to go that's fine. And I encourage you to stay some of you maybe need to come up here there's something about getting out of yours own. That helps change our mindset. Some of you like the show the chair you're sitting in is shaped to you. Because it's just where you're at. And there's something about moving sometimes that just shakes us into a new place of thinking I mean that if you can just do that in your own show that's fine I'm not trying to direct how you do this. I want to encourage you. To seek Jesus I'm going to pray. For you to go that's fine but I encourage you to stay. Chase after Jesus after that. Go through the line get some food. Stay and buy some desserts. Let's not let moments. Jesus pass. God you're good. I thank you for your words I thank you for who you are God I thank you that nothing is really a big accident Jesus. There was this thing set in place before. You ever drew your

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first breath as a human being fifteen hundred years before. Your plan. God you know what we need. Before we ever do I thank you Jesus for your sacrifice. I thank you God that you died for everyone and I'm so humbled I'm so awestruck. That you didn't just die for everyone else. Died for me and I pray throughout the season that you help me have that for. Your good thank you for the food they were about. The social parity. In their.