

171 The Lamb set aside

Over many years of prayerful, patient, diligent studies, those "Bible watchmen" we heard of last time were gradually granted by the Holy Spirit an understanding of the workings of the various Time clocks which the Lord has set deeply within the Scriptures. Building up little by little from known, fixed dates and from specific scriptural prophecies, followed by huge mathematical sums (in pre-calculator days!) to convert biblical calendar dates into our own BC/AD dates, the whole extraordinary Time edifice of biblical events slowly became clear.

At this season of our praising the Lord afresh for His agonies of Golgotha and for the triumph of His resurrection, we can look briefly this time at two of the facts those watchmen were shown (see "The Restored Vision", by Arthur Ware, described as "The Pathway in Time of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ perfectly recovered from the Holy Scriptures"). At first sight these findings are astonishing, and certainly it is up to each of us to make of them what we will, but please "stay with it" and give them a chance! These watchmen were far from being freaks: as a half-hour reading of their books demonstrates, their deep, God-revering approach is undeniable.

So here goes (based on TRV pages 207ff). Mary anointed the Lord in Bethany on Sunday 26th April 33 AD, for she, perhaps uniquely, had "got it" as to the meaning of Jesus being "the Lamb of God". Her deed turned out to be four days before the Passover meal on the Thursday evening (known to us as the "Last Supper"), and thus deliberately marked the Lord out as the Passover Lamb. From the start (Exodus 12.3-6), those lambs were to be "set aside" for four days before being sacrificed - a time-lag that had always prompted the question, "Why these four days?". The answer was now clear: these four days represented the 4000-year time-lag (based on the long-understood 7-day:7,000 years principle of the Creation Week of Genesis 1) between the promise of the coming "Seed of the woman" and His crushing of the serpent's head. Thus each year for generations, those set-aside Passover lambs were a "type", for those with spiritual eyes to see, pointing to the coming, and even the timing of that coming, of the true Passover Lamb, Who would be the "anti-type", the longed-for fulfilment of the Eden promise.

Jesus duly held the Passover on the Thursday evening, (which, because the Jewish day begins at 6 pm, was actually already the Friday in Jewish terms - the day in which He was put to death physically as the Passover Lamb on behalf of us all).

Then - hold tight - Jesus rose from the dead at Sunday midnight, not at dawn on the Sunday; (lack of space prevents explanation here: see TRV Chapter 16 - it really does make sense). He thus greeted Mary (John 20.11-18) on the Monday

morning, not the Sunday morning, and His words to her, "Do not touch me, I am not yet ascended" referred to His imminent offering of Himself as the "sheaf of the firstfruits" to His Father, in exact accord with Leviticus 23.9-14, to which I Corinthians 15.20 later refers.

For this Reflection we must now come to a close, and hopefully can consider the "eight days" of John 20.26 next time. Let it be emphasised that the actual workings of the various scriptural Time clocks are in one sense wholly secondary, to be explored only by those of us with the time, inclination and pocket calculators to do so. If you are not one of those few, no matter! - whenever you come across a reference to Time in Scripture, just thank the Lord for it, and keep reading. Any such reference is a tiny reminder that the Bible is utterly trustworthy; that not a word of it is superfluous or in error; that the Lord God is in total control, even in these days of increasing wickedness; that nothing happens without His allowance or direction; and that Jesus in His complete obedience to His Father, followed, to the hour, the divine Time plan.

Truly, " ... I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from the ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46.9-10, AV).

No wonder we can shout afresh the great resurrection cry - "Jesus is risen, He is risen indeed - Hallelujah!". In Christ, all is well. In Christ, all shall be well.

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