

Jesús probó el vinagre y dijo: “Todo está cumplido”, e inclinando la cabeza, entregó el espíritu. ¿Cuál era el significado del vinagre? La palabra "pascua" significa tanto Pascua (Easter) cómo Pascua judía (Passover). Jesús entró en Jerusalén el Domingo de Ramos, al mismo tiempo que se llevaban a Jerusalén los corderos para los sacrificios pascuales. El cordero pascual debía ser examinado por un sacerdote y declarado libre de cualquier defecto. Jesús fue examinado por Pilato y Herodes y declarado inocente de cualquier delito. Jesús murió a la hora en que se sacrificaban los corderos pascuales. La Última Cena... fue una cena pascual que quedó incompleta. Se debía beber una última copa de vino para que la cena estuviera completa. El vinagre que Jesús bebió en la cruz fue esa última copa. La cena estaba completa; estaba terminada. Entonces Jesús murió.

¿Qué tiene de importante la conexión entre la Pascua (Easter) y la Pascua judía (Passover)? La Pascua judía original marcó el inicio del Éxodo, mediante el cual los israelitas fueron liberados de la esclavitud en Egipto. La cena pascual de Jesús marcó el inicio de la etapa final de su éxodo. Solo que en su caso, no fue liberado de la esclavitud. Su éxodo se realizó para que nosotros pudiéramos ser liberados de la esclavitud del pecado. Beber el vino y morir después cumplió la meta por la que había trabajado toda su vida. Jesús se convirtió en el cordero expiatorio necesario para nuestra libertad. Jesús no lo hizo por obligación, sino por amor.

“When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.” What was the significance of the wine? Our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters might be able to give us the answer to that with the Spanish word for Easter: Pascua. Similar words are used in other languages: paschal, pasch, pesach. Those words mean both Easter and Passover. Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday at the same time the lambs to be used in the passover sacrifices were brought into Jerusalem. The passover lamb had to be examined by a priest and be declared free of any flaw. Jesus was examined by Pilate and Herod and was declared to be innocent of any crimes. Jesus died at the hour when the passover lambs were slaughtered. The Last Supper...that was a passover meal which was left incomplete. A final cup of wine had to be drunk in order for the supper to be complete. The wine Jesus drank on the cross was that last cup. The meal was complete; it was finished. Then Jesus died.

What is so important about the Passover-Easter connection? The original passover was the beginning of the Exodus event through which the Israelites were freed from their slavery in Egypt. Jesus' passover meal marked the beginning of the final stage of his exodus. Only in his case, he wasn't being freed from slavery. His exodus was made so that we could be freed from our slavery to sin. The drinking of the wine and his death which followed it accomplished the goal he had been working towards for his entire life. Jesus became the sacrificial lamb needed for our freedom. Jesus didn't do this out of obligation. He did it out of love.