Passover / Easter Symbolism in Spiritual Realities

OLD TESTAMENT				
	Events	Higher Realities		
OT Passover Exodus 12	The Passover story is about protection from death for the firstborn of Israel by means of blood of sacrificed lamb smeared on doorposts of dwellings. During the Passover night, the death angel passed over and spared the Israelite firstborn, while all the Egyptian firstborn of man and beast perished. The promise of protection was conditional on obedience to the instruction.	Jesus is the first of the firstborn / firstfruits and the savior from the "second death". He is <i>not</i> the fulfillment of the sacrificial lamb, but his teaching about the availability of Divine Love and immortality is saving knowledge. Those who reject God's gift of His Love and essence will not become immortal divine angels nor enter the Celestial Kingdom of God – thid is the "second death". They will still attain a state of sinlessness and happiness in Paradise.		
The Exodus	Moses led the people out of Egypt accomplishing deliverance from centuries-long bondage and slavery. This involved a miraculous escape and protection from the pursuing Egyptian army. The people were led by a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.	Jesus came to earth as the Messiah (anointed savior) to present knowledge of salvation through the Divine Love transforming the heart / soul into a new heart, which brings about the new birth and new creation. It accomplishes delivery from the bondage and slavery of sin and leads into a new life.		
Desert Wanderings	The people had abundant provision of food (manna), water and all things needed – yet they grumbled and rebelled. Moses received the Ten Commandments associated with a spectacular mountain display. Numerous laws were given to govern social and religious conduct. This included building of a Tabernacle, ordaining priests, Sabbath keeping, tithing, special Holy Days and male circumcision. All this was a part of the Old Covenant mediated by Moses and much of it pointed to higher spiritual realities of the New Covenant mediated by Jesus.	Jesus brought spiritual food and drink – bread of life and living water – symbolizing the life-giving Divine Love, God's very essence. The Ten Commandments, which are summed up in the two great commandments – love to God and love to neighbor – were brought to a greater height by Jesus' "new commandment" to love God and one another as he had loved – with the Divine Love. Tithing is transcended by love-motivated generosity, circumcision becomes "circumcision of the heart" – the new heart spoken of by the prophets, and the Sabbath rest is fulfilled in the "rest" that the Celestial Kingdom symbolizes. The Tabernacle and priesthood are replaced by a spiritual temple of God, consisting of those who have the Divine Love and essence in their souls.		
Promised Land – conquest and settlement	The Promised Land flowed with milk and honey, but was not free of obstacles. Faith in God was required to conquer fear and overcome the obstacles. God intervened while the people were obedient. Disobedience and rebellion led to eventual loss of the land, exile and captivity. Israel never again became a nation, but most have been scattered. (The state of Israel is a relatively small part – a remnant – of the original twelve tribes.)	The Promised Land can be seen as representing the physical life. Whether following the Divine Love path or natural love path, it is not free of obstacles and challenges. However, help is available for the asking. Disobedience and rebellion may have consequences in this life and certainly in the next. The soul condition achieved before passing over will determine one's place in the spirit world.		

NT Passover Period – Jesus' Last Supper to Pentecost			
Jesus' Last Supper/Passover meal Luke 22:8-39 John 13:8-10	The supper with the twelve in the Upper Room included Jesus' washing the feet of the disciples, which was normally a servant's menial task. Jesus thus demonstrated his humility and servant heart and set an example to all his followers. In saying to Peter, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part of me," Jesus used the word "washing" to mean a washing from sin. He meant, "If I show you not how to be cleansed of sin so that you be clean in heart through the washing by the Divine Love, you have no part of me." This washing was not symbolic of a purification of the soul leading to the perfect natural man, but transformation of the soul through the Divine Love and its cleansing action. But Peter understood this in a material way and thought Jesus referred also to baptism. Jesus used water (and other analogies bread, the door, the good shepherd, and the vineyard) to illustrate his teachings of the Divine Love to help his disciples understand. When he said, "He that is washed need not, save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit," Jesus meant that he who has the Divine Love in his soul is clean and only needs to eliminate the defilements of the world. His soul is not completely clean, for the process of cleansing (transformation) continues throughout all eternity.	Reference	
	Jesus broke bread and passed it to his disciples, speaking of it as a symbol of Divine Love. He didn't speak of his flesh or blood as something to be consumed to attain salvation. This for the Jewish men, under their scriptural understanding of not eating animal blood would have been totally abhorrent.	<u>Reference</u>	
The Trial and the Crucifixion Luke 23:33-47 Mark 15:33-35	The trial by the Sanhedrin was in accordance to a rudimentary but superficial degree with the Sadducean laws, but the ruling priests were willing to accept Jesus' death by unfair means through perjured witnesses in order to eliminate one whom they considered dangerous to the Hebrew religion and potential danger to their harmony with the Roman authorities. Jesus' father, Joseph, was present at the unfair trial and was sick at heart at the treatment his son received. As a result, his eyes were opened to the state of the Sanhedrin, realizing that what they considered religion was merely farce. He also saw the gulf between the religion practiced by the priests and what Jesus proposed. From this shame and humiliation at seeing his first-born son condemned and executed as a criminal was born the conviction of his son's innocence, the righteousness of his cause, and the truth of his mission. While Jesus' body was torn and exhausted by the brutalities of his execution, he never lost faith in God nor the truth of his mission. The burning in his soul constantly told him that he could die only in the flesh and would retain consciousness after his passing over – and this came to pass.	Reference	
	At the <u>scene of the crucifixion it grew dark and cloudy</u> , and many thought that this darkness showed God's anger at the deed. However, God is Love, and His Divine Love was open to those responsible for Jesus' death, and He did not express anger. The storm simply obeyed the natural order of a new-settled spring.		

	The Roman centurion officiating at the crucifixion was convinced of Jesus' innocence and later, at Pentecost, with the preaching of Jesus' disciples, and believing that Jesus was resurrected, he was converted to Christianity. The same was true of the lancer, who poked his lance into Jesus' heart to determine his death and some others of the Roman soldiery.	
	During the crucifixion Jesus never voiced complaints nor doubted that God was with him. The words attributed to him, "Oh, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" were inserted by a copyist years later to make his death accord with the words of the Psalmist (Psalm 22). It is true that Jesus was placed between two malefactors, but never did one seek to be converted nor did Jesus tell him he would be with him in Paradise, for he could not grant that, as the man's place in the spirit world depended on his soul condition.	Reference
The Burial Luke 23:50-53	A man the Bible refers to as Joseph of Arimathea was actually Jesus' father, who came to Jerusalem with Jesus on his last fatal mission. He received permission from the authorities to take Jesus body and put it in a cave, where no one had been buried. Jesus' father loved him very much despite his inability to grasp Jesus' mission, but fearing both the Jews and the Romans, he sought to conceal his name and connection with Jesus.	Reference
The Resurrection Luke 24:1-10	After death, Jesus ascended to the spirit world to proclaim the availability of the Father's Love and the possibility of At-onement with Him. He then returned to the cave, materialized a body closely resembling his own with elements drawn the universe, dematerialized his dead body, neatly folded the linen shroud where the body had lain, and walked out of the cave. The stone blocking the entrance was rolled away by a bright spirit sent by the Father. It was in the materialized body that he saw Mary the Magdalene and the others , as mentioned in the gospels. This was the reason that they didn't immediately recognize him. The angel that removed the stone received his strength through energy conveyed by the many spirits present. His materialized spirit body, endowed with this additional power, was able to cope with the task of rolling away the stone. He used the guard whom he put into a trance by suggestion, to obtain the necessary ectoplasm to bring about the materialization. It was necessary for Jesus to materialize to show his disciples that he was still alive for at that time of their spiritual development this would prove to them that he was the Messiah. Their real understanding came to them only at Pentecost, when the Divine Love was conveyed into their souls with such power and abundance that they knew Jesus had come to bring to humanity the very essence of the Father if they would seek it through earnest prayer. This became later known as receiving the Holy Spirit, but it is in fact the Holy Spirit which conveys the Father's Love into the seeking soul.	Reference