

CEREMONY, CEREMONIALLY, CEREMONIES, CEREMONIAL, POMP

Apparently in ancient times there were occasions when people married one another without any sort of wedding **ceremony**, and without even seeing one another first. (Jacob managed to marry Leah without realizing who she was.)

- **Genesis 29:21-25:** "And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?"

Under the Mosaic Law, there were **ceremonies** associated with keeping the Passover.

- **Numbers 9:2-3:** "Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season. In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it."

All those who were **ceremonially** clean in the household of the priests were allowed to eat the priestly portion of the heave and wave offerings.

- **Numbers 18:11:** "And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it."

All those who were **ceremonially** clean in the household of the priests were allowed to eat the firstfruits offerings that the Israelites brought to the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 18:13:** "And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it."

Under the Mosaic Law, someone who was **ceremonially** clean was responsible for storing the ashes of the red heifer (which were used for purification) in a clean place.

- **Numbers 19:9:** "And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin."

Under the Mosaic Law, people who were **ceremonially** unclean were allowed to eat animals on their own property. (Those who were clean could do so as well.)

- **Deuteronomy 15:22:** "Thou shalt eat it within thy gates: the unclean and the clean person shall eat it alike, as the roebuck, and as the hart."

God cared about the purity of Samson while he was still in the womb. The Lord took steps to ensure that Samson's Nazarite vow wouldn't be broken before he was born, and to make sure he remained **ceremonially** clean.

- **Judges 13:3-5:** "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

Many people who hadn't cleansed themselves according to the Mosaic Law ate of the Passover during the second month of the first year of the reign of Hezekiah (even though the Mosaic Law required people to be **ceremonially** clean to eat it). (Hezekiah prayed that God would forgive them, and He did.)

- **2 Chronicles 30:18-20:** "For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one That prepareth his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. And the Lord hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people."

The dedication **ceremony** for the rebuilt wall around Jerusalem was kept with harps, and music, and singing, and thanksgiving, and gladness.

- **Nehemiah 12:27:** "And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps."

For the **ceremony** to dedicate the wall around Jerusalem, Levites were brought to Jerusalem from all over the country. (The "sons of the singers" gathered as well.)

- **Nehemiah 12:27-28:** "And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps. And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;"

Because the Jews had no knowledge of God, their **pomp** (noise) was descending into Hell. (Those who make music and rejoice, but don't know God, will go to Hell. Their sincerity and passion won't save them.)

- **Isaiah 5:12-14:** "And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall

descend into it."

When the devil is cast into Hell, he will lose his **pomp** and magnificence.

- **Isaiah 14:11-12, 15-19:** "Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ... Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet."

God was going to send a mighty army against Pharaoh, who would destroy the **pomp** of Egypt.

- **Ezekiel 32:12:** "By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed."

The priests and religious leaders weren't concerned about sentencing Jesus (an innocent man) to death. However, they

were concerned about being made **ceremonially** unclean (by entering the judgment hall) and then eating the Passover.

- **John 18:28:** "Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover."

When John reached the tomb where Jesus was buried, he didn't go inside. (It's possible this is because going into a tomb made a person **ceremonially** unclean under the Mosaic Law.)

- **John 20:3-5:** "Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in."

When King Agrippa went to the place of hearing (for the apostle Paul), he went there with great **pomp**.

- **Acts 25:23:** "And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth."

Under the Levitical system, there were **ceremonial** washings.

- **Hebrews 9:10:** "Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation."

Under the old covenant, the ashes of a heifer made an unclean person **ceremonially** clean.

- **Hebrews 9:13:** "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:"

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