

Passover and Contextual Theology (*Abstract*)

Chak-chiu LAM*

The traditional Jewish festival of Passover has been developing for centuries, going roughly through four periods. They are respectively the setting up of the Passover itself, the period after settling in Canaan, the setting up of the Holy Communion by Jesus and the Passover Haggadah (the handbook of the Passover for the Jews, which was compiled not earlier than A.D. 70 when the Temple was destroyed).

It is God's redemption, shown through the threads of Judaism and the New Testament Church, that underlies this development. Such development may involve a fundamental change in its nature, or simply a deepening and extension of the pre-existing tradition. Theologically, it follows the pre-ordained plan of God, while also performing the important social function of achieving social unity.

The function of contextual theology is to interpret and exemplify the truth of God in context. The development of the Passover involves both changes in its rituals and symbolism. This exemplifies the working of contextual theology.

* Chak-chiu Lam is student of Doctor of Ministry Program of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong.