

## 救いとしての『神の過越』

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**ABSTRACT** Y. Muchiki, “God’s Passover for Salvation.” It is well known that the name of the feast of Passover (פסח) originated from the fact that God “passed over” the houses of Israel in Egypt. However, the original meaning of the root פסח has not been made entirely clear thus far, though the traditional translation “pass over” is popularly used. This study aims at narrowing down the range of the meaning of פסח, paying especial attention to the context of the feast of Passover in Exodus chapter 12. Passed over has been taken to mean that God simply passed over, or passed by, the houses of Israel due to the sign of blood on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses. However, it is more likely that these verses (13, 23, 27) indicate that God passed over the houses in order to insure that no plague fall upon them, that is, the purpose of God’s passover is not to refrain from destroying them, but to save them. The destructive plague comes from demotic beings called המַשְׁחֵחִים. God’s aim is to prevent such destructive power from entering the houses. This interpretation is strongly supported not only by the context, but by the translation of LXX, which renders the פסח as σκεπάζω. Moreover, the fact that word פסח itself has the meanings of “to defend” and “to save” is shown in Isaiah 30:5. Judging from the usages of the verbal form of פסח, which mainly mean “to limp”, I would conclude that God passed over each house with limping, in order to save the Israel by preventing the destroyer המַשְׁחֵחִים from entering the houses.

The explanation that the root is related to Egyptian *p3-šh* “the stroke” should be rejected.