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Passover in the Old and New Testament.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Passover in the Old and New Testament.

Topics.

- Nisan and Abib and Preparation Day.
- Passover in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy, Exodus and Leviticus).
- Passover in the New Testament.
- Two Days prior to Passover Day.
- Early in the Evening of Passover Day.
- The morning of Passover Day.
- The Evening of Passover Day.
- Passover and Christ's Crucifixion.
- Eating the Lords Flesh and Drinking His Blood.

NISAN AND ABIB

Abib and Nisan mean "An ear of Corn," Nisan was the beginning of barley harvest and the name of the first Jewish month prior to Israel's 70 years in exile to Babylon, but after the exile Nisan was changed to Abib it fell about the time of our March and early April.

(Exod. 13:4) (Exod. 23:15) (Exod. 34:18).

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EVENING AND HOUR

Evening (Even in KJV) can mean, late afternoon, early evening, nightfall, after the close of the day or in the end and an "Hour" can apply to a day, an hour, an instant or a season.

PREPARATION DAY

There is no particular day in the Bible which was called, "the Day of Preparation," or "the Preparation of the Passover." Under the law in (Exod. 12:3) the lamb for the Passover was to be separated from the rest of the flock on the tenth day of the month, and to be kept up to the fourteenth day, but this period of time is never called the preparation of the Passover and it cannot be referring to the disciples preparing and making ready the Passover meal for Christ as his Passover was killed, prepared and eaten the same day. (Matt 26:17).

SCRIPTURES THAT USE THE TITLE, PREPARATION DAY

- **Matthew 27:62:** after *the day of Preparation*, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate.
- **Mark 15:42:** *the day of Preparation*, that is, the day before the Sabbath.
- **Luke 23:54:** It was *the day of Preparation*, and the Sabbath was beginning.

- **John 19:14:** Now it was *the day of Preparation* of the Passover about the sixth hour Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"
- **John 19:31:** Since it was *the day of Preparation*, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.
- **John 19:42:** So because of *the Jewish day of Preparation*, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

The above verses show that the Preparation Day was the day before the Sabbath Day which at this time was a Jewish High Sabbath as it fell on the Saturday (the Jewish weekly Sabbath) and was also a Sabbath Day because it was the first day of the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th). Therefore, the Day of Preparation was also Passover Day (14th). As there is no particular day which was called, "The Preparation of the Passover" it seems that the title "Preparation Day" is simply a title that refers to the preparation needed for any special occasion especially the Jewish Sabbaths as they could not do any secular work on these days. The title "Preparation Day" is not limited to Passover Day only, but could be applied to any day that falls prior to a Sabbath Day.

On this occasion it is most likely identified with the Passover and called the Passover preparation day to distinguish this preparation day from any other preparation day prior to any other Sabbath Day.

(Matt. 27:62) (Mark 15:42) Luke 23:54 (John 19:14, 30-33, 42).

PASSOVER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

PASSOVER IN DEUTERONOMY

- **Deuteronomy 16:1-7:** "Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ²And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, from the flock or the herd, at the place that the LORD will choose, to make his name dwell there. ³You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction—for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt ⁴No leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the flesh that you sacrifice on the evening of the first day remain all night until morning. ⁵You may not offer the Passover sacrifice within any of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, ⁶but at the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell in it, there you shall offer the Passover sacrifice, in the evening at sunset, at the time you came out of Egypt. ⁷And you shall cook it and eat it at the place that the LORD your God will choose. And in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

From these verses we learn that Passover was to be observed in the month of Abib at the place God choose to make His name dwell and be kept throughout all Israel's generations. It was held to celebrate and remember that God in haste delivered Israel out of Egypt by night. The Passover sacrifice was to be taken from Israel's own flock and be eaten in the evening at sunset with unleavened bread (a symbol of affliction). All the flesh of the Passover had to be eaten before morning and then the people could return to their tents. Following Passover Day was the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread.

NOTE: Passover Day was held on the 14th day of the month of Abib because Abib was the first month of the Jewish calendar and it was during the night of the 14th day that God delivered Israel out of Egypt (called the House of Bondage). Then immediately following Passover Day was a Sabbath Day because it was the first day (15th) of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread. The last Day (21st) of this Feast was also a Sabbath Day. Israel was not to eat any leaven on Passover Day or during the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- **Exodus 12:1-6:** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

On the 10th day of the first Jewish calendar month of the year all Israel were to take one male lamb from their sheep or goats a year old and without blemish for each household and keep it until the 14th day. On the 14th day in the evening at sunset the entire nation of Israel was to kill and eat the Passover. If the members of a household were too few to eat a complete lamb, they could invite their neighbour. (This was because all the flesh of the Passover had to be eaten by morning).

- **Exodus 12:11-12:** In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD'S Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

In the evening the LORD is going to judge all the gods of Egypt and strike the firstborn of man and animal in Egypt so Israel are told to eat the Passover in haste and be ready to leave in a hurry.

- **Exodus 12:15-18:** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

Passover Day was in the fourteenth day of the first Jewish calendar month (Abib) and the Passover sacrifice was to be eaten in the evening (sunset). Immediately following Passover Day (14th) was the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The first day (15th) of this Feast was a Sabbath Day in which no work was to be done and the last Day (21st) was also a Sabbath Day. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to be kept throughout Israel's generations to celebrate and remember that the LORD delivered Israel out of Egypt (called the house of bondage). If any Israelite ate leavened bread during the Feast they were to be cut off from Israel.

At midnight the LORD struck down Egypt's firstborn

- Exodus 12:29: At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.

The Egyptians sent Israel out in haste

- Exodus 12:33: The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

The 14th was a night of watching by the LORD.

- **Exodus 12:42:** It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

PASSOVER IN LEVITICUS

- **Leviticus 23:5-8:** In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD'S Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. ⁷On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. ⁸But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work."

Passover Day was held on the 14th day of the first month and eaten at twilight (sunset). The seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread was on the 15th day of the first month thus it immediately followed Passover Day during this feast only unleavened bread was to be eaten. Food offering were to be presented to the LORD for seven days (they became food for the priesthood and their families). The 1st day and the 7th day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was a holy convocation (meaning Sabbath Days) in which no secular work was to be done.

SUMMARY OF THE PASSOVER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to celebrate and remember that God in haste delivered Israel out of Egypt by night. On the 10th day of the first Jewish calendar month of the year (called Abib) all Israel were to take from their own flock one male lamb from their sheep or goats a year old and without blemish for each household and keep it until the 14th day. On the 14th day in the evening at sunset the entire nation of Israel was to kill and eat the Passover at the place God choose to make His name dwell. If the members of a household were too few to eat a complete lamb, they could invite their neighbour. (This was because all the flesh of the Passover had to be eaten by morning). The people who had gone to their neighbours to eat the Passover could not return to their own tents until the morning. Immediately following Passover Day was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the first day (15th) and the last day (21st) of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread were Sabbath Days in which no secular work could be done. Food offering were to be presented to the LORD during these seven days (they became food for the priesthood and their families). If any Israelite ate leavened bread during the Feast they were to be cut off from Israel because only unleavened bread was to be eaten. (Unleavened bread was a symbol of affliction).

FOLLOWING ARE THE OFFERINGS DURING THE SEVEN-DAY FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

- 2 bulls, 1 ram, 7 male lambs a year old without blemish with their grain offering of three 10th of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for each bull.
- 1 ram with it's a grain offering of two 10th of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for the ram.
- 7 lambs with their grain offering of one 10th of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for each lamb.
- 1 male goat for a sin offering to make atonement for Israel.

All the offerings were to be offered besides the evening and morning offering with their grain and drink offering. Nearly all of these offerings became food for the priesthood and their families.

TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PASSOVER DAY

During the two days prior to the Passover the chief priests and the elders gathered in the palace of Caiaphas of the high priest to plot and plan how they could kill Jesus without the people knowing. Judas no-doubt aware of their hatred toward the Lord goes to them and agrees to betray Jesus for the lowly sum of thirty pieces of silver. While this is going on a woman with an alabaster flask does a beautiful thing and anoints and prepares Jesus for burial. During these two days Jesus tells his disciples the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified. (Matt. 26:2-4) (Matt. 26:14-16) (Matt. 26:6-13).

EARLY IN THE EVENING OF PASSOVER DAY

On Passover Day (the first day of unleavened bread) the disciples ask Jesus, where will they eat the Passover and Jesus tells them to go into the city and find a man carrying a jar of water and say to him, "Where is the teachers guest room where he may eat the Passover with his disciples?" And the man will show them a large upper room already furnished and ready for them to eat the Passover. So the disciples went to the city and found it just as the Lord had told them. Later when it was evening and Jesus was eating the Passover in the room with the twelve, he said, "One of those who are eating with him will betray him." (Matt. 26:17-18) (Mark 14:12-18).

After Jesus and the apostles had eaten the Passover Jesus goes to Gethsemane, and prays. While he is praying Judas comes with the chief priests the elders a great crowd carrying swords and clubs. They seize Jesus and take him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. The chief priest and elders spit in Jesus face beat and slap him and condemn Jesus to death. (Matt. 26:36) (Matt. 26:47) (Matt. 26:57) (Matt. 26:66-67).

THE MORNING OF PASSOVER DAY

Peter denies Jesus the third time and immediately the rooster crowed (Matt. 26:74-75). When morning came the counsel of the chief priests and elders had condemned Jesus to death so they took him to Pilate the Roman governor of Judea. To calm the crowd and appease the chief priests and elders Pilate scourges Jesus and releases Barabbas. Jesus is given over to be crucified, he is led out and nailed to the cross at which time the soldiers cast lots to divide his garments among themselves. (Matt. 27:1-2) (Matt. 27:26) (Matt. 27:35).

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Jesus was given over to be crucified at 9am (the 3rd hour), he was nailed to the cross at 12 noon (the 6th hour) at which time darkness covered the land and he breathed his last breath at 3pm (the 9th hour) on the day of Passover (Friday) (Matthew 27:45-50) (Mark 15:25-46).

THE EVENING OF PASSOVER DAY

Joseph of Arimathea, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, Pilate gives him permission and Just prior to the end of Passover Day and the beginning of the Jewish weekly Sabbath (Saturday)

and the first day of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread Joseph takes Jesus off the cross, wraps him in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb (Matt. 27:55-56) (Mark 15:42-46).

AFTER THE JEWISH SABBATH (SATURDAY) AND EARLY SUNDAY

After the Sabbath (Saturday) on the first day of the week (Sunday) very early toward dawn Mary Magdalene with other women took spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. When they arrive, they find that the stone had rolled away from the tomb and the body of the Lord Jesus was gone (Matt. 28:1) (Mark 16:1-2) (Luke 24:1-5) (John 20:1-2).

PASSOVER AND CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION

Generally, the Sabbath Days that are mentioned throughout the Bible regarding the Passover Feast were separate from the Jewish weekly Sabbath that the Jews kept every Saturday. God delivered Israel from Egypt (called the house of bondage) on the 14th Day of the month of Abib (also called Nisan) and it was on this day that God commanded the Jews to keep the Passover Feast, regardless of what day of the week it fell on, it had to be kept on the 14th Day of Abib. The day after Passover Day was also a Sabbath Day because it was the first day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th), which immediately followed Passover Day so Passover Day and the Sabbath Day connected with the Seven Day Feast could have fallen on any day of the week. Obviously over their 4000 years of keeping this feast, there were times when the Sabbath of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread did fall on Saturday (the Jewish weekly Sabbath) when this happened it was called a High Sabbath (meaning double Sabbath).

The day after Christ's Crucifixion was a Jewish weekly Sabbath (Saturday) and also the first day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened bread so it was a High Sabbath. The Passover Day was a day of unleavened Bread (Matt. 26:17-18) (Mark 14:12-18) and was from Sunset to Sunset of the 14th Day of Abib (also called Nisan) therefore the actual Passover meal was not eaten until sunset thus it was eaten in the evening when Passover day began. Prior to the Passover meal, Christ's disciples would have been preparing for Passover Day and for the Sabbath of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread which immediately followed Passover Day. Jesus was crucified on Passover Day Friday (14th) lay in the tomb all day Saturday (15th) the weekly Sabbath and the Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened bread and rose early on the first day of the week Sunday morning (16th). We know this because all four gospels records that the two Mary's went to the Tomb after the Sabbath Day near the dawn of the First Day of the week (Sunday) (Matt. 28:1) (Mark 16:1-2) (Luke 24:1-5) (John 20:1-2). For further information see the title:

- Three Days and Three Nights.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

EATING THE LORDS FLESH AND DRINKING HIS BLOOD

- Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you (Luke 22:19-20).

In this verse the word supper comes from the Greek word (deipneo) and means to dine and carries the idea of it being the principal or chief meal (usually in the evening). There is no mention of Jesus and the disciples actually eating a roasted Passover lamb at the Last Supper, nevertheless

it is most likely that they did have a cooked lamb, especially since they are still under the law, it is in the evening, their normal meal time and it is hardly likely Jesus would send disciples out to prepare a room simply so they could have one sip of wine and one bite of bread to eat and drink. But! This is the beauty and wonder of Bible language, because there is no mention of a Passover Lamb the astute Bible student leaps for joy, because the discerning reader quickly realises that the Passover Lamb is deliberately not mentioned, because that very day, Jesus Christ himself became the Passover Lamb that was to be slain. This is why Christians are called to continually eat (spiritually) of Christ the eternal Passover Lamb without blemish.

THE FOLLOWING VERSES EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS TO EAT CHRIST'S FLESH

After breaking the bread Jesus told the twelve apostles that the bread was a symbol of his body and after pouring out a cup of wine tells them that it is a symbol of his blood. Jesus then says that his flesh is true food and his blood is true drink whoever feeds on his flesh and drinks his blood which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins abides in him, and he in them and that whoever feeds on him has eternal life because he is the true bread that came down from heaven and on the last day will raise those who feed on him up (Matt. 26:26-28) (John 6:53-60).

Every Roman soldier knew that when a Roman king said to those who would follow him that they must be prepared to eat and drink the blood of their king to be a loyal Roman soldier it meant they must be prepared to lay down their lives for him, this is the reason Jesus disciples said that it was a hard saying (John 6:60). But Jesus also tells his followers not to labour for food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life (John 6:27) so not only does eating the flesh and drinking the blood of Christ mean being prepared to die for him, it also embraces the things that are eternal such as:

- Believing Jesus words and that he is the Son of God and was sent by God.
- Trusting in Jesus and God's grace for salvation and not works of the law.
- Endeavouring to live a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Helping the poor and the less fortunate when able (Rom. 14:17) (John 4:32-34).
- Living in the fruits of the Spirit (love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness etc.).

For further information see the title:

- Eating the Lords Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- In, Commentary New Testament (ONE WEBSITE MENU)