

Matthew 26:17-36 The Last Supper and Passover

Was the Last Supper Yeshua ate with His disciples on the night He was betrayed, the Passover meal commanded by the Torah, or was it just that, Yeshua's Last Supper with His disciples? Many people today seem to be confused about this event.

As a result of their confusion, they argue, debate, and perpetuate their confusions causing babes in the faith to be confused, all because of a verse here or there containing statements Yeshua made to His disciples and interpretations of translators.

In this portion of Matthew's Gospel narrative, we will investigate the conversation, dialogue, and language of the Gospel narratives of Matthew and John to point out the important statements that will help determine and answer that very important question of whether the Last Supper Yeshua ate with His disciples was the Passover meal.

In this teaching, we will join in with Yeshua and His disciples' discussions and discern what was said and done, as they shared their last supper together.

Mt 26:17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Yeshua, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

In order to understand this passage according to the Law, one must know what the Law commanded and compare it to what is written in this passage to determine if what is being done is in accordance with what is written.

Yeshua had already stated in verse one, at the beginning of this Chapter, that He would be crucified on the Passover.

Mt 26:1 And it came to pass, when Yeshua had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

Mt 26:2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Paul stated that Yeshua was our Passover.

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Messiah our passover is sacrificed for us:

The Passover was not about forgiveness of sin, but about redemption of the firstborn. In the case of the first Passover, Israel was YeHoVaH's firstborn.

Ex 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:

The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world was connected to Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement and required the sacrifice of a goat lamb not a sheep lamb.

Lev 16:15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

Lev 16:16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

The Passover lamb could be taken from the sheep or the goat. According to Exodus 12:5.

Ex 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Here is what is written in Leviticus 23:5-8.

Lev 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.

Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

Lev 23:7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Lev 23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

According to what is written in the Law, the Passover is the Fourteenth day of Abib at evening or right before sundown. At sundown the first day of Unleavened Bread commences.

According to Scripture, Unleavened Bread does not come before Passover.

The disciples would not have come to Yeshua on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread asking Him about Passover because Passover would have been over!

Some argue that during that time, Unleavened Bread and Passover were all together; which if true, means someone had changed the order of what was written which was forbidden by YeHoVaH according to Deuteronomy 4:2.

Dt 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

A quick History Lesson on the Passover:

Dt 16:5 Thou mayest not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:

Dt 16:6 But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

From the Exodus to Joshua, Israel kept the Passover in the wilderness.

In Joshua 5, after crossing the Jordan into the land of Canaan, soon to be Israel, Joshua circumcised the whole nation of Israel and celebrated the Passover in the plains of Jericho. This is the last recorded celebration of Passover in the Bible until Hezekiah.

Passover had undergone many changes; corruption set in amongst the Priests and the people; and the Temple fell into disarray until the time of Hezekiah.

Hezekiah reopened the Temple, repaired their doors, restored the Priests and Levites, and consecrated the Temple.

In the second month, Israel celebrated the Passover that year.

2Ch 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.

2Ch 30:2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month.

2Ch 30:3 For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.

After Hezekiah died, Israel returned to Idolatry for 88 years until the time of Josiah.

During the time of Josiah, like Hezekiah, the Passover was prepared by the Priests at the Temple and distributed to the people.

2Ch 35:1 Moreover Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

2Ch 35:2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD...

... 2Ch 35:10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.

2Ch 35:11 And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.

2Ch 35:12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen.

2Ch 35:13 And they roasted the passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people.

After Josiah's death, Israel fell back into Idolatry and 23 years later were carried into Babylonian Captivity.

The next celebration of Passover was more than 70 years later, after the Babylonian Captivity and after the completion of the Temple.

Ezr 6:18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

Ezr 6:19 And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.

Ezr 6:20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

Ezr 6:21 And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,

Ezr 6:22 And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

The role of the Priests and Levites were critical during the Passover and the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread. The dates had to be accurate according to YeHoVaH's Commands, as written in the Book of Moses, and the Priests performing the sacrifices had to do all things on their right day.

Lev 23:37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

According to the passages and Biblical History we looked at, the Passover sacrifice had to be made by the Priests at the appointed place and distributed amongst the people.

That brings us to the Passover in this passage.

If Yeshua is the Passover, He would have to be sacrificed on the Passover at the hands of the Priests.

Mt 26:18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Passover – 3957 πάσχα pascha {pas'-khah}

Meaning: 1) the paschal sacrifice (which was accustomed to be offered for the people's deliverance of old from Egypt) 2) the paschal lamb, i.e. the lamb the Israelites were accustomed to slay and eat on the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan (the first month of their year) ...

... in memory of the day on which their fathers, preparing to depart from Egypt, were bidden by God to slay and eat a lamb, and to sprinkle their door posts with its blood, that the destroying angel, seeing the blood, might pass over their dwellings; Messiah crucified is likened to the slain paschal lamb 3) the paschal supper.

Usage: AV - Passover 28, Easter 1; 29

Mt 26:19 And the disciples did as Yeshua had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

This verse leads one to believe that what they are about to engage in is the Passover meal, but is it? The verse states that they made ready.

Mt 26:20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

Mt 26:21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Yeshua ate His last meal (supper) before His crucifixion with His disciples which is why many refer to this meal as "The Lord's Supper". It was an evening meal, not a breakfast or a lunch, but a supper.

Mt 26:22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

Mt 26:23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

Mt 26:24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Mt 26:25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

Mt 26:26 And as they were eating, Yeshua took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Mt 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Mt 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Mt 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Mt 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

After this, we know a series of events will occur:

Judas has to betray Yeshua with a kiss.

Yeshua will be captured and tried by the High Priests.

Peter's third denial and the cock crowing.

Yeshua taken before Pilate.

It is here we find in John's Gospel:

Jn 18:27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Jn 18:28 Then led they Yeshua 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.

Jn 18:29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?

The Passover had not occurred!

Yeshua was sent to Herod

Beaten

Paraded through the streets and crucified at the Passover before sunset and the beginning of the Day of Unleavened Bread, a Sabbath Day.

Mt 26:31 Then saith Yeshua unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Mt 26:32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Mt 26:33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Mt 26:34 Yeshua said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Mt 26:35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Mt 26:36 Then cometh Yeshua with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.