



# Christ's Perfect Passover

Perfect in Prophecy

Perfect in Detail

Perfect in Timing

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness  
over all the land until the ninth hour.

Dan L. White

# **Christ's Perfect Passover**

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**Perfect in Timing**

**By Dan L. White**

## **Christ's Perfect Passover**

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# The Perfect Passover

## Chapter 1

### When God got a Little Donkey

#### For His Little Boy

It was a perfect Passover.

The first Passover in Egypt was not perfect. It was just the shadow. All those years when it was observed, from about 1400 BCE to 30 CE, was a remembrance of coming out of Egypt, but the people still remained in spiritual Egypt. They had no way out of sin.

The last shadow Passover was when Yeshua, the Messiah, the Son of God, was sacrificed. At that Passover, the shadow was replaced by the reality.

That reality was the perfect Passover.

After that perfect Passover service, instead of a lamb being offered, the Lamb of God was offered. Instead of a carnal people emerging from the sea, the perfect sinless Messiah emerged from the grave of human death. Instead of a sheaf of barley being waved before Yahweh, Yeshua was offered, and accepted, as the sacrifice for all repenters.

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So what about the donkey?

*John 12:12-15(WEB)*

*12) On the next day a great multitude had come to the feast. When they heard that Yeshua was coming to Jerusalem,*

*13) they took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet him, and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"*

*14) Yeshua, having found a young donkey, sat on it. As it is written,*

*15) "Don't be afraid, daughter of Zion. Behold, your King comes, sitting on a donkey's colt."*

*Mark 11:2(WEB)*

*... "Go your way into the village that is opposite you. Immediately as you enter into it, you will find a young donkey tied, on which no one has sat. Untie him, and bring him."*

Even if he didn't know it, a certain donkey was appointed from ancient history for that perfect Passover. 500 years before he even existed, his route was laid out.

*Zech 9:9(WEB)*

*9) Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you! He is righteous, and having salvation; lowly, and riding on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

That donkey had never been ridden by anybody, and if you have ever tried to ride an animal that has never been ridden?

Well, don't try it. That's what rodeos are for.

But when he was ridden for the very first time, that donkey did not donkey around, as donkeys normally do the first time somebody climbs up on them.

Why had that donkey foal never been ridden?

This is why -

*Exod 20:25(WEB)*

*25) If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stones; for if you lift up your tool on it, you have polluted it.*

This stone altar to God could not be a human work of art. It was to be native rock, created only by Yahweh, just as He created the writing on the Ten Commandment tablets of stone. To have a human chisel the altar rock would have defiled it with humanness.

You know how people are...

In the same way, when Yahweh came down on Mt. Sinai, the people were forbidden to go up on the mountain where He was.

Or even to touch its border.

*Exod 19:9-17(WEB)*

*9) Yahweh said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever." Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh.*

*10) Yahweh said to Moses, "Go to the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments,*

*11) and be ready against the third day; for on the third day Yahweh will come down in the sight of all the people on Mount Sinai.*

*12) You shall set bounds to the people all around, saying, 'Be careful that you don't go up onto the mountain, or touch its border. Whoever touches the mountain shall be surely put to death.*

*13) No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether it is animal or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come up to the mountain."*

*14) Moses went down from the mountain to the people, and sanctified the people; and*

*they washed their clothes.*

*15) He said to the people, “Be ready by the third day. Don’t have sexual relations with a woman.”*

*16) It happened on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain, and the sound of an exceedingly loud trumpet; and all the people who were in the camp trembled.*

*17) Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the lower part of the mountain.*

If a person or animal crossed over the border of that mountain, they were to be executed, and nobody was to even touch the trespasser.

Wherever the border of that mountain was, you’d better not go there. God was on that mountain.

In the same way, when Moses first personally encountered Yahweh, he shed that with which he was shod.

*Exod 3:1-5(WEB)*

*1) Now Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to God’s mountain, to Horeb.*

*2) The angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

*3) Moses said, “I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.”*

*4) When Yahweh saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, “Moses! Moses!” He said, “Here I am.”*

*5) He said, “Don’t come close. Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place you are standing on is holy ground.”*

God made Moses’ feet, but some man-made Moses’ sandals – maybe Moses himself. In the presence of God, being shod with human footwear is way too shoddy. Moses’ sandals would have defiled the spot where Yahweh was, when Yahweh was there. So the sandals had to go.

*‘Flop, flop.’*

And the same for Joshua’s footwear.

*Josh 5:13-15(WEB)*

*13) It happened, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood in front of him with his sword drawn in his hand. Joshua went to him, and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”*

*14) He said, “No; but I have come now as commander of Yahweh’s army.” Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshipped, and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”*

*15) The prince of Yahweh's army said to Joshua, "Take your shoes off of your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy." Joshua did so.*

That prince of Yahweh's army was the One who became the Messiah, the Rock who went with Israel on their trip to the Promised Land. As the disciple Thomas said, *"My Lord and my God!"*

So Joshua did like Moses –

*'Flop, flop.'*

The Ark of the Covenant was to be carried only by certain Levites, and then only with poles. Once the Ark was finished, humans were not to touch the Ark.

*Exod 25:10-14(WEB)*

*10) "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Its length shall be two and a half cubits, its breadth a cubit and a half, and a cubit and a half its height.*

*11) You shall overlay it with pure gold. You shall overlay it inside and outside, and you shall make a gold molding around it.*

*12) You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four feet. Two rings shall be on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it.*

*13) You shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold.*

*14) You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark.*

During Samuel's time, when the Philistines returned the Ark to Israel, curiosity killed the cat. Well, there was no cat, but arrogant curiosity did kill fifty thousand Israelites.

*1Sam 6:13-15, 19 (WEB)*

*13) They of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.*

*14) The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they split the wood of the cart, and offered up the cows for a burnt offering to Yahweh.*

*15) The Levites took down the ark of Yahweh, and the coffer that was with it, in which the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day to Yahweh.*

*19) He struck of the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of Yahweh, he struck of the people fifty thousand seventy men; and the people mourned, because Yahweh had struck the people with a great slaughter.*

Anyone who dared touch the Ark – for any reason whatsoever! – would defile that earthly throne of Yahweh. David was moving the Ark to Mt. Zion, but no one paid attention to God's instructions not to touch the Ark. Uzzah did touch it and died.



*2Sam 6:3-7(WEB)*

*3) They set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in the hill: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.*

*4) They brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was in the hill, with the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.*

*5) David and all the house of Israel played before Yahweh with all kinds of instruments made of fir wood, and with harps, and with stringed instruments, and with tambourines, and with castanets, and with cymbals.*

*6) When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached for the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the cattle stumbled.*

*7) The anger of Yahweh was kindled against Uzzah; and God struck him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.*

That Ark was God's throne on earth. No human should defile it by touching it.

Again, Christ rode a donkey into Jerusalem as King of the Jews. Why had that donkey never been ridden?

So that no sinful human had ever sat where the sinless Messiah sat.

If even one person had ridden that colt, that would have been one defiled donkey.

Solomon had the king's mule, but Yeshua had the King's donkey. At the highest point in equine history, the donkey who was never ridden carried the King who never sinned.

That donkey was **just one detail in God's divine plan for the Perfect Passover**, but what a delightful detail.

And we can pin that detail on the donkey.

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## Chapter 2

### More Details in the Perfect Passover

*Matt 21:1-11(WEB)*

- 1) *When they drew near to Jerusalem, and came to Bethsphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Yeshua sent two disciples,*
- 2) *saying to them, “Go into the village that is opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them, and bring them to me.*
- 3) *If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and immediately he will send them.”*
- 4) *All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying,*
- 5) *“Tell the daughter of Zion, behold, **your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**”*
- 6) *The disciples went, and did just as Yeshua commanded them,*
- 7) *and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their clothes on them; and he sat on them.*
- 8) *A very great multitude spread their clothes on the road. Others cut branches from the trees, and spread them on the road.*
- 9) *The multitudes who went before him, and who followed kept shouting, “Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”*
- 10) *When he had come into Jerusalem, all the city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”*
- 11) *The multitudes said, “This is the prophet, Yeshua, from Nazareth of Galilee.”*

Yeshua was born to be king of the Jews.

*Matt 2:1-2(WEB)*

- 1) *Now when Yeshua was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,*
- 2) *“Where is he who is born **King of the Jews?** For we saw his star in the east, and have come to worship him.”*

All His earthly life Yeshua had triumphed over sin, over Satan, over self. He who was born to be King of the Jews had His triumphal march into the Holy City as King of the Jews –

On a donkey.

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Julius Caesar tried to be the first emperor of the Roman Empire. Did Julius Caesar ride a donkey into Rome?

Hardly.

He paraded into Rome with a Roman Triumph in 46 BCE, after his victories in various human, meaningless, mangling wars. He was able to kill more people than anyone else in his time, so because of that Julius was received as a great man.

Who is greater?

Someone who kills?

Or someone who saves from death?

This is how Julius Caesar entered Rome.

A Roman Triumph was *“a ritual procession that was the highest honour bestowed upon a victorious general in the ancient Roman Republic...”*

*The magistrates and members of the Senate came first in the processions followed by musicians, the sacrificial animals, the spoils of war, and the captured prisoners in chains. Riding in a chariot festooned with laurel, the victorious general (triumphator) wore the royal purple and gold tunic and toga, holding a laurel branch in his right hand and an ivory sceptre in his left. A slave held a golden crown over the general's head while repeatedly reminding him in the midst of his glory that he was a mortal man. The general's soldiers marched last, singing whatever they liked, which included ribaldry and scandal against their commander, probably as a way to avert the evil eye from him. On reaching the Capitoline temple the general presented his laurel, along with thank-offerings, to the image of Jupiter. The prisoners were usually slain, and the ceremony concluded with a feast for the magistrates and Senate.*

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/triumph-ancient-Roman-honour>

That was what Julius Caesar's entry into Rome was like - riding in a chariot festooned with laurel, wearing royal purple and gold, slaughtering his enslaved prisoners. And He who was born King of the Jews rode into Jerusalem, God's city on earth, on a never ridden donkey, to free the slaves of sin.

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Besides the donkey, the Father put other incredible details into the perfect Passover.

Like the price for Yeshua.

The prophecy -

*Zech 11:12-13(WEB)*

*... So they weighed for my wages thirty pieces of silver.*

*13 Yahweh said to me, "Throw it to the potter, the handsome price that I was valued at by them!" I took the thirty pieces of silver, and threw them to the potter, in the house of Yahweh.*

The reality -

*Matt 26:14-15(WEB)*

*14) Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests,*

*15) and said, "What are you willing to give me, that I should deliver him to you?" They weighed out for him thirty pieces of silver.*

Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave or an owned servant.

*Exod 21:32(WEB)*

*32) If the bull gores a male servant or a female servant, thirty shekels of silver shall be given to their master, and the ox shall be stoned.*

Like the unriden donkey, Yeshua being sold for the price of a slave was another intricate detail of the Perfect Passover.

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Here's incredible detail number three.

That Perfect Passover was packed with threes.

In the Bible the number three is associated with finality. The first three sons born on earth were Cain, Abel and Seth. After the great flood, the population of the world began with Shem, Ham and Japheth. Israel began with three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When Israel demanded a king, the twelve unified tribes began with three human kings, Saul, David and Solomon.

God was working out His plan in all those threes. And the perfect Passover that God planned was packed with threes.

Peter was told he would deny his Master three times, and he did.

Three times the Master prayed, "Let this cup pass away from me."

Three men were crucified, with a guilty criminal on each side of the innocent Messiah.

Three times Pilate told the Jews that Yeshua was innocent.

Then three times the Jews demanded that Yeshua be executed.

Three times Pilate convicted himself by referring to Yeshua as king of the Jews. He claimed that by washing his hands he was innocent of killing Christ, but in John 18 and 19 his own mouth thrice admitted that Yeshua was king of the Jews.

Three times Pilate wrote above Yeshua's head that He was king of the Jews, in the three relevant languages, Hebrew, Greek, and Roman.

Darkness was over the land for three hours. That coming evening was two weeks after the new moon that always sets the month, so it was a full moon. This darkness, then, could not have been an eclipse of the sun, because the moon was in full sunlight on the side of the earth away from the sun, not between the earth and the sun to cause an eclipse. And a solar eclipse lasts only a few minutes, not three hours.

The dead Messiah was in the grave for three days and three nights, as Jonah was in the great fish for three days and three nights. That was not parts of three days. "Three days and three nights" can only mean three days and three nights. It is the opposite of an idiom; it is an exact specification. If that does not mean three days and three nights, then there is no way to say three days and three nights. Three days and three nights shows the result was final, final, final. Yeshua was "dead, dead, dead."

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All these details show that this was a perfect Passover, perfect in all its exact detail and meaning. God the Father planned every step. No detail can be changed or ignored. The Perfect Passover is the work of God the Father Himself.

That perfect Passover has three elements: footwashing, unrisen bread and wine. The shadow Passover had a lamb, unrisen bread and bitter herbs. When the real Lamb had been slain, the shadow lamb was no longer needed. The Passover changed from the shadow lamb, which always stayed dead, to the eternal Lamb, raised from the dead to give life to all His flock.

This Perfect Passover was on the same day as the shadow Passover, the 14<sup>th</sup> after the first new moon, but the service was held as the day began instead of as the day ended.

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### Chapter 3

## Was the Messiah Sacrificed

### At the Wrong Time?

After all the intricate details and planning in the Perfect Passover put there by God the Father –

Was Yeshua sacrificed at the wrong time?

This is hugely important, because if the Jews did not have the right time for the Passover sacrifice, then Christ was sacrificed at the wrong time.

And that would mean the sacrifice on the Perfect Passover had a blemish.

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After Christ was arrested, He was taken before Pilate. The Jews did not go into that hall, because of the upcoming Passover. On the morning after Christ's real Passover service, the Jews were preparing for the shadow Passover.

*John 18:25-28(WEB)*

*25) Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said therefore to him, "You aren't also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, and said, "I am not."*

*26) One of the servants of the high priest, being a relative of him whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?"*

*27) Peter therefore denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed.*

*28) They led Yeshua therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. It was early, and they themselves didn't enter into the Praetorium, that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.*

*Faucett's Bible Dictionary* explains the timing of slaying the lamb.

*On the 14th day he killed it at sunset (Deu 16:6) "between the two evenings" (margin Exo 12:6; Lev 23:5; Num 9:3-5). The rabbis defined two evenings, the first the afternoon (proia) of the sun's declension before sunset, the second (opsia) began with the setting sun; Josephus (B. J., 6:9, section 3) "from the ninth (three o'clock) to the 11th hour" (five o'clock). The ancient custom was to slay the Passover shortly after the daily sacrifice, i.e. three o'clock, with which hour Christ's death coincided.*

The Messiah was sacrificed at the time that the Passover sacrifice was to be made. Would

you expect anything less from the Master Planner?

Yeshua fulfilled the Passover, and became the lamb that shed its blood. So he was sacrificed at the time of the historical Passover sacrifice, in the last watch of the day.

The Jews had the right time, and Yeshua was sacrificed at that time.

That is absolute.

If that is not so, then the Messiah was sacrificed at the wrong time, and not at the Passover time that He fulfilled. With all the details that God the Father put into the perfect Passover, was He going to get the time of the sacrifice for humanity wrong?

Absolutely not.

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Yes, the Jews observe the Passover at the time that was set in Egypt, and that time is as the 14<sup>th</sup> ended, going into the 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the first high day of Unleavened Bread.

But obviously there's a difference between the time of the Jews' sacrifice at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the time that Christ observed Passover with His disciples, at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. To account for that, one teaching is that somewhere in time the Jews lost the true time of the Passover; and that when Christ kept Passover on the evening before the Jews did, He was keeping the right time for Passover that the Jews had kept at a previous time in history.

This view is supported by some Christians and some Jews. The Jews, obviously, do not accept the New Testament as the true word of God, so they lose the platform of truth that it is. The New Testament is part of the inspired word of God, and shows when the Jews observed Passover at the time of the second Temple.

In the New Testament, Christ and the first flock of Christians obviously accepted the observance of the Feasts at the Temple.

The first Feast is the weekly Sabbath. Yeshua and the Jews differed on the purpose of the Sabbath, but they never differed on when the weekly Sabbath is. So the Jews had the first Feast - the Sabbath - right.

They also had the other Feasts right.

Notice when Joseph and Mary went to the Passover and Unleavened Bread Feast with twelve year old Yeshua.

*Luke 2:40-42(WEB)*

*40) The child was growing, and was becoming strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom,*

*and the grace of God was upon him.*

*41) His parents went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover.*

*42) When he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast,*

They had no question about when Passover and the Feast was. They attended every year, according to the Temple dating of that Feast as it was, with the first chodesh or new moon of the new year in the spring. They and their son, the Son of God, fully accepted when the Passover was at the Temple.

Further, God the Father also approved those Feast days when that passage ended with God's favor.

*Luke 2:52(WEB)*

*52) And Yeshua increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

Notice also what Paul said about Passover.

*1Cor 5:7-8(WEB)*

*7) Purge out the old yeast, that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed in our place.*

*8) Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

When Paul said that Christ our Passover was sacrificed in our place, he was confirming that the Passover of the Jews where Christ was offered was at the right time. Had Yeshua been sacrificed at the wrong time, and not on God's Passover, Paul would surely have pointed that out.

Notice the example of Christ and the first Passover in his forty-two month teaching period.

*John 2:13-23(WEB)*

*13) The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Yeshua went up to Jerusalem.*

*14) He found in the temple those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting.*

*15) He made a whip of cords, and threw all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the changers' money, and overthrew their tables.*

*16) To those who sold the doves, he said, "Take these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace!"*

*17) His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will eat me up."*

*23) Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his name, observing his signs which he did.*

What Yeshua did at that Passover time was to remove some of the leaven of the Jews. He



corrected them, aggressively, in the Temple! However, He never mentioned about them having the wrong time for Passover. He was in corrective mode, and He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, but He did not correct their Passover time. That means He accepted it as correct.

And in the faith chapter, Hebrews 11, we see a further affirmation of the Passover of the Jews.

*Heb 11:24-28(WEB)*

*24) By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,*

*25) choosing rather to share ill treatment with God's people, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time;*

*26) accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

*27) By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

*28) By faith, he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of the blood, that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch them.*

Hebrews is written to the Hebrews, including the Jews who worshiped at and oversaw the Temple. When the writer tells the Jews that Moses kept the Passover, he obviously means that Moses kept the same Passover as the Jews kept. The unstated presumption is that Moses and the Jews kept the same Passover time.

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However, the biggest point about this is -

The Jews had to have the correct time for Passover, else the Messiah's sacrifice would have been at the wrong time.

Yeshua was slain at the time that the Jews observed Passover, in the last watch of the day, which was called between the two evenings. That was part of the great historical plan of salvation. He was the sacrificial lamb without blemish. So to say that the Jews had the wrong time for Passover is to say that the Messiah was offered as the lamb at the wrong time - which would mean that His sacrifice was not perfect and would not be accepted by the Father.

Remember how the Father is perfect in details. The sons of Aaron offered strange fire and were fired. If Aaron had not worn the jingling bells into the Holy of Holies, Yahweh would have rung his bell. Ananias and Sapphira gave up half their wealth but lied about the other half, and were soon lying in their graves.

Details, details, details!

God is really big on details. An imperfect sacrifice was not to be accepted. The lamb had to be without blemish, and the offering of it also had to be without blemish. No strange fire and no strange time. Yeshua was accepted as our sacrifice only because He was perfect. There is no way that this perfect sacrifice would be offered imperfectly -

At the wrong time!

So the Son of God had to be sacrificed at the time the Jews sacrificed a Passover lamb. That was the only way to be perfect.

*Matt 5:48(WEB)*

*48) Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

*Deut 32:1-4(WEB)*

*1) Give ear, you heavens, and I will speak. Let the earth hear the words of my mouth.*

*2) My doctrine shall drop as the rain. My speech shall condense as the dew, as the small rain on the tender grass, as the showers on the herb.*

*3) For I will proclaim the name of Yahweh. Ascribe greatness to our God!*

*4) The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice: a God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Because He was perfect and His offering was perfect, Yeshua's sacrifice was accepted -

Including the time he was offered.

Yes! The Messiah was sacrificed for us at the right time. Thank God for that!

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## Chapter 4

### The Feast of Leavened Bread?

If the Passover sacrifice of the Jews was as the 14<sup>th</sup> began, then Israel could not have left Egypt until the next night.

Why not?

Unleavened Bread is about leaving Egypt, and if Israel had left on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>, they would have left Egypt before the seven Days of Unleavened Bread began on the 15<sup>th</sup>. So it is sometimes said that Israel did indeed stay in Egypt for a full day after the death angel passed over.

But –

If Israel stayed in Egypt all the next day and then left the next night, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, what about their dough?

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Remember, every home in Egypt had lost a firstborn.

Can you imagine that?

The God of Israel had just bludgeoned Egypt with their tenth and worst plague; and every home, every family from the lowest peasant to the puffed up Pharaoh, had lost a firstborn.

The firstborn is always special. Always!

Why?

Because that is your first child. It's not just another baby. It's you reproducing yourself; and you know what you think of you!

I remember when one of my daughters had her firstborn. She said, "I can't believe I have my own baby. Praise God!"

How would she feel on a night that she lost that firstborn?

How would you feel on a night when you lost your firstborn?

*Zech 12:10(WEB)*

*10) I will pour on the house of David, and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of*

*grace and of supplication; and they will look to me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and will grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for his firstborn.*

How would you feel if you lost your firstborn? You would “*grieve bitterly.*”

Would the Egyptians feel any less?

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Indeed, the Egyptians were deathly distraught.

*Exod 12:29-34(WEB)*

*29) It happened at midnight, that Yahweh struck 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 livestock.*

*30) Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and **there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.***

*31) He called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “**Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel; and go, serve Yahweh, as you have said!***

*32) Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and **be gone; and bless me also!**”*

*33) **The Egyptians were urgent with the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, “We are all dead men.”***

*34) **The people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.***

Notice the connection there – Israel rushing out of Egypt that night caused their bread to be unleavened.

Had they not rushed out of Egypt that night, their bread would not have been unleavened.

Egypt had lost a major portion of their population – in one night! – and each remaining Egyptian was deathly afraid he was going to be next. “*We’re all dead men!*” they said.

After ten plagues: bloody water, frogs, lice, flies, dead livestock, boils, hail, locusts, total darkness – do you think the people were tired of being plagued?

Then the plagues ended with the worst one of all – every family, every home lost their firstborn.

Guess what?

Those Egyptians who were still alive really, really wanted Israel out of Egypt! To say they were “*urgent with the people!*” is surely one of the great understatements of all time. I will

even call it an “elobrepyh” – the perfect opposite of hyperbole.

Let's restate the obvious – Egypt wanted Israel out of their country. After that Passover night, when the death angel did not pass over them, they did not want to wait one minute to get Israel deported, exported and transported far away. They were afraid to wait another night or day. They might not even be alive then!

So there was no way that Israel was going to hang around Egypt for another day. After all, being rushed out of Egypt is the very reason their bread was unleavened. Why is it named the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Because their glumpy, dumpy, dough didn't have time to rise. Israel was pushed out in such a hurry that their dough just had to go the way it was.

We repeat the question: if Israel had hung around Egypt all the next day after Passover, what about their dough?

Here's what their dough would have been like.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrqalBrRtLg>

*In case you haven't seen that episode, Lucy added too much yeast and baked an 8 foot long loaf of bread. That was a real loaf of bread, but baked by a baker, not by Lucy. You can see that it was leavened, like Israel's dough if they had hung around Egypt for another day.*

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So here's a supposed scenario –

Israel did not leave Egypt in a hurry. They did not have their belts or shoes on, and their staffs were stuck in the corner. They did not eat the Passover in haste, and they did not

leave that night but left the next night. By this reasoning Israel spent all day collecting spoils from the Egyptians, and then left on the first day of Unleavened Bread.

However, the reality was –

Pharaoh *“called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise up, get out!” All of Egypt was “urgent with the people!”*

*Exod 12 (WEB)*

*11) This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is Yahweh’s Passover.*

*34) The people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.*

If Israel did not leave when the Egyptians urged them to, and if they waited around all the next day getting stuff together, then why would they leave that next night? If staying all day was all right, why not wait until the next day and get some sleep? If the Egyptians weren’t urgent on them, what difference would one more night make?

If they been up the previous night when the Egyptians were in a frenzy, then worked all that day with their stuff, and then left the next night –

They would have been some very tired, sleepy people.

And what would be the spiritual lesson from Israel not leaving Egypt in a hurry, but dallying for a day getting all their stuff together? Obviously the lesson there is that you do not have to leave Egypt – this sinful world – in a hurry. You can take your time and leave sin at your leisure.

Again, Christ was sacrificed as the 14<sup>th</sup> ended and the 15<sup>th</sup> began. Israel did keep the correct time for Passover and Yeshua was slain at that right time.

Teaching that the Jews kept the Passover at the wrong time leads to an overstretched word study to try to establish that the Egypt Passover was not as the 14<sup>th</sup> ended, but as the 14<sup>th</sup> began. This has them teaching that when Christ was sacrificed toward the end of the 14<sup>th</sup>, He was sacrificed at the wrong time, and that Israel did not rush out of Egypt in a hurry and waited a whole day to leave, which contradicts the whole basis of Unleavened Bread. Their dough was unleavened only because they were in such a rush to leave. Take away the rush to leave and you take away unleavened bread.

The irony is that those who maintain that the Jews had the wrong time for Passover do themselves observe Passover as the Messiah did in the Perfect Passover. They keep it when the 14<sup>th</sup> begins, as He did. And as the 15<sup>th</sup> begins, they begin to observe the first high day of Unleavened Bread, although they generally do not observe the whole Feast of Unleavened Bread, only the high days.

So they wind up following Christ in the way they keep Passover, in spite of unnecessary confusing complexities as to how they get there. Why not just simply follow what Christ did and accept that as the reason?

Again we say –

With all the details that God the Father put into the perfect Passover, He was not going to get the time of the sacrifice for humanity wrong. It's absolute that Yeshua was sacrificed at the time of the historical Passover sacrifice. At that time, that afternoon, the last watch of the day, He became the Passover lamb.

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There is another problem, though, with teaching that Christ was sacrificed at the wrong time.

When Feast keepers examine the teaching that –

the Jews lost Passover;  
Israel hung around Egypt for another day getting their stuff together;  
Christ was sacrificed at the wrong time;

– many now see the obvious weaknesses therein.

So then, when people understand that Israel's Passover sacrifice in Egypt was toward the end of the 14<sup>th</sup>, they sometimes conclude that is our example of when Christ's flock today should observe Passover.

But that conflicts with what the Messiah did at the Perfect Passover.

In fact, we don't have to look back three millennia for our prime Passover example. We just need to look at what the Messiah did. He is our example.

After all, He's the one who passed over the houses with the blood on the doors.

*Exod 12:21-23(WEB)*

*21) Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, "Draw out, and take lambs according to your families, and kill the Passover.*

*22) You shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.*

*23) For Yahweh will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when he sees the blood on the lintel, and on the two doorposts, Yahweh will pass over the door, and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to strike you.*

So the Jews did condemn the Son of God to be sacrificed at the correct time for Passover.

God the Father allowed that to happen. That had to be correct.

However, the reality is that Yeshua and His disciples did keep Passover on the evening before the Jews did. That had to be correct, too.

God planned all that very carefully, so the timing of that Passover service with Christ and His disciples was part of God's meticulous arrangement. It was a perfectly planned event, including the donkey and the timing.

*Perfect!*

The question then is –

Which Passover time does Christ's flock observe?

The time of the shadow Passover, observed as the 14<sup>th</sup> ended, the time that the Jews still observe, and have observed since Egypt?

Or the time that Yeshua and His disciples observed, on the night He was betrayed, as the 14<sup>th</sup> began?

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## Chapter 5

### The Night He was Betrayed

What Christ and His disciples observed definitely was the Passover.

It was not some new Christian observance known as the Last Supper, as claimed by those Christians who refuse to observe the Passover at all. Make no mistake about it – Yeshua and his disciples all referred to their observance as the Passover.

Notice in the following passage –

1. the disciples called it the Passover;
2. Christ called it the Passover;

3. God the Father called it the Passover, when He put in Holy Writ that “they prepared the Passover.”

*Matt 26:17-19(WEB)*

17) Now on the first day of unleavened bread, the disciples came to Yeshua, saying to him, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the **Passover**?” [Disciples called it Passover.]

18) He said, “Go into the city to a certain person, and tell him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand. I will keep the **Passover** at your house with my disciples.”’” [Christ called it Passover.]

19) The disciples did as Yeshua commanded them, and they prepared the **Passover**. [God called it Passover, as described in His holy book.]

This is repeated in the other parallel gospels.

*Mark 14:12-16(WEB)*

12) On the first day of unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the Passover, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare that you may eat the **Passover**?”

13) He sent two of his disciples, and said to them, “Go into the city, and there you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him,

14) and wherever he enters in, tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the **Passover with my disciples**.”’”

15) He will himself show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Get ready for us there.”

16) His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found things as he had said to

*them, and they prepared the **Passover**.*

Again, the point to notice there is that both Christ and His disciples called their service, as the 14<sup>th</sup> began, the night before the Jews' sacrifice, the Passover.

We have seen from those passages that in all three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, the disciples and Christ call their observance the Passover. Thus there can be no doubt that what they observed was the Passover.

Yet it was unmistakably at a different time than the Jews observed. Same day, the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month, with the day beginning at sunset, but a different time on that day.

So then -

Which time did the early flock observe?

1. As the 14<sup>th</sup> began, as Yeshua observed;
2. Or as the 14<sup>th</sup> ended, as Israel had observed since Egypt?

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Yeshua said He would not observe Passover again with His disciples until He is with them in the Kingdom of God.

*Luke 22:14-16(WEB)*

*14) When the hour had come, he sat down with the twelve apostles.*

*15) He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat **this Passover** with you before I suffer, 16) for I tell you, **I will no longer by any means eat of it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.**"*

When Christ observes that Passover in the Kingdom of God with His disciples, will He keep it as He did on the night He was betrayed, when He created a new covenant for His followers? Or will He observe it as it was observed in the old covenant, before He became the sacrifice?

Which is to say -

Will the sacrifice and death of Yeshua be undone?

Of course not.

*Heb 7:23-25(WEB)*

*23) Many, indeed, have been made priests, because they are hindered from continuing by death.*

*24) But he, because he lives forever, has his priesthood unchangeable.*

*25) Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, seeing that he lives forever to make intercession for them.*

The dead lamb is forever superseded by the living Lamb. So in the Kingdom of God, when the living Lamb keeps the Passover with his resurrected disciples, He will have the same memorial service that He had with them when He said that. That means they will do it at the same time as they did then.

What a reunion that will be! The disciples and the Messiah together, remembering that night in which He was delivered, before the day He was offered. What a Passover that will be!

The shadow Passover of the old covenant did not pay the death penalty for sin. It only reminded them they were under that death penalty. The new covenant Passover, with Christ's sacrifice, did pay the death penalty for sin. Christ's disciples will be there in the Kingdom only because of the new covenant Passover that was established on the night He was betrayed.

The Kingdom Passover observed by Christ, then, will be the new covenant Passover, else His disciples wouldn't even be there. He and they will then observe it as they did on the night He was betrayed, when He established the new covenant.

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Paul commanded Christians to keep the Feast of Passover-Unleavened Bread.

*1Cor 5:7-8(WEB)*

*7) Purge out the old yeast, that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover**, has been sacrificed in our place.*

*8) Therefore **let us keep the feast**, not with old yeast, neither with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

This is a direct command to observe the Feast. The Gentiles in the Corinth congregation learned to observe the Feasts when they became Christian, from the Hebrew scriptures, the only scriptures they had. Paul used their knowledge of the Bible Feast to tell them to put away the leaven of their terrible sinning. He used what they already knew, Passover and Unleavened Bread, to teach them a Feast lesson - don't tolerate sin.

Those who forsake the Bible Feasts say this was only a metaphor and not a command. But when Paul said "let us keep the feast," if that did not mean to actually keep the feast, then how could he possibly say "let us keep the feast"?

So when Paul said "let us keep the feast," he meant this -

***"LET US KEEP THE FEAST!"***

Then, in the same letter, Paul told the Corinth congregation how to observe Passover.

They were to observe it as Yeshua did, on the night He was betrayed.

*1Cor 11:23-26(WEB)*

*23) For **I received from the Lord that which also I delivered to you, that the Lord Yeshua on the night in which he was betrayed** took bread.*

*24) When he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me.”*

*25) In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me.”*

*26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

*27) Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in a way unworthy of the Lord will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.*

*28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup.*

Paul delivered to the flock that they were to eat the bread and drink the cup “*on the night in which He was betrayed.*”

Since Paul specifically mentioned that time, the assembly understood they were to keep the Passover service at that time. That was part of the teaching that Paul delivered to them. If they were not to observe Passover “on the night in which he was betrayed,” he wouldn’t have mentioned it at all.

What he didn’t mention at all was the next afternoon. If the assembly was not to keep the Passover “on the night He was betrayed” but on the next afternoon, Paul would have had to specifically and emphatically point that out.

Like -

‘But we’re not going to do it on the night He was betrayed. We’re going to have the bread and cup the next afternoon, when the Romans killed Him, and when the Jews eat the lamb.’

Obviously Paul did not do that. He delivered to them to observe the night He was betrayed, as the 14<sup>th</sup> began, as Christ Himself had done with the disciples.

Moreover, since the Corinth Christians were taking the elements of the Perfect Passover, the bread and the cup, and they were not eating the Passover Lamb of the shadow Passover, then they would naturally take the new elements ....

.... at the time Christ had introduced the new elements.

It is contradictory to take the elements of the real Passover at the time of the shadow Passover.

The Corinth assembly would not take those new elements at the time when the lamb was sacrificed. They were not going to sacrifice a lamb. They were going to observe the remembrance of the Son of God giving His body and blood for His flock. That meant having the footwashing, bread and cup on the night Yeshua was betrayed - to do the same as He did, at the same time that He did.

You take the footwashing, bread and wine “on the night in which He was betrayed.”

And that’s what Paul delivered to the assembly, both to Corinth at that time, and to all the succeeding flock since then, in holy writ, the New Testament.

This was a Perfect Passover, in all its details and elements. That’s how the Father planned it, to include the three new elements of the Passover, and the new time of the Passover service. It was all good, for all eternity.

So here is the critical question -

After observing that Passover with the Messiah the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>, did the eleven original disciples then go back the next afternoon and observe the shadow Passover with the Jews?

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## Chapter 6

### The Critical Question

When this happened -

*John 19:12-16(WEB)*

*12) At this, Pilate was seeking to release him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this man, you aren't Caesar's friend! Everyone who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar!"*

*13) When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Yeshua out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called "The Pavement," but in Hebrew, "Gabbatha."*

*14) Now it was the **Preparation Day of the Passover**, at about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!"*

*15) They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"*

*16) So then he delivered him to them to be crucified. So they took Yeshua and led him away.*

- that was the preparation day of the Passover.

What Passover?

The shadow Passover, on the day and time the Jews had always observed, which was later that day, the day Yeshua was sacrificed.

After observing the Perfect Passover, with the bread and cup, the blood and body of the Son of God, did the disciples of Yeshua also observe the shadow Passover that next afternoon, with the Jews who rejected that reality?

Did Peter, James, and John and the rest of the eleven return to the time of the shadow Passover?

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The shadow Passover was a reminder of sin, not a remedy for sin.

*Heb 10:1-4(WEB)*

*1) For the law, having a shadow of the good to come, not the very image of the things, can never with the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.*

*2) Or else wouldn't they have ceased to be offered, because the worshippers, having been once cleansed, would have had no more consciousness of sins?*

*3) But in those sacrifices there is a yearly reminder of sins.*

*4) For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.*

Surely Christ did not intend for His disciples to eat the Passover lamb with the Jews after His death. That lamb was forever replaced by the real Lamb.

The Jews went on with the shadow Passover, but as a whole they missed the real Passover, even to this day. Christ's first flock was all Israelites, but as a people the Jews did and do reject Yeshua as the Messiah, their king, their sacrifice for sin.

After learning of the body and blood of the real Lamb, then the next day seeing the body and blood of the real Lamb sacrificed, why would the disciples even think of going back to the blood and physical meat of a lamb that was irreparably dead? And if they were not going to have the lamb and bitter herbs, but were going to have the bread and wine at Passover, why would they take the bread and wine at the time of the lamb and bitter herbs?

Consider this -

Even today, Passover is the most moving service of the year. It is not a time to party; it is a time to ponder.

As Paul emphasized.

*1 Cor 11*

*26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*27) So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

*28) Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*

*29) For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.*

I once saw a Passover service where the speaker spoke -

Way too much.

He was trying to teach the lesson of Egypt, as the Jews do. But after a couple hours, in the multitude of his words the Passover sublimity was submerged.

Passover is Yeshua's death, the payment for your death. Even removed from that event by two millennia, observing that time with the bread, wine and footwashing, and reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John who were there with Christ that night, still moves the spirit and dampens the eyes.

Can you imagine -

- the reality of the real Passover?

Having the Creator of the universe get down, and remove your sandals?

Here's a tidbit of eternal truth -

When you wear sandals, your feet get dirty.

Remember how Moses and Joshua had to take off their sandals in the presence of this being? Yet on that Passover night, this being got down and the dusty sandals were removed again - except He removed them! He - the Creator, the Master, the Messiah - took them off so He could wash their dirty feet.

Your dirty feet!

Sublime = greatness beyond all possibility of calculation, measurement, or imitation. The Son of God serving His creation, washing the feet of those He created and would die for, and giving us the bread for His beaten body and the wine for His spilt blood is....

**Sublime: beyond all possibility of calculation, measurement, or imitation.**

It don't get no better'n that.

And then the disciples, with their washed feet, saw all that happen the next afternoon - the body beaten and the blood spilled.

We remember the day of the birth of each of our children. With number one, we were at a picnic when labor began. With two, we were home in bed late at night. With three, a tornado was coming down the highway. With four, we were canning tomatoes. With five, we were at a tennis court. We remember each of those days, because of what happened - the birth of a beloved child.

That night of the first real Passover, the perfect Passover, would be remembered for life in the hearts of those disciples. Even if it was not a commanded time to observe, they would still have honored that moment, never to be forgotten or overlooked.

Repeating the question -

After taking the Passover with Yeshua as the 14<sup>th</sup> began, would they have taken it again the next afternoon?

No.

Why not?

They'd already taken the Passover.



There was no reason for them to take it again that same day. In the emotional high point of their lives, they had taken the Passover with the Messiah, and learned about the perfect Passover, that would endure into the Kingdom of God. And those disciples would have been shocked by the notion of also keeping the shadow Passover that next afternoon, including the lamb, the bitter herbs, or the timing.

No way they would return to the shadow Passover.

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Then -

Since the disciples did not go back to the shadow Passover the next day after the Perfect Passover -

**What did they do the next year?**

Would they go back to observing a dead lamb?

Certainly not.

And if they were not going to eat that lamb, they were not going to observe the time of eating that lamb. It is a contradiction to take the elements of the new covenant Passover at the time of the old covenant Passover. They had a different Lamb, and they observed the different time for Passover that Lamb had taught them, with the footwashing, bread and wine.

Again, it's totally unrealistic to think that at some point, those original disciples - that first flock - would forsake what Yeshua had done with them, either what He did or when He did it.

Furthermore, if the risen Messiah did not intend for those disciples at that time to change what He had taught them, then He did not intend for any of His disciples to do that, at any point in time, on through into the Kingdom.

**If He did not intend for His disciples to go back to the shadow Passover the next year, then He did not intend for any of His disciples to go back to the shadow Passover ever, on into the future, into the Kingdom.**

From that point forward, Christ's disciples were to observe the Passover as He had shown them, that night before His slaughter, on the night He was betrayed, in the perfect Passover service.

How repugnant it would have been for them to go eat the shadow lamb when they had

seen the real Lamb sacrificed. And if they were not going to eat the shadow lamb, there was no purpose in keeping that time of Passover, which was centered around that physical lamb. From then on, their Passover was on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>, not the next afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>, simply because that was God's divine design in the Perfect Passover. Same day, different Lamb, different ceremony, different time.

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Understand this. When Yeshua observed the Passover with his disciples, He was not re-establishing the Passover held in Egypt. The Passover that Christ made was a remembrance – a memorial. It was not just moving the Passover from afternoon to night, it was a totally new, enormously more important event. It was a remembering of the offering he was giving, self sacrifice in the supreme, giving himself up to death to save us from it.

**Therefore his Passover was not just remembering coming out of Egypt, but was commemorating coming out of death.**

That was a totally new Passover, based on the old, but hugely different.

Notice again, when Paul quoted what Christ said that night.

*1Cor 11:23-25(WEB)*

*23) For I received from the Lord that which also I delivered to you, that the Lord Yeshua on the night in which he was betrayed took bread.*

*24) When he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this **in memory of me.**"*

*25) In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, **in memory of me.**"*

*26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.***

The King James and most other English versions use "in remembrance" instead of "in memory."

*1Cor 11:23-25 KJV*

*24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do **in remembrance of me.***

*25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.***

*26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.***

This New Covenant Passover is not commemorating the Passover in Egypt. It is a

memorial of Christ offering Himself for His flock.

We are to take these particular symbols not because of what happened in Egypt, but because of what happened in Jerusalem that incredible night -

*Do this... in memory of me. (This do in remembrance of me.) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

This is all about Him. This is his memorial. His body, his blood, his offering.

This had never been done before. The disciples had no reason to go back to the Egypt Passover in any respect, because this was a magnificent, magnanimous, monumental memorial -

The Creator giving Himself for His creation.

This was a one time in history event, and that night is His memorial of that event.

That was the plan God the Father put in place, in all its providential perfection. Who can dare change that? Who can dare imply that was less than perfect? Who can not be awed by the depth of the meaning of His death, His offering, His memorial?

A memorial of the perfect sacrifice - Yeshua the Son of God!

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But there is one more point in this perfect Passover...

*John 19:41(WEB)*

*41) Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb in which no man had ever yet been laid.*

*42) Then because of the Jews' Preparation Day (for the tomb was near at hand) they laid Yeshua there.*

Like the never ridden donkey, this was a tomb in which no person had ever lain, a virgin tomb divinely prepared for the body of this perfect little boy of God the Father.

You see, this whole Passover was perfectly planned, perfectly executed, and is the perfect pattern for us. For us to not follow this pattern of the footwashing, the bread, the wine, and the time He did it, is to not follow Christ and the Father in their perfect plan for Passover.

If you're going to take the elements of the perfect Passover, then it makes no sense to do it at the time of the shadow Passover. What a blessed privilege it is to wash those feet, to eat that bread, to drink that wine, and repeat that night when He and His disciples first did it

-

*“On the night in which He was betrayed.”*

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## Chapter 7

### The Donkey, the Pitcher Man, and the Prepared Room

Remember the donkey?

*Mark 11:1-10(WEB)*

- 1) When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethsphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,*
- 2) and said to them, “Go your way into the village that is opposite you. Immediately as you enter into it, you will find a young donkey tied, on which no one has sat. Untie him, and bring him.*
- 3) If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs him;’ and immediately he will send him back here.”*
- 4) They went away, and found a young donkey tied at the door outside in the open street, and they untied him.*
- 5) Some of those who stood there asked them, “What are you doing, untying the young donkey?”*
- 6) They said to them just as Yeshua had said, and they let them go.*
- 7) They brought the young donkey to Yeshua, and threw their garments on it, and Yeshua sat on it.*
- 8) Many spread their garments on the way, and others were cutting down branches from the trees, and spreading them on the road.*
- 9) Those who went in front, and those who followed, cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*
- 10) Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”*

The bystanders were understandably surprised that the disciples were taking somebody's donkey. What would you do if somebody tried to donkey with your donkey?

How did the disciples feel about Yeshua's instructions? They had been told to heal the sick and cast out demons, but never before in their lives had they been told to walk off with somebody's donkey!

But that was a dedicated donkey, bred and born for that one ride, that one day. So the disciples believed Yeshua, did what He said...

And walked off with somebody's donkey.

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Those guys had seen and heard some amazing things in the past three and a half years,

such as had never happened in the history of the world. But now they were also told to -  
Follow some guy carrying a pitcher of water.

*Mark 14:13-15(WEB)*

*13) He sent two of his disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and there you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him,*

*14) and wherever he enters in, tell the master of the house, "The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?""*

*15) He will himself show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Get ready for us there."*

Can you visualize that scene?

The disciples arrived in town, looked around for the pitcher guy, and...

*'There he is!'*

So they scooted in behind and followed him. It doesn't even say that the pitcher guy looked around at the disciples. He just acted kinda like the dedicated donkey, except he was the dedicated pitcher guy, following his dedicated route.

Like the cows who took the Ark from the Philistines back to Israel.

*1 Sam 6:12*

*The cows took the straight way by the way to Beth Shemesh; they went along the highway, lowing as they went, and didn't turn aside to the right hand or to the left...*

Okay, the pitcher guy probably didn't moo, but like the cows he just kept going on his route, and didn't turn aside to the right or left.

But why were the disciples following the pitcher guy? What would they need a pitcher of water for?

(I think I know!)

The disciples were told by Yeshua to prepare the Passover, but when the water guy led them to the large upper room - the room was already "furnished" by the "master of the house." It was already ready for the perfect Passover!

And they even had a pitcher of water!

Apparently the disciples didn't bother to ask, "How did you know we needed your room for Passover?"

You see, that was all taken care of.

The dedicated donkey, the man carrying a pitcher of water, the room that was prepared

and ready -

What detailed planning, by the Master Planner!

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That detailed planning by the Master Planner included the time of the perfect Passover, the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Same Passover day, with a new time, new body, new blood, for the real Passover to replace the Egyptian shadow.

*Heb 10:11-14(WEB)*

*11) Every priest indeed stands day by day serving and often offering the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins,*

*12) but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

*13) from that time waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet.*

*14) For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

That Perfect Passover led to us being perfected before God, sanctified by the Son and His Passover. Now you and I know very well that we ain't perfect, but because of that Passover, God accepts us as -

Perfect!

That service was held as the 14<sup>th</sup> began.

There is no question that Christ held that service then.

There is no question that they called it Passover.

The disciples would not then have also kept Passover that next afternoon.

Nor would they have kept it the next afternoon of the next year.

And so on and so on.

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So can we change what the Messiah did?

Well, we can't say what He did was wrong, when He observed Passover on the night He was betrayed. And if what He did was not wrong, then following His example of holding the Passover service at the start of the 14<sup>th</sup> can't be wrong. If He was not wrong in doing that, then we're not wrong in doing that.

Christ Himself will judge us, you know. Will He reprimand us for following His example?

If we can change the time that He held Passover, can we then presume to change other things that He did?

Nominal Christians do change the time. They hold their version of this service with communion and footwashing whenever the mood strikes them. But the question must be faced –

Is changing the time from the night He was betrayed to the next afternoon doing the same thing?

If we change the time of the Perfect Passover, are we touching the Ark, or keeping our sandals on in the presence of Yahweh, or taking the priest's censor as Uzziah did?

*2Chr 26:3-4, 16-21(WEB)*

*3) Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Jechiliah, of Jerusalem.*

*4) He did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.*

*16) But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up, so that he did corruptly, and he trespassed against Yahweh his God; for he went into the temple of Yahweh to burn incense on the altar of incense.*

*17) Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him eighty priests of Yahweh, who were valiant men:*

*18) and they resisted Uzziah the king, and said to him, "It isn't for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to Yahweh, but for the priests the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary; for you have trespassed; neither shall it be for your honor from Yahweh God."*

*19) Then Uzziah was angry; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense; and while he was angry with the priests, the leprosy broke forth in his forehead before the priests in the house of Yahweh, beside the altar of incense.*

*20) Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked on him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out quickly from there; yes, himself hurried also to go out, because Yahweh had struck him.*

*21) Uzziah the king was a leper to the day of his death, and lived in a separate house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of Yahweh: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.*

Notice that Uzziah *"did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh,"* but because of his moment of royal uppitiness, *"Yahweh struck the king."* Uzziah thought he was doing right in taking the censor, but he was contradicting the one who is always right, when He said only a priest could do that.

And with the Ark of the Covenant, Uzzah was only trying to protect it! But everybody



forgot what those rings on the corners of the Ark were there for. When Uzzah touched it, then they knew they had done something wrong.

Fortunately, Moses and Joshua did take off their sandals on holy ground.

*'Flop, flop.'*

Now if Moses and Joshua had to take off their sandals in the presence of God; and if Uzzah, albeit trying to do good, paid the price for disrespecting God's detailed instructions about the Ark; and if good king Uzziah became a lifelong leper because he tried to change God's detail about who could offer incense, a person should consider carefully before changing that perfect time of the Perfect Passover.

As country poet Robert Frost said, "Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up."

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Most simply put, this all comes down to one question -

Do we follow the example of the Messiah for what we do at Passover and when we do it, or not?

*John 13:12-17(WEB)*

*12) So when he had washed their feet, put his outer garment back on, and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"*

*13) You call me, 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You say so correctly, for so I am.*

*14) If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

*15) For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.*

*16) Most certainly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his lord, neither one who is sent greater than he who sent him.*

*17) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

Yeshua was specifically referring to footwashing there, but when He said "these things," He was referring to the whole new covenant Passover service. Blessed are you if you do them. Our lord and rabbi gave us this example. It is perfect - perfectly planned through the ages, and perfectly executed.

The Perfect Passover!

The Perfect Passover proclaimed the Lord's death. This was the real Passover, the new covenant in His blood. To take the footwashing, bread and wine at any time other than when Yeshua instituted is to imply that the Father's Passover was imperfect.

That Passover was perfect, though, in such diminutive detail that only God could have done it.

What an incredibly inspiring scene that is. Our Creator giving Himself for us, in a perfectly planned historical event, down to the most minute details. I, and this is so for each guilty person, can picture Him kneeling down and washing my feet, giving me His bread and cup on the day He died, and heavily trudging over to the Garden and accepting His own cup. Then He was betrayed by His twelfth disciple; taken by the high priest who represented Him; handed over to be flogged and crucified by Rome; until at the very end, He uttered perhaps His most meaningful words -

*“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”*

He died so that we could be forgiven, and with one of his final breaths, in a painful heave of His sagging, suffocating chest, He asked for that.

*“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”*

Take a deep breath yourself, and let that sink in.....

After Yeshua had given up the spirit, blood and water gushed from His pierced side. But in a final prophetic kindness to God’s only begotten Son, his legs were not broken.

*Exod 12:46(WEB)*

*46) In one house shall it [the Passover lamb] be eaten; you shall not carry out anything of the flesh abroad out of the house; **neither shall you break a bone of it.***

*John 19:30-33(WEB)*

*30) When Yeshua therefore had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished.” He bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.*

*31) Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn’t remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*

*32) Therefore the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him;*

*33) but when they came to Yeshua, and saw that he was already dead, they didn’t break his legs.*

Yes, they - Jews and Gentiles, the whole world, you and I - killed Him with our self-loving sins, but in one last merciful detail, they did not break a bone in his beaten, bloodied body.

We are so thankful they did not break his legs! Hallelujah in the highest that after all He went through, at least not a bone was broken in our beloved Lamb!

Human language is a marvelous thing, but there are no words, there is no description

fitting what transpired at that Perfect Passover, including the service as the 14<sup>th</sup> began, on the night He was betrayed.

It was perfect, and it don't get no better'n that.

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## *Addendum*

One more point -

We discussed the donkey, but we did not discuss the elephant.

In this discussion about the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month, the elephant in the room is -

Who sets when the 14<sup>th</sup> is?

Today practically the whole world goes by the Roman calendar. All the Christian holy days/ holidays are Roman days, set by the Roman calendar. Even Easter, although hinged to Passover, is still set by Rome.

But God doesn't go by the Roman calendar. During Temple times, the Feasts were set by God through His creation, with the visible new moon in the sky over Israel. They did that because God said to.

*Exod 12:1-2(WEB)*

- 1) *Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,*
- 2) *"This month [chodesh] shall be to you the beginning of months [chodesh]. It shall be the first month [chodesh] of the year to you.*

Witnesses who saw the new moon, the chodesh, reported that to the priests, who then declared a new moon period. The priests did not set the Feasts. They only affirmed what God had set.

So Exodus 12:2 actually says, *"This new moon shall be to you the beginning of new moons. It shall be the first new moon of the year to you."*

The world, including the "Christian" world, goes by Roman months. When someone sees the English word "month," to him that means a Roman calculated period and not a new moon. In the Bible, the sub-divisions of the year were called chodesh because they were set by the chodesh, the new moon. They were not set by some human calculation, either Roman or Jewish, but by God's signs from creation. A lot of people can create a calculated calendar, but only God can do this -

*Gen 1:14(WEB)*

- 14) *God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of sky to divide the day from the night;*

*and let them be for signs, and for seasons [moed], and for days and years.*

The Feasts were set by those signs, which were put there for “moed,” or Feasts.

After the Temple fell in 70 CE, the priests no longer had a position. The Pharisees’ synagogues remained, so the Pharisees with their synagogues became Judaism. If you see an orthodox Jew with a distinctive long black coat and hat, and with curls on the side of his head and perhaps something strapped to his forehead, he, and Judaism, are Pharisee descendants.

For several centuries after the Temple fell, the Pharisee “rabbis” still set the Feasts by the chodesh, as the Bible instructs, and they sent out word of each chodesh sighting. Astronomical calculations approximated the chodesh, but could never calculate a cloudy or hazy day. However, around 359 CE – nearly 300 years after the Temple fell – Rome forbid the Jews from making the chodesh and the Feast days known. At that time, then, the Pharisees/Judaism went to totally calculated Feast days. As was their way, through the years and centuries they added multiple complexities to their calculated calendar, until it reached its approximate current form at about 1000 CE.

So what’s known as the Jewish calendar is the Pharisee calendar.

The calculated Pharisee Feast days were not the same as God’s days. Most importantly, they were set not by God, but were and are set by the Pharisees.

Who gave them the authority to do that?

The Roman Church, aligned with the Roman Empire, believes that God gave them the authority to change the Sabbath Day from the seventh to the first day. They say that proves the Protestants are under the Roman Church, because they keep the Roman Sabbath, which is Sunday.

In similar manner, rabbis believed that their writings were equal to God’s words. Christ said their practice was the *“teaching as doctrines the commandments of men, Mark 7:7.”* And that’s exactly what they did with the Feast days. They taught that their calculated Feast days were God’s Feast days, because they claimed the authority to make that change.

So just as Rome changed the weekly Sabbath, the Pharisees changed the Feasts – at about the same time, only a generation later. How incredible is that?

The Pharisee calculations – i.e. the Jewish calendar – was not just a different way of

arriving at the same Feast days. It is a different way of arriving at different Feast days.

Here is that difference -

God's Feast days, set by His signs in His Creation, the visible new moon;

Pharisee Feasts, set by their calculations, disregarding the visible new moon, and violating the command in Exodus 12:2 about the chodesh.

However, they now admit that their Feasts do not follow what the Bible says. Plus their calendar did not precisely calculate a new moon, and after nearly two millennia their mathematical error has become magnified. Jews in Israel today customarily observe the chodesh one or two days before they actually see it.

And now the Pharisees/Judaism admit that.

What was that?

The Pharisees/Judaism plan to build another Temple. They are striving to have everything associated with this temple exactly as it was in the Bible. Therefore they intend to return to the practice of observing the Feasts by the chodesh, as the Bible clearly instructs.

Most Christian Feast keepers accept the claim that God gave the Pharisees authority to change His Feasts, from Yahweh's chodesh to Pharisee calculations. However, Christ said to the Jews:

*John 8:44(WEB)*

*44) You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.*

If the Pharisees set the Feasts, and their father is the devil, then ultimately who does that put in charge of the Feasts?

So here in the Perfect Passover book we have discussed whether the Passover should be observed by Christ's flock as the 14<sup>th</sup> begins or as it ends. And we will end this addendum with two questions -

First question - Is the Passover observed at the beginning or end of the 14<sup>th</sup>?

Next question - Is the 14<sup>th</sup> set by the Creator's chodesh or by the Pharisees' calculations?

Indeed this second question is the elephant in the room, especially now that the Pharisees/Judaism are planning to change back from their calculations to God's Bible

Feast days. So when you're considering whether to keep the Passover service as the 14<sup>th</sup> begins or ends, you better make sure you have the 14<sup>th</sup> right.

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