

THE FIRST PASSOVER IN LAND

We are using the special phrase, “Now it came about,” as a historical marker to divide chapter 5 into the following three sections of studies (Josh.5:1, 8, and 13).

- Josh.5:1-7 Circumcision of men of war
- Josh.5:8-12 Celebration of Passover in Land
- Josh.5:13-15 Captain of Lord’s Army

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

- Josh.5:8-9 Men of war
- Josh.5:10 Message about Christ
- Josh.5:11-12 Manna ceased

Today’s lesson has historical important for at least the following three reasons.

- First Passover celebrated in the Promised Land.
- It brought fulfillment to the land section of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- Passover taught the doctrine of redemptive freedom through the blood of Christ.

This lesson will study six aspects of the messianic history of the Doctrine of Passover.

1. The first three Passovers (pesach) are important to Israel’s history.

All three are important because they emphasize the faithfulness of God to fulfill His promises given in Abrahamic Covenant (Gen.12-17). Why did they call it Passover? (Ex.12:26-29)

We will identify one special feature of each of these three Passovers.

First Passover was celebrated in the Egypt (Ex. 11:10; 12:1-50). It was called the Lord’s Passover (Ex.12: 11, 14; Lev.23:5). The Last Supper of the Egypt bondage became the First Passover of the nation of Israel.

- The firstborn man and animals was struck dead in Egypt before midnight without the blood of Christ upon the house (Ex.12:29, 42). God brought judgment on the gods of Egypt (Ex.12:12).

Second Passover was celebrated in the Desert of Sinai (Num.9:1-14).

- The alien rights to Passover were decreed (Num.9:6-14).

Third Passover was celebrated in the Promise Land (Josh.5:8-12; Ex.12:24-28).

- Manna ceased the day after when they ate the produce of the Land (Josh.5:11-12).

2. The Passover was 1 of 7 national holidays celebrated under the Old Covenant (OC) until Jesus Christ would fulfill it (Luke 22) [this is one reason this chapter is one of the longest in the gospels].

Passover (crucifixion); **Unleavened Bread** (spirituality), **Firstfruits** (resurrection), **Pentecost** (advent of Holy Spirit), **Trumpets** (Second Coming), **Atonement** (unlimited), and **Tabernacle** (millennium)]

“Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Cor.5:7-8)

“Christ, the Lamb of God, was crucified on Passover day, a celebration that began the evening before when the Passover meal was eaten (Ex.12:8).” (NIV, 1 Cor.5:7; Isa.53:7; John 1:29, 36)

3. Under the New Covenant (NC), the Church celebrates the Eucharist as a tribute to Jesus Christ fulfilling the Passover.

“And he said to them, ‘I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.’” (Luke 22:15)

“And when He had taken some bread and **given thanks**, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in My blood.’”
(Luke 22:19-20)

The Last Supper of the Passover became the First Supper of the Church Eucharist (1 Cor.11:23-26).

4. There are twelve important historical facts of the Passover for Christians to understand that are important to the week of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

- Last Supper in leaving Egypt (Ex.12).
- 10th of Nisan – lamb selected (Ex.12:1-5; Lev.22:19-20).
- 14th of Nisan – lamb slain (twilight/ 3-5pm) (Ex.12:6, 46/ no bones broken/ John 19:36).
- Lamb’s substitutional blood put on the lintel and doorpost of house and later on mercy seat in temple (Ex.12:7; Deut.16:16-17/ 3 annuals pilgrimages).
- Lamb roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Ex.12:8-9).
- Burn all the remains of the lamb (no lambie bags) (Ex.12:10; Deut.16:4)
- Eaten in haste (loins girded, sandals, and staff) (Ex.12:11).
- Remain in house until morning of 15th Nisan, beginning of unleavened bread (Ex.12:12-13, 22).
- No less than 10 people per lamb and no more than 20 (Ex.12:4).
- After the Dispersion, Jews added Passover to Unleavened bread for an 8 day holiday (Luke 22:1).
- Then they referred to Passover as the Day of Preparation (Matt.26:17; Deut.16:5-8).
- Roman theology changed the Greek word for preparation (paraskeue /make ready a meal) to Latin equivalent parasceve (which was later changed to mean - Good Friday) (John 19:14, 31, 42)

5. The Passover was never celebrated while the nation was under the 5th cycle of divine discipline or apostasy to shadow Christology (Num.9:5; Josh.5:5-7; Heb.3:7-14).

King Hezekiah and King Josiah led national reformations and reestablishing of the Passover (2 Chron.30 and 34-35). It was celebrated in Zerubbabel’s temple by the returning exiles (Ezra 6:19-22).

6. The 8-day festival of Passover and Unleavened Bread had four Sabbaths. Three were high or convocation Sabbaths and one was a weekly Sabbath. (Ex.12:14-16, 18-20; Lev.13:5-8; 23:5-6).

- The 15th of Nisan was the first day of Unleavened Bread (high Sabbath) (Ex.12:16; Lev.23:7),
- The 17th of Nisan, Saturday was a Weekly Sabbath, the next day was First Fruits (high Sabbath) first day of week or Sunday (Lev.23:11-12)
- The 21st of Nisan was the last day of Unleavened Bread (high Sabbath).50 days later, on Sunday was Pentecost (Lev.23:15), (Ex.12:16; Lev.23:8).

This Sabbath system is why some get confused about the date and day of the crucifixion of Jesus Mark 15:42; John 19:31.