

Passover POINTS to review NOW

How to have a wonderful Passover season.



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *Passover, days of Unleavened Bread, examine yourselves.*

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Summary: Are you ready for Passover? A good review of getting ready, examining ourselves to we're not found unworthy. Many points that will get you thinking. Have a profound Passover!

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This teaching today would be a very timely and appropriate one for you to study right now, before Passover, which is within a few days now as I record this. **Jesus' Passover death was the most momentous event in human history so far – when God's son was born of the virgin Mary, conceived of the Holy Spirit of God.**

This is about the son of God. It's vital to comprehend the importance of the fact that Jesus did not important to realize Jesus did not have a human father and therefore the inherent sinful nature of humans. **That means Jesus was not under the Adamic curse, which means He did not have to die for his own sins and sinful nature, but was free to die for US, to redeem US, which is what Passover is all about. He was tempted as we all are, yet without sin.**

Yeshua had to die a cruel, painful death because the wages of our sins is death. *Sin is ugly, painful, awful, so Jesus in turn had to die an ugly, painful death for us.* All that happened on Passover day. And by doing so for us, when we accept his death, ALL our sins are washed away in his blood forever and ever (**1 John 1:7, 9**).

When we observe the Passover, we're recommitting our acceptance of Yeshua as our savior and Messiah (anointed one). He rose from the dead three days later, and lives forever more now. Therefore we can keep a solemnly joyful Passover knowing we're FREE from past sins, and free from Satan's bondage on us – just like Israel was freed from Pharaoh and slavery in

Egypt. God gave up HIS firstborn for all that – for you and for me. I like how Paul says he remembers that Christ “loved ME and gave himself for ME” (Gal. 2:20). Make Passover personal. Our Father and Jesus did all that for YOU.

Passover season is almost here now. DON'T be caught off guard.

I call it “Passover Season” because truly the Bible after Exodus 12, calls the whole spring feast season as “the Passover”. See **Ezek 45:21**. Yes, I know full well, that Passover itself is one day – the 14th of the first month of Abib or Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. It's not even a holy day but was the day when the Passover lamb was killed and when they worked hard to prepare for the holyday the next day, called a “High Day” in **John 19:31**. (Let's say “Holy day” by the way, and not “holiday”.)

Killing the year old lamb or goat was what made it be called “the Passover,” not the eating of the meal as much as *the sacrificing of the lamb*. The term “the Passover” really refers to the *sacrificing* of the Passover lamb. Of course we today do NOT kill any lambs, as God's Passover lamb was sacrificed by Father almost 2,000 years ago on the cross. When WE keep the Passover today, we are rehearsing *the specific symbols and emblems Jesus used* – the footwashing, then eating a piece of bread HE broke for us, and drinking a small amount of red wine from HIS cup, so to speak.

I do not eat a **Jewish Seder meal**. The meal as it is today was not even the same in Jesus' day. Certainly I don't want a meal that includes a boiled egg (that came from Babylon). We repeat what Jesus did specially nowadays.

So the FOCUS of the Passover must be all about Jesus. Remember there are several verses when *Yeshua said, “do this in remembrance of ME”*. So we focus on HIM, much more than the Exodus 12 story of their lambs, and the blood brushed on their door posts and lintel to the door. In the last supper accounts, there's no mention at all of them talking about Egypt or Exodus 12.

So I wish you a wonderful Passover season. Thanks for coming to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields.

So FIRST of all – BE READY for Passover. Don't let it sneak up and surprise you that it's here already.

Be consuming your breads and leavening now. There must be no leavened products in our homes for 7 days (Ex 12:). Some of you are over-zealous and practice many more days of Unleavened Bread as you delevnen!

But's it's **also a time to be deleavening and examining ourselves** and being sure we're removing spiritual leaven from our lives, before Passover. A spiritual self-evaluation must be going on right now. ***This spiritual deleavening is far more important even than the physical deleavening.*** More later on this. Paul tells us in 1 Cor 11 to EXAMINE yourself before Passover and then to take the symbols of Passover. TAKE IT after self-examination, knowing you're not going to find yourself perfect. You'll find yourself *wanting and needing* God's grace and love and Passover, so examine yourself, *then take the Passover.* Some examine themselves and decide they're not good enough to take Passover. That misses the whole point.

Realize the early New Testament church of God DID keep Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. And obviously they kept Pentecost, another holy day festival. **The New Covenant church of God officially started as a group on PENTECOST as Acts 2** shows us. If God cancelled HIS holy days, why would He make them all wait til Pentecost to send the Holy Spirit?

The Feast of Weeks – Pentecost – is among the seven feasts of YHVH listed in Leviticus 23:1-2, 21, 44. Some get confused on the verses that tell Israel all the males should come before God three times in a year. That doesn't mean there are only three feasts as some teach.

But they definitely kept Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

“ Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore **purge out the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump, since *you truly are unleavened.* **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.** 8 *Therefore let us KEEP the FEAST,* not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

ON **this website Light on the rock.org – USE The SEARCH BAR** at the top right of the home page, and **type in Passover, Unleavened Bread** and you'll find many sermons and blogs that expound much more.

WHEN IS Passover IN 2026?

Passover season is in the month of Abib, the first month of God's calendar, as **Ex. 12:1-3** says. The month of Abib usually corresponds to **mid March- mid April** in our Gregorian calendars.

There are many IDEAS of when exactly to take the Passover. Many will follow the dates given **in the Hebraic calendar**. Others will go by the sighting of the first lunar crescent. God gave us, remember the LIGHTS in the sky – the moon and sun – to help us understand the start of each new month, or new moon (the first visual sliver of moon crescent LIGHT).

Some of my friends just totally discount and reject that the new crescent sighting has any significance, but that's how the months were figured in the original calendar.

Genesis 1:14 The LIGHTS...

Genesis 1:14-15

Then God said, "Let there be LIGHTS in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons** [*moedim* – same word translated as “feasts” **in Lev. 23:1-4**) and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so."

Note the Holman translation:

Genesis 1:14

Then God said, "Let there be **lights** in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. **They will serve as signs for festivals** and for days and years."

If you go by the observed new crescent moon, 14 days later will give you a Passover date 2 days later, this year, than the Hebraic calendar. IN 358-359 CE Hillel II produced a NEW calendar that was not based on sighting the new crescent moon **and Maimonides (Ramban) finalized it in 1178 AD**. But Grok.com and Chatgpt.com both make it clear that the present calendar used by Jews is not the calendar of the Bible times.

Plus others have other calculations based on just the conjunctions and other things.

I will keep God's Passover and then the holydays based on the sighting of the new moon – then 14 days later. The holyday starts the eve of the 15th through the 21st. Keep in mind that holydays begin at sundown before. Jesus ate his Passover meal on the EVE of the 14th of Abib, so that's what I do as well.

DATES FOR Passover AND Unleavened Bread BASED ON HEBRAIC CALENDAR 2026

For the spring this year, if you go by the calculated Rabbinic Hebrew calendar, the 14th of Abib (Passover Day) will be April 1,

2026, Wednesday. The eating of the Passover bread and wine service by most, will be kept the eve of April 1, so that will be March 31, 2026 after sundown. But some keep that at the end of the 14th of Abib.

Days of Unleavened Bread for those keeping the traditional Hebrew calendar, **will be April 2 –8. Holy days are April 2 and 8, 2026.**

DATES BASED ON Observation of the new moon

BUT, For those going by the crescent moon sliver of light – the dates kept will be TWO days later than the Hebrew calendar this year 2026, for the spring holydays.

Karaite Jews and others use these dates instead of the Hebrew dates in 2026. Keep in mind that dates on the Gregorian calendar differ from year to year.

So for Karaites and those going by the moon -- Passover DAY – will be April 3, 2026. The service Jesus kept was the evening before (**night of April 2 this year**) IF you are following when Jesus did his service of footwashing, Unleavened Bread and small cup of red wine.

Holiday dates will be April 4 and 10, 2026. Days of Unleavened Bread will be April 4 through the 10th IF you go by sighting of the moon.

SELF-EXAMINATION AND DELEAVENING

Also 1 Cor. 11:23-32 – all through the last half of that chapter, Paul discusses the Passover. They clearly were keeping Passover and days of Unleavened Bread.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do **this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This **cup is the new covenant in My blood.** This do, as often as you drink it, in **remembrance of Me.**" 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** till He comes.**

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man ***examine himself***, and ***so let him eat of*** the bread and drink of the cup. 29 *For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.* 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

We examine ourselves but find ourselves falling short still – and so we realize how badly we need the Passover. Examine your SELF – then eat of the bread and drink of the cup (the small amount of red wine). We are made worthy by Yeshua’s death and life but we must also *remain* in the attitude of seeking, accepting our Messiah constantly. We’re told to walk worthy of our high calling (**Eph 4:1**). I suggest you also read these verses like **Luke 21:36; Matthew 22:8; Luke 20:35; Rev. 3:4**.

Be sure that your focus is spiritual mostly, as you deleaven your homes before the days of UB. But put your focus much more ON SPIRITUAL Deleavening. Examine your LIFE even more thoroughly than for physical crumbs in the house.

Where is there still ongoing sinful ways going on in our lives? Those must be recognized and rooted out. Maybe check out my sermon on Overcoming.

Are any of us lukewarm, and spiritually lazy? Do we all always pray, every single day, several times a day? Men especially, do any of you spend time looking at things we never should? Men of God – we should be filling our hearts and minds and thoughts with things of God, not photos or videos of unclad women, for example. Don’t tell me it’s not happening. I’m sure it is.

You know what things are righteous and what things we do which are sinful. The sinful things must be rooted out. Any lies still being told? Any lusting going on? Any unforgiven grudges and angers going on? If we don’t forgive and reconcile, God is clear that we won’t be forgiven either. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors” – forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Passover – a time of forgiving and RECONCILING with one another

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:14-15:**

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Of all possible times, when you take of that Unleavened Bread or drink of that cup when we participate of the NEW SYMBOLS Christ gave us – at this time we must be sure we are reconciled with those we've hurt or who have hurt us. Make sure as a father you're turning your heart to your children and they turn their heart back to you as **Malachi 4:5-6** clearly says must be done. But instead, we have adult children who want nothing to do with their mom or dad. **They've "ghosted" dad or "cancelled mom" from their lives. That is not of God. That's LEAVEN that MUST be thrown out of our lives.** So focus on *SPIRITUAL* delevaning for sure as well as throwing out all the breads, crackers, anything that is leavening.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 NIV

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. **And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.** 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

OTHER POINTS

Be aware that before long, the entire period – the Passover, then the 7 days of Unleavened Bread -- *eventually was simply called the Passover.* Yes, I realize the Passover is the 14th of the first Hebrew month. And the first holyday of Unleavened Bread is the 15th and it ends on the 21st of first Hebrew month of ABIB. The TERM "the Passover" refers more to the killing of the lamb in those days, rather than anything else. Remember Jesus himself was killed/crucified on the 14th of the first month.

Ezekiel 45:21

"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe **the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.**"

Understanding Ezek 45:21 helps explain Luke 22:1

Luke 22:1

“Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.”

Same thing happens in Acts 12:1-4. There, “after Passover” meant after the entire days of Unleavened Bread. The KJV renders verse 4 as “EASTER” – a terrible mistranslation of that verse in Acts 12 by KJV.

NOW, which days you keep will depend on your understanding of God’s calendar. Someday this will all be made clear to all of us by God.

The Passover SERVICE

Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb (**1 Cor. 5:7**) so we no longer have to kill and eat lamb. **John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:29).** He was referring to the fact that the head of each household had to present His lamb at Passover. Father in heaven has a household, which is the church of God (**Eph 1:22-23**). **The head of each house was responsible for presenting their lamb. So we teach that the One who really killed Christ – was God the Father himself.** Ponder that. And that is why Jesus prayed to the Father to see if he really had to go through with this “CUP” – his own death, “but not my will, but yours be done.”

Our FOCUS at Passover today are the emblems Jesus instituted: the foot washing, the Bread and the wine. If you are hosting a Passover, and want help on what to do, check out our link on preparing for the service and actually doing it:

Study this link showing you everything you need to conduct a Passover service:

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/the-christian-passover-ceremony?highlight=WyJoaGUiLCJjaHJpc3RpYW4iLCJwYXNzb3ZlciJd>

John 13 mentions the foot washing. Yes, it pictures our willingness to serve one another. *But more than that, get this – it pictures that WE see Christ has already washed the feet* of all those in the Passover service, and we’re acknowledging that. We’re thinking of this person whose feet we’re washing – as already washed, cleansed and forgiven by the Master. We are not rehearsing his weaknesses we know about.

Here's an interesting thought: **would you wash Judas Iscariot's feet?** Jesus did. Judas left AFTER Yeshua washed his feet.

If you read the account of Yeshua's service, they were talking, even arguing and discussing various things. *It wasn't like many Passovers I've attended.* Yes, we're remembering the Lord's death – but we're also remembering that He AROSE FROM the dead and lives for us!

So don't make your service be a mournful dirge. It's OK to greet one another, even to talk a bit. (Describe the way it often was or is). They all did in Jesus' day! SO don't make your Passover feel like a funeral service!!

Then Yeshua offered the Unleavened Bread. Today it would be appropriate to explain that the Unleavened Bread does NOT picture YOU having put leaven out off your life, but it pictures Yeshua – the sinless true meaning of Unleavened Bread. HE is the bread from heaven.

Unleavened bread is bread that has never been leavened before. You and I have been leavened by sin before, so Unleavened Bread cannot picture you and me. You and I will still sin even during the days of Unleavened Bread. It can only apply to Yeshua. But as we eat a piece of Unleavened Bread each day, every day, all week long during the week of Unleavened Bread, (**Exodus 12:18**) we're remembering that we are taking on Christ into our life. HE is now our Bread, HE is now our **life (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3-4). Leviticus 23:6** says for seven days "you MUST EAT Unleavened Bread". Don't just eat of the bread here and there – but each day, every day.

Then we present the small amounts of red wine and we all take a little bit. This was not grape juice. Until there was refrigeration, it would have been impossible to even have grape juice – with grapes picked in September, by Passover all the grape juice would have turned to red wine anyway. This pictures the blood of Jesus, shed for us. Read those scriptures. **They're in my notes on the Christian Passover service.**

It's just a tiny amount of red wine, OK? Today, it's just a small vial full, not a glass or big cup. God forbid anyone gets drunk on a thimble full of wine.

And as we do, we are drinking of his cup. The cup pictures everything that God will allow or send into our lives. Will we stay faithful to him even in hard times? Remember even Yeshua asked in Gethsemane, if he had to drink of that cup – but "not my will be done, but yours", he said to Father.

Then normally after that we read selected verses from **John 13, 14, 15, 16,** and especially 17.

Then we end the meeting with at least one uplifting hymn – maybe even two or three. Traditional psalms sung were **Psalm 118:19-29** and after.

Then I like to end with prayer and dismiss everyone. Have a very meaningful Passover as you accept the love of God for you.

