

## Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the Old Testament

### Passover as the Prophecy of the Sequence of Events for Passion Week

Genesis 1; Exodus 12, 24; Leviticus 23; Numbers 28, 33; Deuteronomy 16; 2 Chronicles 8; Isaiah 66; Matthew 26.

	Selection Day				Preparation Day	1st Sabbath of the Feast					Preparation Day	2nd Sabbath of the Feast	
	Lamb without blemish chosen				Lamb slain & meal prepared	Passover meal eaten	Wave Sheaf (Pharisees)	Sadducees taught	the Wave Sheaf Offering was	the day after the weekly Sabbath			
							Feast of Unleavened Bread						
Nisan 9	Nisan 10	Nisan 11	Nisan 12	Nisan 13	Nisan 14	Nisan 15	Nisan 16	Nisan 17	Nisan 18	Nisan 19	Nisan 20	Nisan 21	Nisan 22

- The beginning of the month is set by the new moon. Passover is a sign, a reminder that the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt. Exodus 13:9 & 16.
- The 10th of the month is the selection and separation day of the Passover lamb. Exodus 12:3.
- Passover includes both the 14th and 15th of the month and is a memorial to the LORD forever. Exodus 12:6-14, Leviticus 23:5-8, Numbers 28:16-17, & 33:3-4.
- The 14th of the month is the preparation day when the animal is slain and the meat is prepared and roasted for the Passover meal. Exodus 12:6.
- The 15th of the month is Passover day, the day when the Death Angel "passed over" Egypt at midnight. Exodus 12:8-12, Numbers 33:3-4.
- The Passover meal, consisting of roasted lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread, was eaten on the early night part of the 15th. Exodus 12:8-12.
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th, lasts for seven days, and ends on the 21st. Numbers 28:16-17, Leviticus 23:6, Exodus 12:18.
- The 15th of the month, the day they ate the Passover meal, is the first holy convocation day for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Leviticus 23:6.
- They were to eat unleavened bread and present fire offerings to the LORD on each of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Leviticus 23:8.
- The 21st of the month is the second holy convocation day for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Exodus 12:18.
- On the holy convocation days, the first and seventh days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (the 15th and 21st of the month), the people are to gather for worship and do no work except to prepare necessary food. Exodus 12:16. The holy convocation days are Sabbaths of the LORD. Leviticus 23:3 & 24.
- The weekly, seventh day Sabbath would occur once during the festival and could fall on any day from the 15th through the 21st.
- The Wave Sheaf Offering is to be observed "the day after the Sabbath". Leviticus 23:11. Josephus says the Jews held the Wave Sheaf Offering on the 16th of the month. Antiquities iii, 10, 5. According to JewishEncyclopedia.com ("Pentecost"), the Rabbis observed the Wave Sheaf Offering on the 16th, the day after the Sabbath of Passover. The Sadducees considered "the Sabbath" in Leviticus 23:11 to be the seventh day Sabbath rather than Sabbath of Passover and taught that the Wave Sheaf Offering was to be observed on the day after the weekly Sabbath that would fall within the Feast of Unleavened Bread. While the separation day, preparation day, and the Sabbath of Passover is each assigned a numbered date (10th, 14th, and 15th respectively), no date is assigned to the day of the Wave Sheaf Offering. Thus, the Wave Sheaf Offering could fall on any day from the 16th through the 22nd.
- Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread is one of the annual appointed times, festivals, or seasons of the LORD. Genesis 1:14, Leviticus 23:5-14, Numbers 28:16-25. All the males of Israel were required to attend this festival season in Jerusalem. Deuteronomy 16:16; 2 Chronicles 8:13. Observance of this festival is included in the written version of the Ten Commandments and will be celebrated throughout eternity. Exodus 34:1, 18, & 28; Isaiah 66:22-23; Matthew 26:29.
- The next annual festival, season, or appointed time of the LORD, the Wave Bread Offering, Shavu'ot, the Harvest Festival, also called Pentecost, is 50 days after the Wave Sheaf Offering and is the day after the seventh Sabbath. Leviticus 23:15.

## Calendar for the Events of Passion Week

Month of Abib or Nisan

	1st Day	2nd Day	3rd Day	4th Day	5th Day	Preparation Day	Sabbath
	4	5	6	7	8	9 Jesus arrives in Bethany	10 Dinner at Simon's  Triumphal Entry
	11	12	13	14 Last Supper  Preparation Arrest, Trial & Crucifixion	15 <b>P a s s o v e r</b> Sabbath  Feast of Unleavened Bread	16 Wave Sheaf (Pharisees)	17
	<b>Three days and three nights in the heart of the Earth.</b>						
<b>R i s e n</b>	18 Wave Sheaf (Sadducees)	19	20 Preparation	21 Sabbath	22	23	24
	<b>Feast of Unleavened Bread</b>						
Sat.	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

In scripture the day begins at sunset, while in Western cultures the day begins at midnight. Thus, the modern reckoning of the days of the week given at the bottom of the calendar are off-set from the biblical model by six hours.

# Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the New Testament

## The Fulfillment of the Prophecy of the Sequence of Events for Passion Week

Exodus 12, 34; Leviticus 23; Matthew 12, 16, 26, 27, 28; Mark 11, 14, 15, 16; Luke 11, 19, 23, 24; John 1, 12, 18, 19, 20; 1 Corinthians 5, 15, Colossians 2, Hebrews 9, Revelation 13.

	Selection Day				Preparation Day	1st Sabbath of the Feast	Preparation Day	Weekly Sabbath			Preparation Day	2nd Sabbath of the Feast	
Jesus arrives in Bethany	Simon's Dinner				Lord's Supper	Passover meal eaten	Wave Sheaf (Pharisees)	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Wave Sheaf (Sadducees)				
	Triumphal Entry												
					Trial & Crucifixion	Three days and three nights							
Nisan 9	Nisan 10	Nisan 11	Nisan 12	Nisan 13	Nisan 14	Nisan 15	Nisan 16	Nisan 17	Nisan 18	Nisan 19	Nisan 20	Nisan 21	Nisan 22
6th day	7th day	1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day
Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.

Crucifixion on Wednesday.  
In the tomb before Passover Sabbath.

Resurrection after the close of the weekly Sabbath  
on the first of the week, but not yet Sunday.

- The beginning of the month is set by the new moon. Passover is a sign, a reminder that the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt. Exodus 13:9 & 16.
- Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before Passover. John 12:1. John goes right into the story of the dinner at Simon's house that evening where Mary anoints Jesus and Jesus ties her act of love with His burial. John 12: 7. A large crowd gathered to see Jesus and Lazarus. Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, John 12:9. The next afternoon Jesus made His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on the colt. Matthew 21:1-9, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-16. Thus, Jesus was selected as the Pascal lamb privately at Simon's feast when Mary anointed Him with perfume. Then He was selected publicly by the crowd which laid down their coats and palm branches on the road for the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. John is the only gospel writer to tie these two events together and he states that the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem was the day after the dinner at Simon's home. John 12:12.
- Jesus and His disciples ate the Last Supper on the evening that began the 14th of the month. After the dinner, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray where He was arrested at midnight and His trial began soon thereafter. Jesus was examined by Pilate and Herod, and was found to be without guilt. Matthew 27:18, Luke 23:4, 8-12, John 18:38. He was taken to be crucified in early to midmorning. Mark 15:25, John 19:14. Darkness covered the land at noon and He died about 3 P.M. Matthew 27:45-46, Mark 15:33-34, Luke 23:44. He was placed in the tomb just before sundown late on this preparation day. Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-45, Luke 23:54-56.
- The women rested on the Sabbath of Passover according to the Commandment. Luke 23:56, Exodus 12:16; 34:18, Leviticus 23:6-8.
- All four gospels state that Jesus was crucified on the preparation day and John is explicit that it was the preparation day for the Sabbath of Passover. Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:54-56, John 19:14, 31, 42. Jesus is our Passover sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7. He is the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. John 1:29, Revelation 13:8.
- Jesus lay in the tomb for three days and three nights which perfectly fulfilled His prophecy regarding the sign of Jonah. Matthew 12:38-41, 16:4, Luke 11:29-30.
- Jesus was resurrected just after the close of the weekly Sabbath at the beginning of the new week. Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1, John 20:1. While this is the first day of the week by biblical counting, it was not yet Sunday as Sunday does not begin until midnight.
- The Passover meal was eaten on the night after Jesus was crucified. John 18:28.
- Jesus was resurrected on the day following the Sabbath which is the day for the Wave Sheaf Offering which is also called the Feast of Firstfruits. Leviticus 23:9-11. Jesus represents the first of those who will be resurrected to eternal life. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Hebrews 9:26, Revelation 13:8.
- New Testament believers are instructed and encouraged to keep the feasts. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 1 Corinthians 11:17-33, Colossians 2:16-17.
- In order for all these events to be fulfilled and match the model prophesied in the Old Testament, Jesus had to arrive in Bethany on the 9th of the month, a Friday. That evening, now the weekly Sabbath and the 10th of the month, was the dinner at Simon's house celebrated as an Erev Shabbat. The next afternoon, still the 10th, was the Triumphal Entry and the coronation of Jesus by the people of Israel as their King. This should be called Palm Sabbath. In order for John's statement about the arrival in Bethany six days before Passover to be correct, Passover this year would have to be on Thursday. The Lord's Supper would have to be on the evening of the 14th which would be on what we call Tuesday night. At midnight, at the beginning of what we call Wednesday, Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified by midmorning. Jesus died in midafternoon and his body was placed in the tomb before the beginning of the Sabbath of Passover. Jesus lay in the tomb for a literal three days and three nights to fulfill the sign of Jonah just as He prophesied. Jesus' resurrection was immediately after the close of the weekly Sabbath at the first of the new week, but not yet on Sunday. Jesus proved by His resurrection at this time that this "day after the Sabbath" is the proper day for the Wave Sheaf Offering and that He is the Christ.