

# *Know the God of Scripture*

Volume 1

## **Week 4: The Passover - Answer Guide**

*Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.*

**1.** Rosh Chodesh is Hebrew for “head of month,” the first day of every month in the Jewish calendar. Abib is Canaanite for “fresh, young ear” because it was the time corn was in ear. Later Abib became Nissan, which is Babylonian (Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7). Nissan is the first month in the official Jewish calendar. The Jewish New Year, however, is celebrated in the month of Tishri (7<sup>th</sup> month) on Rosh Hashanna. As far as how the traditional Jews count the years, the Hebrews use the chronology of biblical figures to count backwards to the beginning of the earth making it year one.

Great information on the Jewish calendar and a graphic which includes our modern calendar and shows important harvests and dates of celebration can be viewed at:

<https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Calendar/calendar.html>

**2.** An unblemished, one-year old sheep (or goat) was sacrificed while the 1<sup>st</sup> born males in Egypt were being killed. Everyone deserves death, but those of God have a lamb who dies in their stead. Unblemished is a symbol of moral integrity and purity of Christ. On Abib (Nissan) 10-14 (Exodus 12:3, 6) the father takes a lamb inside and cares for it – his family develops a relationship with it, becomes attached to truly appreciate the sacrifice. Those who don't have a relationship with Jesus don't appreciate His sacrifice. The four days (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>) required to keep the animal in the household may pertain to the four generations in Egypt foretold by God to Abraham (Gen 15:16). The reference to “twilight” in Exodus 12:6 means before sunset, or end of the Jewish day. Similarly, Christ died at 3 pm before the Sabbath day (Luke 23:44-46).

**3.** Blood was not placed on the threshold because it could not be trampled on. Rather it was placed on the lintels and doorpost in the form of a cross. Blood was symbolic of satisfying the wrath of God and prevented Him from destroying the household. The blood of the Lamb is Kryptonite to the Devil! Never again will man apply blood on a doorpost because in Egypt they had no altar. Forever after blood was sprinkled on the altar. Israelites were to annually observe the Passover sacrifice and festival of weeks (Numbers 9:1-14).

Preparation of the pascal lamb:

- Roasted by fire (represents “judgement”)
- No broken bones (Exodus 12:46; Psalms 34:20)
- Eaten in entirety and in unity with one another, similar to how Christians observe the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 10:17).

**4.** According to Exodus 12:11 the Passover meal is observed:

- Dressed for travel (Clothed in Righteousness)
- Sandals on (Ready, always on alert to share the Gospel)
- Staff in hand (To protect and preserve the Gospel)
- Eat hastily (Tomorrow is not guaranteed)

The Passover was instituted for the Israelites to always remember their plight before God led them out of Egypt. Their fate was in God's hand and He wanted their hearts to be completely devoted to Him.

5. Unleavened bread → sinless, purity, leads to new life of purity and righteousness. Leaven represented sin. Bitter herbs → reminder from where they came, the bitterness of life in bondage to sin. It is overcome by the sweet aroma and taste of the roasted lamb. No bone broken (no other time are they commanded to eat this way!) Psalm 34:20 One body 1 Corinthians 10:17, as Body of Christ 1 Corinthians 5:7 = unity within the Body of Christ. Vs 8,9 – Roasted whole and eaten in haste; run from life of sin

6. The Israelites were commanded to observe the Passover yearly, in the month of Abib on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, as a permanent ordinance (Exodus 12:14, 24). No foreigner, except as allowed (12:43-50 compare to Numbers 9:15), was to partake of it. Not only was it a remembrance of Israel's bondage in Egypt, but it was to remind the Israelites of their current depravity and need of God's mercy for salvation.

7. Not only did Jesus come to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17) but He also came to observe it in a sinless manner. Such was the case of observing the Passover Meal. In all three synoptic Gospel versions we are told the disciples went into the city on the first day of Unleavened Bread and found a room as Jesus described and they "prepared" the meal. This would mean the disciples bought a lamb in the marketplace, had it slaughtered in the Temple according to Scripture, and brought it to the upper room where they may have roasted it. They prepared the bitter herbs required for the feast and bought the wine to sup during the feast. Everything was to be as Moses describes in the Torah on how to observe the Passover. During the meal Jesus took unleavened bread, broke it and gave to His disciples. Likewise, He did the same sharing with the wine that was at the table.

8. Comparison between the Passover in the Old Testament and the Lord's Supper in the New Testament:

- Both were divinely ordained and occurred the night before the event.
- Both were to be observed/celebrated as a memorial feast throughout future generations.
- Both were to be observed to remember the forgiveness of sins and redemption by the blood of the Lamb (both the lamb in Moses' day and Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb of God).
- Both required an unblemished male lamb (Christ being the sinless Son of God and perfect Lamb of God)
- Passover was to be celebrated during Abib 14. The Lord's Supper has no set date, but was to be celebrated continuously throughout the year.
- The Passover lamb was to be "purified" for three days inside the house prior to being sacrificed. Jesus' ministry lasted three years with His disciples. In both cases, a relationship was being forged.
- The lamb must have no broken bones. Jesus had no broken bones.
- There are several internet sites that have more comparisons. A chart illustrating the many similarities between the Passover and the Lord's Supper can be found at:

<https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/S/compressed.photo.goodreads.com/books/1673672373i/77266395.jpg>

### **Additional Questions:**

1. There were four cups instituted during the Passover meal. Likewise, four cups were present for the Passover meal when Jesus celebrated it with His disciples. Each cup has a significance tied into Exodus 6:6-7. Jesus drank from the first three cups, but we are told that He did not drink the 4<sup>th</sup> cup, called the Cup of Presence. This may be because He plans on drinking it upon His return to gather His saints for the banquet feast celebrating His kingdom. Here is a good article describing the four cups: [http://camphillchurch.org/publication\\_files/the-four-cups-of-the-lords-supper.pdf](http://camphillchurch.org/publication_files/the-four-cups-of-the-lords-supper.pdf)

2. The Lord's Supper is to be observed on a regular basis (each church determines what "regular" means). Only believers are allowed to observe it. When observed one must approach the table of bread and wine with a clean

conscious, that is, they should confess their known sins to God, and each other if necessary. Finally, they should observe the Supper with reverence and awe, with an attitude of gratefulness and thanksgiving.

Jews for Jesus provides a wonderful portrayal of Jesus in the Passover. Watch the following:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Gjf1v6Xmhs>

Pastor John Piper has a good article on this subject:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/why-and-how-we-celebrate-the-lords-supper>

**3.** As mentioned by the Lord (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19), the unleavened bread taken at the Lord's Supper represents Jesus' broken, sinless body that was sacrificially given to us. We are to reflect upon Jesus' ministry while on earth and His willingness to give of Himself to redeem mankind. The wine shared at the Lord's Supper represents Jesus' blood which was poured out for the atonement of the sins of the world. It was His blood that forgives our sins.

**4.** Transubstantiation is the belief that the unleavened bread and wine observed at the Lord's Supper are Jesus' real body and blood. A good article on this subject can be found at:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/transubstantiation>

