

## Doctrine of Passover

1. The word “*passover*” has a very special meaning in Hebrew society. The term refers to the night when the Angel of Death passed over the homes of those who had been obedient to a divine command to slay an unblemished animal, and apply its blood to the upper portion on the outside door post and sides.
  - *Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.*
  - *Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*
2. The eating of the paschal (passover) lamb is called the seder (SAY-der), and commemorates that important Passover night so long ago.
3. The eating of the paschal lamb also typified the “*Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29).
4. The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread occurred in Abib (Nisan), and it marked the beginning of the barley harvest.
5. Abib (a'bib; "an ear of corn") was the month the Hebrew people were divinely directed to make the first of the year a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt.
  - *Exodus 12:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*
  - *Exodus 13:4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.*
6. On the tenth day of the month of Abib (Nisan), the Passover lamb was selected, and on the fourteenth day was slain and eaten.

**March / April 14**

**Passover**

**Leviticus 23:4-6 \* Exodus 12:1-4**

- *Leviticus 23:4 These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. 5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover.*

7. The Jewish months were lunar and so are not fixed. Abib corresponds to March-April, and its name was changed to Nisan after the Babylonian Exile of 586 BC.

- *Nehemiah 2:1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.*
- *Esther 3:7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.*

***Special Note.***

The year 3761 BC is the assumed date of the creation of the world according to the ancient rabbis. A lunar year of 354 days is adjusted to the solar year by periodic leap years.

The word “nisan” means “beginning.” Nisan is the beginning of creation, and it is the beginning of spring happiness.

8. By the time of Christ, the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Firstfruits had been combined into one “Passover Celebration” lasting eight days, from the 14th to the 21st of Nisan.

- *Mark 14:12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?*