

Was the Last Supper a Passover Meal?

1. Key Points and Verses

- It is important to differentiate between the Passover Sacrifice and the Passover meal. The sacrifice is performed on the 14th day in the afternoon, while the meal is partaken a few hours later, at twilight, on the eve of the 15th day following sunset.
- The three elements necessary for Passover are, Matzah (Unleavened Bread), Maror (bitter herb), and Roasted Lamb.
- The Passover is identified as a covenantal meal. It serves the purpose of renewing the covenant established between the people of Israel and Yehovah.
- In Greek, the term '**Proto**' signifies 'Before'; however, translators often misinterpret it as 'on the day of' or 'on the first of'.
- **Key Verses:**
 - **Matthew 26:1-2** (12th Day / in 2 Days), **vs. 17** ('Proto'/Before)
 - **Mark 14:1-2** (12th Day / in 2 Days), **vs. 12** (Proto/Before)
 - **Luke 22:1,7** (the Passover was near), **vs. 15** (The passage implies that He partook in the Passover meal, but He did not. Yet He fervently desired to do so).
 - **John 13:1-2** ('Proto'/Before); **18:28** (14th Day, before the Passover, the Jewish leaders did not defile themselves, in order to keep the Passover)

2. Judas Leaves the House

- Judas rose from the table to depart, leading the disciples to believe that he was going to procure items for the feast.
- If it was Passover, where would Judah have gone to purchase supplies for the festival, considering that all the stores frequented by Jewish individuals would have been closed? (**Jn. 13:29-30**)
- Verse 30 says it was night, meaning it would have been a High Sabbath, after the evening Passover Meal.
- Passover / The first day of Unleavened Bread - is a High Sabbath (a High Shabbat)
- No buying and selling is allowed on the Sabbath.

*for some were supposing, because **Yehudah** had the bag, that **יהושע** was saying to him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give somewhat to the poor. So, having received the piece of bread, he then went out straightaway, and it was night.*
John 13:29-30

3. Missing Elements of the Passover

- The text does not reference Lamb, Bitter Herbs, or Unleavened Bread.
- Unleavened Bread is **ἄζυμος** (azumos).
- The Bread indicated in this passage is "Leavened Bread" **ἄρτος** (artos).
- The Last Supper consisted of bread and wine. It is important to note that wine is not mentioned in the commandments pertaining to Passover; rather, its inclusion is a tradition that was introduced by the Rabbis.

Now the **Pěsah** and the **Festival of Matzot** (**ἄζυμος** - azumos). **Mark 14:1**

And as they were eating, **יהושע** took **bread**, (**ἄρτος** - artos). **Mark 14:22**

4. The Disciples Leave the House

- Upon the conclusion of the meal, the Disciples leave the house. **Matthew 26:30**
- They were instructed to remain within the house or the designated location where the Lord commanded the observance of the Passover meal. (**Exodus 12:22**, **Deuteronomy 16:6-7**)

"... none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. Exodus 12:22

*but at the place where **יהוה** your **Elohim** chooses to make His Name dwell, there you slaughter the Pěsah in the evening, at the going down of the sun, ... "And you shall roast and eat it in the place which **יהוה** your **Elohim** chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents. Deuteronomy 16:6-7*

5. The Praetorium

- On the evening of the 14th, Yeshua is brought to the Praetorium, the official residence of the Roman Governor, commonly referred to as "The Hall of Judgement."
- During the night in question, the Priests and the Pharisees were intent on orchestrating Yeshua's arrest by the Roman authorities.
- The Jewish leaders, in their commitment to ritual cleanliness for the Passover, would have abstained from being among Gentiles on a High Sabbath.

*Then they led **יהושע** from **Qayapha** to the palace, and it was early. And they themselves did not go into the palace, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the **Pěsah**. John 18:28*

6. So what would this Last Supper with the Disciples have been, if not the Passover?

- The final meal shared by Yeshua and His disciples is often referred to as the Last Supper.
- A Foretelling / Foreshadow of the Passover and Resurrection. Yeshua was trying to explain what was about to take place.
- Some biblical scholars argue that the Last Supper can be interpreted as a "graduation banquet" for the disciples. This perspective is reminiscent of a **Se'udat Mitzvah**, a required meal that celebrates the observance of a commandment, typically associated with events such as weddings, **B'rit Milah**, **Bar Mitzvah**, or the completion of a Tractate.

7. In Summary:

- We must take care to pay attention to the Greek, and not merely read scripture as in our translated bibles, or we'll miss the true meaning of the text. "**Proto**" in the Greek means 'Before', not on.
- "**Artos**", in the Greek means 'leavened bread'. "**Azumos**", in the Greek means 'unleavened bread'.
- The Last Supper was the Night before Passover (the 14th Eve), therefore, the Last Supper was not a Passover.
- It is not feasible for Yeshua to serve as both the Passover sacrifice and to observe the Passover on the preceding day.
- The sacrificial blood of Yeshua, applied to the doorposts of our hearts, serves as our salvation from death, mirroring the protection afforded to the Hebrew households during the first Passover through the blood on their doorposts, which shielded them from the Angel of Death. (**Exodus 12:22-23, John 10:9**)
- Yeshua had one Last Supper with his Disciples which foretold the events of His death, burial, and resurrection, which would begin with His own sacrifice as our sacrificed Lamb and Passover.
- Yeshua most likely had a **Se'udat Mitzvah** (a graduation meal) with his students, as now they had completed their instruction under his guidance and were now ready to go out and make disciples of their own.