

The Time of the Last Passover

In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days....” Lev. 23:5, 6. “. . . It shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.” Lev. 23:14. “And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.” Exodus 12:1, 2. “And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.” Exodus 12:17. This month corresponds to the last of March and the first of April. “. . . For in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.” Exodus 34:18.

Question—Was this statute, law, changed by Jesus, or the New Testament prophets? “Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. . . . With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer. For I say unto you, I will not eat any more thereof; until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.” Luke 22:1, 7, 8, 15-18. From this we see that Christ did not do away with the statute of time (Lev. 23:5, 6), but that He would not celebrate or obey this statute again “until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.” For He knew that this was the last Passover heaven would honor. He also knew that He would not be with them a year later. So what did He mean? Let the Scriptures answer, “And He took bread, and gave thanks, and break it, and gave unto them, saying, this is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.” Luke 22:19, 20. The words “after supper” show that Jesus and the disciples had already eaten the passover supper and were now partaking of the Lord's Supper.” “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me; That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Luke 22:29, 30 A closer look at the preceding Scriptures reveals that the Kingdom of God, (YHWH) was set up the same night that Jesus (Yahshua) instituted the Lord's Supper. Unfortunately, this kingdom was trampled under foot and lost during the Dark Ages. However, the prophet Daniel foretells of an everlasting kingdom to be set up in the last days, and it shall never be destroyed (Dan. 2:44; 7:14, 22, 27). From the study of the article ‘Three Days and Three Nights in the Heart of the Earth,’ we understand that Jesus ate the passover and instituted the Lord's Supper on Wednesday night. And according to Deuteronomy 16:6 the passover was sacrificed “at the going down of the sun,” on the 14th day of Abib, or on Wednesday at even (AD. 31). The fact that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the same night as the passover and from the same table, is evidence that the Lord's Supper is bound by the same law as the Passover was. It had to be done according to law in order for it to have a binding force, or to meet the demands of Isaiah 8:20. Since the Lord's Supper was instituted at night, according to the statute of Lev. 23:5, it is to be observed at night once a year: not during the daylight hours of the day; not once week; not once a month; and not four times a year. It is a specific event and stands as a memorial of the setting up of God's Kingdom on earth. Acts 20:6 proves that Paul kept the statute of Leviticus 23:5, 6; twenty four years this side of the cross in the New Testament era. And the second coming of Christ is pointed out in the symbolic service of these annual feast days, especially the Lord's Supper.