
The Lord's Passover



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Introduction

There is a great deal of confusion floating around about the timing of the killing of the Lambs and because of this confusion, it can impact how we relate to every other part of the day.

I endeavour to back up every statement I make with scripture. This book will be no different. I know the only place I will find the truth that I am seeking is in the word of God, in His holy bible. This means the entire bible, both the old and the new testaments. These facts are made clear to us in the following scriptures.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

All the evidence I bring before you in this book will be strictly from the word of God. I do not intend to reference the work of any other book, any Rabbi, any bible society or anything else. Only the word of God. If I mention any of the above, it will not be to back up what I am saying, but more than likely to call them out for using the traditions of men and not the traditions of God. The proof of what I am going to tell you will be 100% from the word of God. I need no other proof.

You will no doubt call me dogmatic, but I ask you this: “Were the apostles dogmatic when they preached, or were they timid?”. Let’s look at 2Ti 1:7.

2Ti 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

If I have a truth and do not share it with you, then I am doing you all a major disservice. Therefore, I will try to follow in the footsteps of the Apostles and speak with confidence that I am speaking the truth.

What is that saying?

“It is better to act decisively and apologize for it later, rather than to seek approval to act, and risk delay.”

So with those thoughts in mind, I would like to discuss the Passover and the timing of the killing of the lambs on the 14th of Nisan.

First, let me apologise to those readers who do not research Hebrew terms such as “ba erev” and “ben ha arbayim”. Unfortunately, it is imperative we understand exactly what these terms mean if we are going to arrive at the correct time the lambs were killed on the 14th of Nisan.

There are many translations of the bible that give us many differing times for the killing of the lambs. Let me give you a few examples so you can see what I am up against. I will list just 5 different versions of Exodus 12 and verse 6.

(YLT) Young’s Literal translation

Exo 12:6 And you shall keep it up until the beginning of the fourteenth day of the same month. And the whole assembly of the congregation of

Israel shall kill it between the two evenings. [from the Hebrew term - ben ha arbayim]

(BBE) Bible in Basic English

Exo 12:6 Keep it till the fourteenth day of the same month, when everyone who is of the children of Israel is to put it to death between sundown and dark. [from the Hebrew term - ben ha arbayim]

(KJV) King James Version

Exo 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. [from the Hebrew term - ben ha arbayim]

(NirV) New International Readers Version

Exo 12:6 Take care of them until the 14th day of the month. Then the whole community of Israel must kill them when the sun goes down. [from the Hebrew term - ben ha arbayim]

(WEB) World English Bible

Exo 12:6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at evening. [from the Hebrew term - ben ha arbayim]

You can clearly see the problem here. There are 5 different time markers for the same event. Therefore, which one is correct? And yes, it makes an absolutely massive difference in determining the correct time that the Passover lambs were killed. The Hebrew term “ben ha arbayim” is translated into these different terms. **Between the two**

evenings can mean any time between about 1pm and sundown. **Between sundown and dark** can actually mean on the day after the first example of **Between the two evenings**. Then **at evening** can be the period from the setting of the sun until darkness, or it can be from the evening of the day before. All very confusing.

Without a precise meaning for this term “ben ha arbayim” we cannot tell which of the above interpretations is correct. My aim here in this book is to go to the word of God and give you an exact time that this phrase refers to. Only one of the above can be correct.

The Passover is a very controversial subject. It is kept by the Jews and a minority of Christians. The major Christian churches celebrate Easter instead of Passover and consider the Passover to be a Jewish celebration, and should not be kept by Christians. But what does the word of God, the bible, say on this matter?

Lev 23:4 “These are the LORD's appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times.”

All the festivals throughout the year are the LORD's festivals, not Jewish or any other religion. They are the LORD'S and therefore should be kept at **their appointed times**. What I will write now is what I believe happened on the 14th of Nisan.

I believe the Passover lamb was killed immediately after the sun had set, marking the beginning of the 14th day of Nisan. Blood from the lambs was put onto the door frames. The lambs were cooked and eaten during the night portion of the 14th while it was still dark. This is when the death angel passed over Egypt at midnight on that same night, the 14th of

Nisan. The Israelis were commanded to remain in their homes until sunrise. They then plundered the Egyptians, gathered all they had and went onto Rameses and be ready for the exodus that next night, being the 15th of Nisan and the start of the 7 days of unleaven bread.

Some people claim the Egyptians were plundered well before the 14th of Nisan. So let us see when it did happen. Moses encountered God in the burning bush long before he went to the Israelis to lead them out of Egypt. Look at what God told him was going to happen in Exo 3;20-22.

Exo 3:20 I will reach out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders which I will do among them, and after that he will let you go.

Exo 3:21 I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and it will happen that when you go, you shall not go empty-handed.

Exo 3:22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her who visits her house, jewels of silver, jewels of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons, and on your daughters. You shall plunder the Egyptians.”

In verse 20 God states he will perform **all** his wonders. And after he has done that he will give favour to the people and this is when they were plundered. After **all** of God's wonders have been performed, not before. After the first born of the Egyptians have been killed at midnight on the 14th of Nisan.

One part of this that has had me puzzled for many years is this. If the Passover lamb was killed and eaten in the very early hours of the 14th, just after sunset, but Jesus died on the cross at about 3pm, over 18 hours later, then why is there this delay between the two? I was once under the belief that these

two events should happen at exactly the same time. My thinking was that if Jesus was sacrificed on the cross for us and died at about 3pm on the 14th of Nisan, then surely the lambs must have been sacrificed at the same hour of the day.

I believe this is the thinking of many Christians today. But it is no longer my belief on this subject.

The first and obvious reason why this is not possible, is Jesus could not be eating the Passover meal at the same time he was being crucified and dying on the cross. Even Jesus could not be doing these two things at the same time. This is a common argument for why the lambs were killed at 3pm, the same hour our Lord died on the cross.

One thing we can be certain of is Jesus died at about 3pm. There are many scriptures that prove this point, and anyone who has ever studied this would have to agree. This is never in dispute by myself or I believe by any of you. It is the one solid piece of evidence that can never be questioned. Since this is beyond dispute, there must be an excellent reason for him to die at that hour. Something as incredible as our Lord giving his life for ours, at that precise time, 3pm on the 14th of Nisan, must mean there is something enormously important about this hour of the day. And there is. This book will also cover that very important topic.

But first I have other things to discuss that need explaining if I am to reveal all the truth about the Passover season and the Feast of Unleavened bread.

The timing of the killing of the lambs on the 14th of Nisan is a hotly disputed topic. There are several schools of thought on this issue, and of course, there can only be one that is correct. There is a definite answer in the scriptures that anyone can find. I stumbled upon this answer while surfing on

the web. So I am not claiming God has given this to me alone. No, he made sure I stumbled on it several times before I really understood. I am amazed at how simple, yet thoroughly convincing it is.

So now I will prove to you that the lambs were killed immediately after the sun had set and the 14th of Nisan had begun. In the twilight hour and definitely not at about three o'clock in the afternoon as many will claim.

God Shows Pharaoh Ten Wonders

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 430 years. Then God organised Moses to bring them out of captivity and for the entire nation of the Israelis to leave Egypt. The problem Moses faced was that the Egyptians used these people as their slaves, and refused to allow them to leave. God Performed many miracles through Moses to try to persuade the Pharaoh to allow them to go out of Egypt.

The first plague God sent upon Egypt was to turn all of their water into blood as we see in Exo 7:19-21.

Exo 7:19 Yahweh said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your rod, and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their ponds of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'"

Exo 7:20 Moses and Aaron did so, as Yahweh commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

Exo 7:21 The fish that were in the river died; and the river became foul, and the Egyptians couldn't drink water from the river; and the blood was throughout all the land of Egypt.

Following this is the second plague, a plague of frogs throughout the entire land.

Exo 8:1 Yahweh spoke to Moses, Go in to Pharaoh, and tell him, "This is what Yahweh says, 'Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exo 8:2 If you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your borders with frogs:

Exo 8:3 and the river shall swarm with frogs, which shall go up and come into your house, and into your bedroom, and on your bed, and into the house of your servants, and on your people, and into your ovens, and into your kneading troughs:

Exo 8:4 and the frogs shall come up both on you, and on your people, and on all your servants.'"

Now we see gnats, or lice invading the land in the next plague.

Exo 8:16 Yahweh said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'"

Exo 8:17 They did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were lice on man, and on animal; all the dust of the earth became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

The fourth plague God brought upon the land was the invasion of flies.

Exo 8:20 Yahweh said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; behold, he comes out to the water; and tell him, 'This is what Yahweh says, "Let my people go, that they may

serve me.

Exo 8:21 Else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you, and on your servants, and on your people, and into your houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

Next the livestock in Egypt were to be inflicted with all types of pestilences. Except the livestock of the Israelites that would not be infected.

Exo 9:3 behold, Yahweh's hand is on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks with a very grievous pestilence.

Exo 9:4 Yahweh will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt; and nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.”””

The sixth plague God was to send upon the land was that of boils on both man and beast. Again only affecting the Egyptians.

Exo 9:8 Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron, “Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh.

Exo 9:9 It shall become small dust over all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking out with boils on man and on animal, throughout all the land of Egypt.”

Plague number 7 was the great hail storm that was to come the next day. Notice that some of the Pharaoh's servants

now started to take notice of Moses and Aaron and made sure their servants and livestock were inside to protect them from the hail that was coming.

Exo 9:18 Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as has not been in Egypt since the day it was founded even until now.

Exo 9:19 Now therefore command that all of your livestock and all that you have in the field be brought into shelter. Every man and animal that is found in the field, and isn't brought home, the hail shall come down on them, and they shall die.”””

Exo 9:20 Those who feared Yahweh's word among the servants of Pharaoh made their servants and their livestock flee into the houses.

Now God will cause locusts to envelop the country and devour their food supplies.

Exo 10:3 Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and said to him, “This is what Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exo 10:4 Or else, if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country,

Exo 10:5 and they shall cover the surface of the earth, so that one won't be able to see the earth. They shall eat the residue of that which has escaped, which remains to you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which grows for you out of the field.

The ninth plague was darkness coming over all of the land

of Egypt. Yet the Israelites all had light in their homes. By this time Pharaoh is starting to weaken and tells Moses to leave the country, but he must leave all of their livestock behind.

Exo 10:21 Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.”

Exo 10:22 Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.

Exo 10:23 They didn’t see one another, and nobody rose from his place for three days; but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Exo 10:24 Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, “Go, serve Yahweh. Only let your flocks and your herds stay behind. Let your little ones also go with you.”

The Pharaoh refused to free the Israelite slaves, with all their livestock, even though he witnessed these miracles. So God performed one last miracle that he knew was certain to get the Pharaoh’s attention and make him release the Israelites from their captivity and allow them to go free. This last plague God sent over Egypt was the killing of every first born human and beast in the entire country of Egypt.

Pharaoh was warned this was going to happen, and after seeing the other miracles he should have learned a very valuable lesson that would have saved the lives of all the first born children of Egypt. But his heart was hardened and he still refused to allow the Israelites their freedom as we see in Exo 11:1-10.

Exo 11:1 Yahweh said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh, and on Egypt;

afterwards he will let you go. When he lets you go, he will surely thrust you out altogether.

Exo 11:2 Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man ask of his neighbor, and every woman of her neighbor, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.”

Exo 11:3 Yahweh gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants, and in the sight of the people.

Exo 11:4 Moses said, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘About midnight I will go out into the middle of Egypt,

Exo 11:5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of livestock.

Exo 11:6 There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been, nor shall be any more.

Exo 11:7 But against any of the children of Israel a dog won’t even bark or move its tongue, against man or animal; that you may know that Yahweh makes a distinction between the Egyptians and Israel.

Exo 11:8 All these servants of yours will come down to me, and bow down themselves to me, saying, “Get out, with all the people who follow you;” and after that I will go out.’” He went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

Exo 11:9 Yahweh said to Moses, “Pharaoh won’t listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

Exo 11:10 Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he didn't let the children of Israel go out of his land.

It is important here to notice this is just a fore warning from Moses to Pharaoh. Moses tells Pharaoh what is next in store for the people of Egypt if he still refuses to allow them to leave. Yet Pharaoh still refused until God performed his last miracle, the killing of all the first born in the land of both man and beast.

After giving this warning to Pharaoh, Moses was instructed by God on how he was to prepare for the mass exodus from Egypt. In the next chapter titled "What Happened On The 14th Of Nisan" I will describe how the Israelites were to prepare for the final plague and to make preparations for their exodus.

What Happened On The 14th Of Nisan

This chapter is concerning the 14th of Nisan and all that happened on that day. And very importantly in what order they occurred.

In Exo 12:1-6 Moses gives instructions for the coming events that will eventually lead to the exodus when they will leave Egypt as free people.

Exo 12:1 Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

Exo 12:2 “This month shall be to you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household;

Exo 12:4 and if the household is too little for a lamb, then he and his neighbor next to his house shall take one according to the number of the souls; according to what everyone can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

Exo 12:5 Your lamb shall be without defect, a male a year old. You shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats:

Exo 12:6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at evening.

Moses was to talk to all the congregation of Israel and outline the procedures they were to follow. The first thing they were to do was to select a suitable animal for the sacrifice on the 10th day of Nisan, and keep it until the 14th day of Nisan when they were to kill it at evening.

Therefore, we can understand from this that all the congregation of Israel, and not just the leaders, were aware of what was to follow. We must remember the Israelites were scattered throughout the entire region of Goshem. They would have received these instructions well in advance of the 10th day of Nisan. Otherwise they would not be prepared.

This is where we encounter our first problem. These words “at evening” comes from the Hebrew term “ben ha arbayim. It has also been translated to mean the following in other versions of the bible. As “between the two evenings”, “at even”, “between sundown and dark”, “at dusk”, “in the evening”, and “when the sun goes down”.

Now we have several different definitions of the term “ben ha arbayim” that give us several different times when the lambs were to be killed. Therefore, there is only one way we can know for certain which one, if any, is correct. We must go to the scriptures to understand from the bible the exact meaning of this phrase “ben ha arbayim”. The private thoughts of any person, no matter how learned they may appear, will always be just that, their personal and private interpretations. This is not good enough. We simply must rely on the scriptures to reveal the meaning of scriptures.

I will discuss the meaning of this term later in the chapter titled “The Exact Meaning Of “ben ha arbayim”. But please do not rush ahead to that chapter as the things I must discuss first are very important to get the true meaning of that term.

Continuing with the events that happened on the 14th of Nisan.

Exo 12:7 They shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two door posts and on the lintel, on the houses in which they shall eat it.

After the lambs have been killed, some of their blood was be put onto the door frames of their homes. It is important here to understand this was to be the house where they actually ate the meat of the lambs. The lambs were to be consumed in the same house where their blood was on the door frames.

The meat was to be roasted and eaten that night in the house where the lambs blood had been painted onto the door frames.

Exo 12:8 They shall eat the meat in that night, roasted with fire, and unleavened bread. They shall eat it with bitter herbs.

Some people advocate the lambs were to be eaten on the evening of the 15th of Nisan. But a careful reading of these verses tells us they were to be eaten “that night”, and that can only be on the night they were killed, the 14th of Nisan. These so called experts are twisting God’s words to mean what they want it to mean. It is their own interpretation and certainly not God’s.

This thought is reinforced in Exo 12:46.

Exo 12:46 It must be eaten in one house. You shall not carry any of the meat outside of the house. Do not break any of its bones.

The meat must be eaten in one house, the house where the lambs were killed, and no meat was to be taken outside the

house. This disproves the idea they were eaten on the 15th. The 15th is when they were leaving Egypt, they were no longer in their own homes where the lambs were killed, and they were living in tents that have no door frames or lintels.

Exo 12:10 You shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; but that which remains of it until the morning you shall burn with fire.

The Israelites have the entire night to eat the lambs, but they were to burn any parts remaining before the night ended. Again eaten in one house and not taken out of that house.

Exo 12:11 This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is Yahweh's Passover.

The next part of their observance was to eat it in haste and to be prepared to leave immediately. This is where some try to force the belief that the Israelites left during this particular night, the 14th of Nisan. They reason that since they were to be ready to leave immediately, they left as soon as the death angel passed over Egypt at midnight.

But once again they are distorting the words of God to have the meaning they want. The fact they did not leave during the night of the 14th is emphasised in the following verses.

Exo 12:21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, "Draw out, and take lambs according to your families, and kill the Passover.

Exo 12:22 You shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two door posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

The instructions are clear. After the blood was put onto the door frames, no one was to leave their homes until morning. Until sun rise. To leave their homes before this time was to be no longer under the protection of the lambs blood. They would be fully exposed to the death angel and suffer the same fate as the Egyptians.

Once these instructions had been followed the death angel then passed over Egypt at midnight, as is evident from the following scripture.

Exo 12:12 For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and animal. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am Yahweh.

Notice verse 12, God said he would pass over them “in that night”. A careful reading of this chapter will show no other day being mentioned since the lambs were to be killed. Yet there are those who claim the Lord passed over them on the night of the 15th of Nisan. Another complete fabrication to lead us away from the truth of God’s words.

Exo 12:13 The blood shall be to you for a token on the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be on you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exo 12:14 This day shall be to you for a memorial, and you shall keep it a feast to Yahweh: throughout your generations you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

This section of scripture ends with a command from God they are to observe this day as a memorial throughout all their

generations.

This brings us to the end of the night section of this day and now we are at the start of the daylight section.

We know from the above scriptures the Israelites were told to be dressed and ready to leave as soon as the sun rose. They could not leave before this time but they were to be fully prepared to leave.

So now all of the Israelites have observed the Passover in their own homes. They are still scattered all over the area of Goshem and now need to gather together in Rameses so they could leave Egypt in an orderly manner.

This exodus must have been a spectacular thing to witness. In Exo 12:37-42 we are given a glimpse into what took place on the following day, the 15th of Nisan.

Exo 12:37 The children of Israel traveled from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot who were men, in addition to children.

Exo 12:38 A mixed multitude went up also with them, with flocks, herds, and even very much livestock.

Exo 12:39 They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought out of Egypt; for it wasn't leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt, and couldn't wait, and they had not prepared any food for themselves.

Exo 12:40 Now the time that the children of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years.

Exo 12:41 At the end of four hundred thirty years, to the day, all of Yahweh's armies went out from the land of Egypt.

Exo 12:42 It is a night to be much observed to

Yahweh for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This is that night of Yahweh, to be much observed of all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

From verse 37 we can roughly estimate the number of people in this exodus. If there were six hundred thousand men there would have been the same number of women. Then add to that everyone under the age of twenty, the children of these adults. In that day the average family size would have easily been two adults and two children.

This would equal out to a very bare minimum of 2,400,000 people. And considering the average family size was probably more, their total number could be well over 3,000,000. There were also many other people with them so this exodus would have been something amazing to see. Then add to this the vast number of animals that went with them, and their ranks as they left Egypt would have stretched for many kilometres.

No doubt when the morning of the 14th of Nisan came, the Israelites were to act quickly to leave their slave masters and go out of Egypt as free people. Once the sun came up they did not want to waste time in getting ready to leave. They had to be fully prepared by the time the sun rose on the 14th of Nisan.

This would have meant after they had kept all of the statutes and ordinances for the Passover that included selecting the lambs, killing them, painting the blood on the door frames, eating the lambs and making sure nothing was left over in the morning, everything had to be either eaten or completely burned. In other words everything associated with the Passover had to be completed on the 14th of Nisan, because that is the “appointed season” for the Passover.

Preparing To Depart Egypt

Now the night time portion of the 14th of Nisan has passed and they have the next approximately 12 hours of sunlight to prepare for the exodus. We know the exodus started on the night of the 15th of Nisan. It is clear from Deu 16:1 that the Israelites left Egypt at night, therefore they had the full 12 hours of daylight on the 14th of Nisan to prepare for their journey out of Egypt starting from Rameses.

Deu 16:1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to Yahweh your God; for in the month of Abib Yahweh your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

It may seem strange that God started their journey at night, but one thing to consider here is that the 15th of Nisan, according to the Lord's calendar, will always be on a full moon when there would be sufficient light for them to see.

By the time the sun had risen on the 14th, the Egyptians were busy burying their dead. Remember, every family would have lost their eldest child during the night. The Israelites would have been extremely unpopular and no doubt hated by the Egyptians who were now very keen for them to leave their country. They left "in haste" as we see in Deu 16:3.

Deu 16:3 You shall eat no leavened bread with it. You shall eat unleavened bread with it seven days, even the bread of affliction; for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste; that you may remember the

day when you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

The sun has now risen and the Israelites can now leave their homes. God had instructed them not to leave their homes during the night of the 14th, the night the death angel passed over Egypt [Exo 12:22]. The only way they could be protected was to be in their homes with the blood of the lamb painted on their door frames. This was the way the death angel knew who to pass over during the night, and which first born of the family were to be killed. Therefore anyone who did not have the blood on their door frames, or were not in their homes, would not have been protected from the death angel.

Exo 12:22 You shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two door posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

This is a very important fact that we must consider and remember. Many people claim the Israelites moved out of their homes during the night of the 14th. But as we see in the above verse, it was strictly forbidden by God. The reason they believe this, is due to God telling them to be prepared as they ate the meal. They were to have their cloaks tucked in, their sandals on their feet and their staffs in their hands and they were to eat it in haste.

Exo 12:11 This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is Yahweh's Passover.

They were told to be ready to leave when the sun rose. They had been instructed by Moses well in advance what was

going to happen, and they were to be fully prepared to leave as soon as the sun rose on the 14th of Nisan.

Another thought that needs to be taken into account is the fact they had the entire night to consume the lambs. It was not a case of eat and then leave. No, they had the entire night to consume the lambs, Remember they were not permitted to leave their homes before sunrise. [Exo 12:22]. They were also instructed to burn any of the lambs not eaten during the night. This is clear from Exo 12:10.

Exo 12:10 You shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; but that which remains of it until the morning you shall burn with fire.

From what I have described so far, it is apparent the Israelites were to be fully prepared for their journey. The lambs eaten and what was left was to be burned, they were to be dressed and ready to go as soon as the sun rose on the 14th day of Nisan. With all of these preparations done, it would have left them the full 12 hours of sunlight to plunder the Egyptians and move onto Rameses where they were to gather before leaving Egypt that following night, the 15th of Nisan.

So what happened during these daylight hours of the 14th of Nisan. One important fact that must be mentioned here is that the Israelites plundered the Egyptians before they left their country. Many claim this occurred before the night of the 14th, but this is incorrect.

Some people claim this happened much earlier when the first plagues were occurring. Their reasoning is since the Israelites left during the night of the 14th, which is totally incorrect, They had to plunder the Egyptians before they left. God has given us the answer to this when he first encountered Moses at the burning bush. Even before Moses went to the

Israelites to lead them out of Egypt. Read about this encounter in Exo 3:20-22.

Exo 3:20 I will reach out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders which I will do among them, and after that he will let you go.

Exo 3:21 I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and it will happen that when you go, you shall not go empty-handed.

Exo 3:22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her who visits her house, jewels of silver, jewels of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons, and on your daughters. You shall plunder the Egyptians.”

Here God has explained to Moses what is going to happen. Notice verse 20 where God told Moses he would bring many plagues onto the Egyptians, then **after that**, the Pharaoh would let them go. We know it took the full 10 plagues to convince the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, and it was “**after that**,” when the women were to plunder the Egyptians. **After all** of God’s wonders had been performed against them.

So this plundering was done early after sun rise when the Egyptians were burying their dead and were still terrified of the God of Israel. Another reason this plundering would not have happened prior to this time is the simple fact the Israelis were still considered to be their slaves. The Egyptians would never have handed over their valuables to those they considered to be their slaves.

Now the sun has risen, the plundering has been completed, and they are now required to move out and to go to Rameses to gathered together for the mass exodus out of Egypt.

It was only after the death angel had pass over Egypt that

the Egyptians had agreed to release them. Therefore, it would not have been before this time that the Egyptians would have given them their valuables. Up to this time the Israelites were still regarded as their slaves. Again the Israelites could not leave their homes before sunrise, so this would have been their first opportunity to plunder them.

Exo 12:33 The Egyptians were urgent with the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We are all dead men."

The Egyptians wanted them out of their country as soon as possible, they had suffered enough. So when the sun came up the Israelites were ready to go.

Exo 12:34 The people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

The Egyptians were plundered in the early daylight hours of the 14th of Nisan. The Egyptians were at this time burying their dead so the events of the previous night were still very fresh in their minds, as we saw in verse 33 they were afraid they would all die. So it would be fair to say they were terrified of the Israelites, or more accurately, of their God. This is why they were so easily plundered. Before this night, when all of their first born were killed, they would not have handed over their wealth to those they still considered to be their slaves.

When God killed all of the first born of the Egyptians he accomplished two things. First the Egyptians agreed to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, and second it made them very easy to plunder the next day.

Those who believe the death angel did not pass over the Egyptians until the following night, the 15th of Nisan, do not

consider these points of fact.

Now we know the Israelites left Egypt from the city of Rameses on the 15th day of Nisan as recorded in Num 33:3.

Num 33:3 They traveled from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover, the children of Israel went out with a high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians,

The entire population of the Israelites were scattered throughout the territory of Goshem. They were all in their own homes during the night of the 14th. Therefore during the daylight hours of the 14th the entire population had to come together at Rameses from all parts of Goshem. The number of people and animals in this exodus was massive.

Considering there were 600,000 men, there would have been the same number of women and by the time you add their children, and the many other people who went up with them, this number must have been well over 3,000,000 and more likely 4,000,000.

Exo 12:37 The children of Israel traveled from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot who were men, in addition to children.

Now add to these people all of their livestock, including the animals had to assembly at Rameses for the start for their journey out of Egypt. How did verse 38 describe the number of live stock, it was large droves of flocks and herds.

Exo 12:38 A mixed multitude went up also with them, with flocks, herds, and even very much livestock.

This must have been a logistics nightmare to organise this

vast collection of people and animals all in one place. They were scattered all over Goshen where they were slaves to the Egyptians. Now they had to gather in one place ready to move. Therefore the rest of the daylight hours of the 14th would have been used in organising this exodus so it could all happen in an orderly manner.

There can be no doubt God played a major part in this day. He would have given precise instructions to Moses and Aaron on how to organise this massive exercise. I very much doubt it could be accomplished today even with all of our modern means of communications, modern vehicles to transport them, radios, telephones, and satellite communications.

These at least 3,000,000 people with all of their possessions had just word of mouth to communicate, and the only way they could move out was on foot. This was as much a miracle as the 10 plagues that came upon Egypt.

We know from the scriptures of Num 33:1-3 that they left Egypt after gathering in Rameses. They came out by divisions. This means they gathered in Rameses in the day light hours of the 14th, They were put into their correct divisions and prepared to depart at sun down. This mass exodus was done in an orderly fashion. It was not a case of every man for themselves.

Num 33:1 These are the journeys of the children of Israel, when they went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Num 33:2 Moses wrote the starting points of their journeys by the commandment of Yahweh. These are their journeys according to their starting points.

Num 33:3 They traveled from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on

the next day after the Passover, the children of Israel went out with a high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians,

They marched out like a well formed army. Not like a disorganised rabble. They were also high handed and in the sight of the Egyptians. I can almost see them waving goodbye to their former captives.

Exo 12:51 That same day, Yahweh brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

The most incredible exodus ever to happen. Well planned, and well executed.

What Happened on The 15th Of Nisan

Now all of the Israelites were assembled in Rameses and it is time to leave Egypt as free people, no longer slaves. We can read the order of events in Exo 12:33-42.

Exo 12:33 The Egyptians were urgent with the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We are all dead men."

The Egyptians were by this time terrified of the Israelites and their God. They were now busy burying their first born children and disposing of the carcasses of the animals that had also died during the night of the 14th of Nisan. Death was all around Egypt. All the Egyptians wanted at this time was for the Israelites to leave their country. They did not care where they were going, just as long as they were gone.

Then in their haste to leave, the Israelites did not have time to leaven their bread. They took their dough and were ready to depart, but they still had one more thing to accomplish before they were ready to march out.

Exo 12:34 The people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

Notice when the Israelites plundered the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing. It had to be after the night of the 14th and the early part of the daylight portion of the day. After the Egyptians urgently told them to leave because they had

already lost their first born. Also it could not be during the night-time part of this 24 hour period, as the Israelites were not permitted to leave their homes until morning.

Exo 12:35 The children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and clothing.

Exo 12:36 Yahweh gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. They plundered the Egyptians.

God gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, and the fear for their own safety would have played a big part in why the Egyptians were so ready to hand over their valuables.

Exo 12:37 The children of Israel traveled from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot who were men, in addition to children.

Exo 12:38 A mixed multitude went up also with them, with flocks, herds, and even very much livestock.

Exo 12:39 They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought out of Egypt; for it wasn't leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt, and couldn't wait, and they had not prepared any food for themselves.

The massive exodus is now under way as they travel from Rameses to Succoth and still with only unleaven bread to eat.

Those who advocate the Passover was eaten on the 15th of Nisan fail to understand several things. The lambs were to be eaten in the house where their blood was on the door frames. None of the meat from the lambs was to be taken out of that house. [Exo 12:46]. And as Exo 12:39 above informs us, they

had not prepared any food before they left. These three facts must be ignored if the Passover meal was to be eaten on the 15th of Nisan.

Exo 12:40 Now the time that the children of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years.

Exo 12:41 At the end of four hundred thirty years, to the day, all of Yahweh's armies went out from the land of Egypt.

The Israelites were dwelling in Egypt for 430 years, mostly as slaves to their Egyptian slave masters. Now they are leaving as free people and are leaving "TO THE DAY" as Exo 12:41 points out to us. These three words are mostly just read over and are not understood. Their meaning is very important as they help us to understand another event that happened 430 years earlier. I will be discussing the significance of this in the chapter titled "Abraham, Jesus And The Cross".

Exo 12:42 It is a night to be much observed to Yahweh for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This is that night of Yahweh, to be much observed of all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Exo 12:42 is where God commands the Israelites to observe the night of the 15th of Nisan. Why are they commanded to observe this night? It is because it was on the 15th of Nisan, at night, that God led the Israelites out of Egypt. Notice there is absolutely nothing here mentioned of the "Passover". This is solely to remember God bringing them out of Egypt. As I have explained in several places before in this book, The Passover and the feast of unleavened bread are two completely different events and are to be observed in their "own appointed seasons".

This night to be much observed is in remembrance of the Lord bringing them out of the land of Egypt, It is nowhere said to be the Passover meal as many will claim. That occurred the day before on the day of the Passover, a completely different event to the Feast of unleavened bread. Remember the Lord has instructed them to keep each festival throughout the year in its **own appointed season**. This means they are not to be celebrated together, they must be kept separate. Therefore everything associated with the Passover must be celebrated on the day of the Passover, and that is on the 14th of Nisan. The 15th of Nisan is now the start of the feast of unleavened bread, and again I must stress, this is a totally separate event from the Passover.

Once the Israelites were on their way out of Egypt, the Pharaoh had a change of mind and wanted them brought back to serve them as slaves again as we see in Exo 14:5-7.

Exo 14:5 The king of Egypt was told that the people had fled; and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was changed towards the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

Exo 14:6 He prepared his chariot, and took his army with him;

Exo 14:7 and he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over all of them.

The Israelites were now the ones who are terrified, They fear the Egyptian army and that they may all be killed. But Moses now tells the people to trust God to protect them.

Exo 14:13 Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which he will work for you today: for the Egyptians

whom you have seen today, you shall never see them again.

This is when God parts the Red Sea so the entire army of the Israelites could pass through on dry land. Many film makers have depicted this parting of the sea as being just a hundred meters or so wide. But when you consider the size of the Exodus, it must have been much wider to allow this vast number of people and animals to cross. Also when Pharaoh's army followed they were all killed when the sea returned to its former level. This would have been a very large army, so there was a need for a large area of dry land in the sea to accommodate this army.

Exo 14:23 The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the middle of the sea: all of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Exo 14:24 In the morning watch, Yahweh looked out on the Egyptian army through the pillar of fire and of cloud, and confused the Egyptian army.

Exo 14:25 He took off their chariot wheels, and they drove them heavily; so that the Egyptians said, "Let's flee from the face of Israel, for Yahweh fights for them against the Egyptians!"

Exo 14:26 Yahweh said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come again on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen."

Exo 14:27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it. Yahweh overthrew the Egyptians in the middle of the sea.

The Israelites did indeed see the salvation from God as their enemies were destroyed in the sea. Now they are out of

Egypt and are free for the first time in hundreds of years.

Isa 66:8 Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.

This verse in the bible is always quoted for when the Israelites were given their land by the UN in 1948. But I think it could also refer to this first exodus when the Israelites stopped being slaves and became a great nation of free people on the 15th of Nisan.

The Modern Passover

There is a great deal of confusion and controversy when it comes to the Passover. Almost every part of this event has been interpreted in different ways.

Some claim the lambs were killed in the very early hours of the 14th of Nisan, others claim it should be at 3pm on the 14th of Nisan. It is believed by many the Passover meal should be eaten on the 15th, while others believe it is on the 14th.

The exodus from Egypt began at the start of the 15th, yet some hold that they started in the night of the 14th. The death angel passed over Egypt at midnight on the 14th, but some will claim this happened at midnight of the 15th.

Another point of conflict is when the Israelites gathered at Rameses before departing Egypt. One school of thought is they gathered there before the 14th so they could all eat the Passover meal together at Rameses. Another group say they gathered there in the daylight hours of the 14th.

An incredible amount of confusion over what should be an easy topic to understand. But one thing is for certain. Satan is behind all this confusion. He is always looking for ways to divide God's people and one way he accomplishes this is to cause divisions in the people. Make us believe different things and then argue amongst ourselves about who is correct.

I will now endeavour to sort all this confusion out with

guidance from the scriptures God gave us.

One of the important things to get right is the timing of the killing of the lambs. If we can get the correct time for this event to happen, it will also help us to properly understand other parts as well. One Hebrew term used to tell us when the lambs were killed is “ben ha arbayim” and this is interpreted in many different ways. So that will be my aim in the next chapters of this book. To accurately, from the word of God, establish when “ben ha arbayim” begins.

The Exact Meaning of Ba Erev

It is very common knowledge that God's day's start and finishes at sunset. I know we all agree with that statement. God is very precise in everything he does. Therefore, we must find, in God's scriptures, the term he uses for the beginning and ending of every day. We know the start times from the position of the sun in the sky. But to fully understand the meaning of the term "ben ha arbayim" we must establish the term God uses to tell us when a new day starts. The precise time, not an estimate or a guess, or close enough. The term must mean sunset. Not evening, because that can last for up to an hour, and God is much more precise than that.

So, what is the term God uses to describe this exact moment of sunset? The exact moment of the start of a new day. The exact moment of the start of his Sabbath days. It cannot be evening. This is simply not precise enough.

I will now show you from scripture where we can get this information.

One excellent example of this we will find in Lev 23:27-31. It is the start and finish times of the "Day of Atonement". God gave very strict instructions on how the people were to keep this day. Let me read Leviticus chapter 23 and verses 27-31. From the King James Version of the bible.

Lev 23:27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be

an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Lev 23:28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Lev 23:29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

Lev 23:30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

Lev 23:31 Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

The instructions God has given here demand the people keep them exactly as he has taught them. The penalty is extreme for any who disobey them. Look at verses 29 and 30. The penalty for disobeying is to be cut off from their people, at the very least, banished. But verse 30 is even more severe in its penalty. God will destroy those who refuse to obey.

If the starting time of this day depended on the interpretations and opinions of man, this would lead to tragedy. Therefore, it is on God to advise them the exact time this day starts and finishes. If he does not make this very clear to them, some may inadvertently fail to keep the day as he commanded and they would suffer the severe punishment God has warned them about. We can see in the very next verse, verse 32, where God defines the start and finish times.

Lev 23:32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, [Hebrew ba erev] from even [Hebrew me erev] unto even [Hebrew, e rev] shall

ye celebrate your sabbath.

ba erev means “at evening”.

me erev means “from evening”.

ad e rev means “to evening”.

God’s day’s start and finish at sunset, and this is very common knowledge and the Hebrew term to define this precise time is “ba erev”, not evening as we already know but at sunset. Therefore, the exact time of sunset God calls “ba erev”.

One website I came across gave the following as his idea of ba erev

So, each time you read even or evening in the Bible, you must discern by the context, which even or evening is being spoken of:

- (1) noon,
- (2) sundown,
- (3) any time between noon and sundown, or
- (4) the entire period between noon and sundown.

If the Israelites adopted this approach when keeping the day of atonement, there would have been a lot of dead Israelis on that day.

Now let us look at the feast of unleavened bread.

The original instructions clearly stipulate that Passover is a single day—Nisan 14—followed by the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, beginning on Nisan 15.

Exo 12:18 In the first month you are to eat bread

made without yeast, from the evening [ba erev] of the fourteenth day until the evening [ba erev] of the twenty-first day.

Exo 12:19 There shall be no yeast found in your houses for seven days, for whoever eats that which is leavened, that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a foreigner, or one who is born in the land.

We know the feast of unleavened bread starts after sunset on the 14th that is the beginning of the 15th. It continues until the end of the 21st again when the sun sets. This is exactly seven days, and the time required for this feast of unleavened bread. So these two evenings [**ba erev**] are at the end of each day and the beginning of the next day.

This verse clearly tells us the feast of unleavened bread starts at sunset [**ba erev**] at the very end of the 14th and the start of the 15th. Now count forward the full seven days for this feast and you come to the 21st day of the month at evening [**ba erev**] sunset and the start of the 22nd day of the month. This is the exact time the feast of unleavened bread was to be kept. Exactly seven days.

From these two examples, we see the term “ba erev” as the start and finish times of these days and this can only refer to the exact time of sunset, not evening but the precise time the sun goes under the horizon.

Let God have the last word here in Gen 1:5. The fifth verse in the entire bible.

Gen 1:5 God called the light “day”, and the darkness he called “night”. There was evening [ereb] and there was morning, the first day.

When we examine the scriptures, we can see how God

defines the start and finish times for the feast of unleavened bread. He uses the term “ba erev” or sunset. A very precise time in any day. This command for the feast of unleavened bread is consistent with God’s command for keeping the day of atonement. Using the term “ba erev” proves conclusively this Hebrew term marks the exact time every day starts and finishes.

We all know when God’s day’s start, the purpose of this part of the message was to impress upon you the true meaning of the term “ba erev”. To fully understand the term “ben ha arbayim” it is imperative we first fully understand the term “ba erev”.

The Exact Meaning of Ben Ha Arbayim

The traditional Jewish interpretation of the term “ben ha arbayim” is that time of the day, from soon after midday until sunset. Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan is one who holds to this tradition. But is he correct in his interpretation of God’s word, or is this just his own personal idea to suit what he wants it to say? This chapter shows why he is not correct, but is very misleading in what he teaches.

Jesus was aware of the corruption of God’s word by those who were the leaders of the people. Those who should have understood the word of God and taught it accurately. But what did Jesus say to the religious leaders about replacing the commandments of God with the traditions of their own? Read what he told them in Mar 7:9.

Mar 7:9 He said to them, “Full well do you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

God has revealed the true meaning of the phrase ben ha arbayim in Exodus 16. This piece of scripture shows how God will use scripture to reveal scripture so we do not have to rely upon the traditions of men like Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan. By following the order of events in Exo 16, we will plainly see the exact time “ben ha arbayim” begins.

This chapter, Exo 16, starts as Israel comes into the wilderness of sin. Verse one advises us this was on the fifteenth day of the second month after leaving Egypt. We can

be certain that the meaning of the term “ben ha arbayim” did not change in these forty-five days since God instructed Moses how the Passover was to be observed. So what ever we discover now about this term must have had the same meaning just forty-five days earlier.

This chapter covers one full week with the first day being a Sabbath day, a day of rest to the last day, another Sabbath day of rest.

This region called the wilderness of sin is a very barren and inhospitable place where it would have been impossible to feed this vast number of people, as well as all their livestock, from any food that may have been growing in the region. This is made clear in Exo 16:3.

Exo 16:3 and the children of Israel said to them, “We wish that we had died by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots, when we ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then in verses 4-8 we see God promising to feed them. This happened on the fifteenth day of the month and this was a Sabbath day. This is the day God made the promise, but it is not the day he fulfilled the promise, as we will see later.

Exo 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way, I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.”

Exo 16:5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.

Exo 16:6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening [Hebrew, e rev at evening] you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt,

Exo 16:7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?

Exo 16:8 Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening [ba erev at sunset] and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

The Manna God provided was a miracle. He fed the entire nation with this manna in a place of true wilderness where there was nothing else to eat. It is also a powerful message about the importance of the Sabbath day and keeping it holy. That no work was to be done on the seventh day of the week. Also, notice in verse 8, God will give them **MEAT to eat** in the evening.

For the first five days of the week, God provided enough of this manna for their daily needs, but on the sixth day, he provided twice the amount, enough to sustain them for the sixth and the seventh days of the week.

An important part of this miracle was that they were to gather only enough for each day. If they gathered too much, it rotted by the next day, as we see in verse twenty below.

Exo 16:19 Moses said to them, "Let no one leave of it until the morning."

Exo 16:20 Notwithstanding they didn't listen to Moses, but some of them left of it until the morning,

and it bred worms, and became foul: and Moses was angry with them.

But when the sixth day came, they were to gather twice as much as on the other days and keep some until the next day, the Sabbath, and it did not go rotten.

Part of this miracle of the manna was to impress on the people of Israel the importance of keeping the Sabbath. For forty years they were fed this way, but never did the manna come on a Sabbath day.

Shortly after this, God gave the Israelites the “Ten Commandments” with the fourth being the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy.

One valuable lesson we can learn from the miracle of the manna that fed the Israelites for forty years is this. God honours his own Sabbath. He did not feed the people on any Sabbath for forty years, but provided enough on the sixth day to feed them for the last two days of the week. If we are to truly understand the rest of Exodus sixteen, we must keep the importance of the Sabbath day observance in mind.

When God created everything, he blessed the seventh day and made it holy. It was made so every man could rest on that day and spend time in a relationship with God. This day is never to be used for providing a living. This is a valuable lesson we can learn from the miracle of the Manna.

Unfortunately, most Christians today have changed God’s Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. But God has clearly made the seventh day holy, not the first. We can see that it makes a great deal of difference which day we honour as our Sabbath from the events that happened for forty years and the miracle of the manna.

The Israelites gather manna for five days and any left over to the next day was rotten. But when they gathered twice what they need on the sixth day and kept it for the following day, the Sabbath, the manna did not rot. This sequence of events is recorded in verses 23-30. By this time, they have been eating the manna for six days as verse 22 tells us.

Exo 16:22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

Then, with verses 23-25, we see the proof that this was indeed on a Sabbath day. Verse 25 is very clear that this is now a Sabbath day.

Exo 16:23 He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.'"

Exo 16:24 So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it.

Exo 16:25 "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today.

Exo 16:26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Exo 16:28 Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?"

Exo 16:29 Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he

gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out."

Exo 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

By all this, God was stressing the importance of the Sabbath, and this we must comprehend if we are to understand the rest of Exodus 16.

God was very precise in the times he sent both the manna and the meat for the people to eat. The timing is revealed in verses six through eight.

Exo 16:6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening [Hebrew ba erev, at sunset] you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt,"

Exo 16:7 and in the morning [Hebrew boqer, sunrise] you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?

Exo 16:8 Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening [Hebrew ba erev, at sunset] and all the bread you want in the morning, [Hebrew boqer] because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

Notice in verses six and eight the Hebrew word ba erev is translated "at evening" and then "in the evening". But this is not the correct translation of ba erev. These verses should read "at sunset". A very precise time, as discussed previously.

Now this is where we come to the meaning of "ben ha

arbayim”. In verse 13, God sends the quail at sunset, or the start of the new day. He did not send the quail before sunset because this promise was made on the Sabbath day, God’s day of rest. If he sent them on that day, the people would have gathered them, killed, cleaned, and cooked them on the Sabbath day. So God waited until sunset, the end of the Sabbath day and the start of the first day of the week before sending the quail at evening.

Exo 16:13 In the evening, [Hebrew ba erev, at sunset] quail came up and covered the camp; and in the morning the dew lay around the camp.

Exo 16:14 When the dew that lay had gone, behold, on the surface of the wilderness was a small round thing, small as the frost on the ground.

We know manna never came on a Sabbath. Therefore, this has to be the day after the Sabbath. So the promise from God about when the quail were going to arrive was made on the Sabbath.

This is when the people ate **the meat God had promised them** the day before on the Sabbath day. In verse 13, we see the quail arrived in the camp in the evening (**Hebrew ba erev**) or sunset after the Sabbath has ended and the first day of the week has started. It is obvious they could not eat the meat of the quails until they arrived in the camp after sunset and the first day of the week had begun. So now we can see precisely when they ate the meat. It is recorded in verses eleven and twelve.

Exo 16:11 The LORD said to Moses,

Exo 16:12 "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight [translated from the Hebrew term "ben ha ardayim"] you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with

bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

This term twilight in Exo 16:12 is translated from the Hebrew phrase "Ben ha arbayim" exactly the same as in Exo 12:6 when the Israelites are commanded to killed the lambs at twilight, and again twilight is translated from the same Hebrew phrase "ben ha arbayim". Now if "ben ha arbayim" means immediately after sunset in Exo 16:12, then how can it possibly be translated as about 3pm in the afternoon in Exo 12:6?

When the Rabbis do this, they are twisting the meaning to suit their own agendas. If "ben ha arbayim" can mean both immediately after sunset (Exo 16:12) and at three in the afternoon, then there is no consistency in God's word. But God is consistent, therefore, this simply cannot be the case.

Whatever time "ben ha arbayim" is referring to in both these passages of scripture, the time of the day must coincide exactly, otherwise God would have used a completely unique phrase for one of them to differentiate between the two times of the day. Between at sunset and in the late afternoon. But he did not. So "ben ha arbayim" either means immediately after sunset, or about 3pm. We can plainly see from the miracle of the quail that the only possible interpretation can be immediately after sunset.

When the quail arrived, at twilight, [ben ha arbayim] did the Israelites catch, kill, cook and eat them immediately, yes they did. But if "ben ha arbayim" means in the afternoon, as some rabbis will claim, then the quail may have arrived at sunset, but the Israelites did not gather and cook them until late in the afternoon somewhere around 20 hours later. We cannot have it both ways.

Now we know the quail could not come before the sun had set, so here in Exo 16:12 we see when they were ate the quail, or meat. It was after “ba erev”, or sunset, at a time described by God as “**ben-ha-arbayim**”.

When God used the term “ben ha arbayim” in the Passover command in Exodus 12, and forty-five days later used that same Hebrew phrase in Exodus 16:12, it conveyed the same meaning in both instances. Surely there can be no disputing this. Any other interpretation is from man and not from God. And what did Jesus say about the Rabbis of his day?

Mar 7:8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.

Mar 7:9 And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”

The only authority on this matter can be the authority of Almighty God.

Another passage of scripture well worth examining that uses the term “ben ha arbayim” is in Exo 30:8. Here, God is instructing Aaron about the lighting of the lamps.

Exo 30:8 He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight [again from the Hebrew term “ben ha arbayim”] so incense will burn regularly before the LORD for the generations to come.

Aaron would not light the lamps in the middle of the afternoon and waste oil. No, he would light the lamps when evening started, and it was getting dark. When the lamps were needed to give light.

If you accept the word of God, then how can you not

accept the fact that the lambs were slaughtered at the very beginning of the day, at “ben ha arbayim”.immediately after sunset. The same time God used to describe when the Israelites would eat the meat of the quails.

Sorry for being so adamant and dogmatic, but I feel absolutely compelled to bring you God’s proof, not the so-called proof of rabbis or other scholars, but proof directly from the word of God. Remember Joh 17:17.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

And also remember the warning in the book of Daniel.

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

I believe the Rabbis in the days of Jesus and our modern day rabbis are doing just that. Changing the set times and the laws while observing their own traditions. Very harsh words I know, but what other conclusion is there? We either believe the scriptures, the very words of God, or we believe the traditions of men.

On last thing I must cover here is what we call the “night to be much observed”. Why is this night to be remembered? It is not because of the Passover that was yesterday, and everything associated with that day has been completed. We are now on the 15th day of Nisan and the start of the feast of unleavened bread. So exactly why do we need to keep a vigil that night? The answer is in Exo 12:41-42.

Exo 12:41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very

*day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.
Exo 12:42 Because the LORD kept vigil that night
to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the
Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for
the generations to come.*

What does verse 41 say? They left Egypt 430 years later, to the very day. This is when all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. This cannot be referring to the 14th as they were all still in Egypt. Verse 42 tells us the Lord kept vigil that night. What night? The night he bought them out of Egypt the 15th of Nisan. This is the reason to keep the vigil, to keep the "night to be much observed", not for a Passover meal. Everything associated with the Passover day was accomplished the day before on the 14th of Nisan. The vigil was to remember how God delivered them from the land of Egypt and set them free on the 15th of Nisan.

When we accept the traditions of man that the Passover meal is on the evening of the 15th, and that the death angel passed over Egypt at midnight on the 15th of Nisan, we are mixing God's holy days and blending them into one season. But when we do this, we are forgetting, or ignoring, the command from God to keep each feast as a separate season. Do we mix the feast of tabernacles and the last great day? Or do we recognise each one as a completely unique event?, celebrated concurrently, yes, but still separate events.

Therefore, in Lev 23: 4, God gave us the following advice.

*Lev 23:4 "These are the LORD's appointed
festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim
at their appointed times:"*

The appointed time for the Passover is from the 10th of Nisan, 4 days prior to the Passover, when all the households

were to select their lambs and keep them separate until the Passover. These lambs were then to be slaughtered at Evening [**“ben ha arbayim”**] on the 14th, following this the blood was put onto the door frames, the lambs were roasted, eaten and anything remaining was to be burned by sunrise. The death angel passed over them that night (the 14th) at midnight. The Israelites were commanded to remain in their homes until morning. [Exo 12:22] After sunrise they plundered the Egyptians before they gathered at Rameses ready to depart Egypt that night after sunset at the start of the 15th of Nisan. This ended the “appointed time” for the Passover.

The entire nation of Israel comprising up to three million people, thousands of cattle and sheep, had to gather at Rameses from all parts of Goshem, where they were scattered. Remember, they had to keep their Passover in their own homes. They could not leave their homes before sunrise. This left them only the 12 hours of daylight on the 14th to gather in Rameses. When the sunset on this day, that ended the “appointed time for the Passover”, and the 15th day of Nisan began, the exodus also began immediately after sunset. And this was the start of the “appointed time for the Feast of unleavened bread”.

Please do not mix God’s “appointed time” for “Passover”, a one-day event, and his “appointed time” for “the festival Unleavened bread”, a seven-day event.

How long is "ben ha arbayim?"

I hope by now you can see when "ben ha arbayim" starts, at the very beginning of the day immediately after sunset, or "ba erev". According to the miracles of the quails, God sent the quail at a time he referred to as "ben ha arbayim" and this is also the time he allocated for the killing of the Passover lambs.

The Israelites ate the quail after the sun had set, "ben ha arbayim". But how long does this period last? In the spring in that region of the world, the twilight lasts for about one hour and maybe a little longer.

Now we know when "ben ha arbayim" starts we can see there was sufficient time for these small birds to be caught, cleaned and cooked during this brief time of twilight. Since quail are small birds, they would not take long to cook and be ready to eat. So many of these birds could have easily been consumed before "ben ha arbayim" ended. But was it really necessary for all of them to be consumed by this time? Look again at Exo 12:12.

Exo 16:12 "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight [translated from the Hebrew term "ben ha ardayim"] you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

Exo 16:13 In the evening, quail came up and

covered the camp; and in the morning the dew lay around the camp.

God promised them they would eat meat at twilight [“ben ha arbayim”] and this is exactly what happened. But notice God did not say all the meat needed to be consumed by this time, during the hours of “ben ha arbayim”. No, only that they would eat meat during “ben ha arbayim”.

Consider what happened at the time of the killing of the Passover lambs. The only stipulation God made was that the lambs must be killed, not cooked and eaten. It would take considerably longer than an hour to kill, clean, and cook a one-year-old lamb. This is much bigger than a quail and would take a lot longer to finish cooking.

The Israelites had all night to actually eat the lamb, as long as there was nothing left over by the morning when anything left was to be burned.

One claim made by those who disagree with this is that this many birds could not be caught and cooked in such a brief space of time. But consider this, each household only had to gather enough for their own family. The birds covered the camp as we see in verse 13. So the Israelites only had to go outside their own tents to catch the quail. God made it easy for them so they could eat some of the quail in the evening [*translated from the Hebrew term [“ben ha arbayim”]*]

God is precise and he has made it very clear from the miracle of the quail he exact time for “ben ha arbayim” If we accept this evidence we can keep the seasons for Passover and the festival of unleavened bread in their appointed seasons as God instructed in Lev 23:4.

But on the other hand if we accept “ben ha arbayim” as

being at 3pm on the 14th of Nisan we are then forced to mix these appointed times into one event and ignore the commands of God to keep the traditions of man.

Abraham, Jesus And The Cross

You may remember in the introduction to this book, I said there was an excellent reason the time for the Passover lamb being killed, and the time Jesus died on the cross was different. In this chapter, I will now explain what I mean.

One question we have here is this. Should we observe the Passover at the same time of the day Jesus did with his disciples? From the very beginning of the day immediately after sunset on the 14th of Nisan? Or should we observe it at the time Jesus died on the cross at about 3pm that day?

The first thing I would like to say on this matter is this. Almighty God had all of eternity to plan what was going to happen here on his earth. He created Adam and Eve to start humanity. He caused the great flood to erase most of humanity after their sins became so great. Through his power, he has made kings and brought down kingdoms. God has constantly displayed his power and control over his entire universe, not just the earth.

With this incredible power and control, he planned everything down to the smallest detail. Therefore, we can be 100% certain that Jesus Christ was born at exactly the correct time. He suffered and died and also rose from the dead at exactly the correct time. There is nothing in all of creation that is not under his feet, as we see in Eph 1:22.

Eph 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for

the church.

Now, with those thoughts in mind, let me ask you this one question. Did Jesus Christ keep the Passover meal at the correct time, and did he also die on the cross at precisely the correct time? Or did he somehow get the times mixed up?

I believe that anyone who has faith in our Lord Jesus Christ will agree he made no mistakes. His timing all throughout all time has been perfect. Therefore, he kept the Passover meal at the correct time. He also died on the cross at the correct time. All we need to do is to trust him and to follow his perfect example and we cannot go wrong.

I have already covered some of this in previous chapters, but let me quote once more from God's holy scriptures to establish the correct time to observe the Passover.

Num 9:2 "Moreover let the children of Israel keep the Passover in its appointed season."

Num 9:3 On the fourteenth day of this month, at evening, [ben ha arbayim] you shall keep it in its appointed season—according to all its statutes, and according to all its ordinances, you shall keep it.

Num 9:4 Moses spoke to the children of Israel, that they should keep the Passover.

Num 9:5 They kept the Passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening, [ha arbayim] in the wilderness of Sinai. According to all that Yahweh commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

I believe the instruction here are very clear. The Passover is to be kept on the 14th day of Nisan in the evening. This word evening is taken from the Hebrew term "ben ha

arbayim”. I covered this in the chapter titled “The Exact Meaning Of Ben Ha Arbayim”. I believe God has very well proven to us the exact time of the day this term is referring to. It can only mean immediately after the sun has set and a new day is starting.

This is the timing for the Passover meal to be eaten. Now we must answer the question. “Why did Jesus not die on the cross at precisely this time if he is our Passover Lamb?” Why about twenty-one hours later?

Jesus Christ did not die at the hour we would normally expect, the same hour the Passover lambs were killed. The death of Jesus on the cross on the 14th of Nisan in the afternoon and at about 3pm must have a very special significance. The death of our Lord on this Roman cross is one of the greatest moments in all of history. Therefore, there must be a lesson we can learn from this about why such a historic and world-changing event would happen on that day, and at that very hour of the day. At about 3pm on the 14th of Nisan. I said earlier, all this was according to the eternal plan, this was not an accident, or a change in plans, or Christ making a monumental mistake.

What is significant about that day and hour? To find the answer to that question, we must look again into God’s holy scriptures. The first part of the answer is found in Exo 12:40-42. From the AFV version of the bible.

Exo 12:40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years,
Exo 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, it was even on that very same day, all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.
Exo 12:42 It is a night to be much observed to the

LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD to be observed by all the children of Israel in their generations.

The Israelites had fulfilled all the requirements for the Passover on the 14th of Nisan. The last thing they did on this day was to travel to Rameses to be ready to depart Egypt the following night. In the following verses, Num 33:3 and Deu 16:1 reaffirm the Israelites left Egypt from Rameses on the 15th day of Nisan. This is important to remember that they left at night. After sundown and at the very start of the 15th of Nisan.

Num 33:3 The Israelites set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. They marched out defiantly in full view of all the Egyptians,

Deu 16:1 Observe the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of the LORD your God, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night.

According to Num 33:3 and Deu 16:1, the Israelis left Egypt at night at the very start of the 15th of Nisan. Now notice what Exo 12:41 above revealed to us. They left after 430 years “even on the very same day”. This is easy to read over and not give it another thought. But what is that “even on that very same day” referring to? It must be looking back to something that has already happened. It cannot be some day in the future, it can only be a day in history. And that very same day is the time of the original promise God had made to Abraham in Gen 15:1-9 some 430 years earlier, to the very same day.

Gen 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to

Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."

Gen 15:5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Gen 15:8 But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

Gen 15:9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

Now the scene is set, and God is about to ratify his promise to Abraham. This type of promise and the way it is sealed is important to understand. The person making this promise, and in this case it is God Himself, must suffer the same fate as the animals and be cut in half if he does not keep

his promise. Therefore, this is no insignificant promise. It is now up to God to keep his promise. This type of covenant, and the penalty for not keeping the promise, is described in Jer 34:18.

Jer 34:18 I will give the men who have transgressed my covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts:

Jer 34:19 the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land, who passed between the parts of the calf;

Jer 34:20 I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life. Their dead bodies will be food for the birds of the sky and for the animals of the earth.

So here we have a very graphic description of what happens to those who failed to keep such an important covenant or promise. And as we will see soon, this is the same type of promise God made to Abraham. And since it will be God Himself who will walk between the carcasses, he is declaring that may he be cut in half if he does not keep his part of the promise. Continuing in Gen 15:12, God explains to Abram what his offspring will have to endure in the future. This happened in the late afternoon as the sun was going down.

Gen 15:12 When the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. Now terror and great darkness fell on him.

Gen 15:13 He said to Abram, "Know for sure that your offspring will live as foreigners in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them. They will afflict

them four hundred years.

Gen 15:14 I will also judge that nation, whom they will serve. Afterward they will come out with great wealth;

We know from Exo 12:36 the Israelites plundered the Egyptians just before they left Egypt, so fulfilling this part of God's promise, they would come out with great wealth.

Exo 12:36 Yahweh gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. They plundered the Egyptians.

We know the Egyptians were plundered on the 14th of Nisan. God reveals this truth to us in the book of Exodus.

Exo 3:19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

Exo 3:20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

Exo 3:21 "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

Exo 3:22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

Here, even before Moses goes to the Israelites to lead them out of Egypt. God confronts Moses in the burning bush and notice what he tells Moses is going to happen. Verse 19, God told Moses the king of Egypt would not let them go unless a mighty hand compels him. Then notice carefully what God says in verse 20. He will strike Egypt will **all his**

wonders and only after that will the king will let them go.

In the chapter titled “God Shows Pharaoh Ten Wonders” we can see ALL THE wonders God performed and this obviously includes the last wonder. Killing of all the firstborn of Egypt, both man and beast. It was after **all these wonders** were carried out that God told Moses, “he will let you go”. The last wonder was the death of the firstborn, and we know this happened at midnight on the 14th of Nisan.

Then in verses 21 and 22, God foretells Moses: the Israelites will not leave empty-handed and they will plunder the Egyptians. Therefore, the plundering happened after midnight on the 14th. And since God had instructed the Israelites they were not to leave their houses until morning. The only time left for plundering was after the sun rose on the daylight portion of the 14th, and before they set out to gather at Rameses.

Another reason this plundering would not happen prior to this is the simple fact that until this time, the Egyptians still regarded the Israelites as their slaves. And they certainly would not have handed over all their valuables to their slaves. Plus, by now they are burying their dead and are terrified of all dying at the hands of the God of Israel. This was the twofold effect of the last wonder. First, the Pharaoh was now keen to be rid of the Israelites. And second, they were now easy to plunder because of their fear of what may happen to them if they refuse to hand over their wealth.

Therefore, when God told Abraham in Gen 15:14, they will go out with great wealth. This must be referring to this exact day 430 years later.

Now, back to Gen 15:14. It was late in the afternoon as the sun was going down. Abram went into a deep sleep. God then

foretold Abram what was going to befall his offspring.

While Abram was in this deep sleep, God tells him his offspring will be slaves in Egypt, but will then come out with great wealth. This is followed by God now ratifying his promise to make it binding on him to deliver this promise. Notice it is now when the sun had gone down. A new day has started since Abram prepared the animals, as God had instructed him to do.

Gen 15:17 It came to pass that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold, a smoking furnace and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

Gen 15:18 In that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I have given this land to your offspring, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates:

It is interesting to note that the day the ***smoking furnace and a flaming torch*** passed between the carcasses happened after the sun had set and it was dark. This happened the day after Abraham arranged the animal pieces and God made his promise to Abraham.

In the two verses below, we see God described as a smoking furnace and as a flaming torch. The same symbols that passed between the carcasses of the animals. This proves it was God Himself who passed between the parts of the animals.

Exo 19:18 All of Mount Sinai smoked, because Yahweh descended on it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

Dan 10:6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes

as flaming torches. His arms and his feet were like burnished brass. The voice of his words was like the voice of a multitude.

In Gen 15:17, a smoking furnace and a flaming torch passed between the pieces of the animals. This is God putting his signature on the promise. Now the promise is unconditional and God must keep his end of the deal.

Remember how binding and final this type of covenant is, as we read earlier in Jer 34:18-20.

God cannot lie, and he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Therefore, this promise is binding. God's promise to Abraham was he would make him a great nation, and that all nations on earth would be blessed through him. This is recorded in Gen 22:15-18.

*Gen 22:15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time
Gen 22:16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,
Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,
Gen 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."*

God made this covenant with Abraham to reassure him his descendants would inherit the land. But this goes a lot deeper than just the land. As we see in verse eighteen, "all nations on earth will be blessed". So this is also a spiritual promise.

The promise God made to Abraham about the vast number

of his offspring goes beyond the physical children. In Gal 3:29, those who belong to Christ are also Abraham's children. Not through physical descent, but by faith in Jesus.

Gal 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

It is very interesting to note what Gal 3:8 tells us. Abraham heard the good news preached and knew all the earth would be blessed through him.

Gal 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Good News beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed."

My question here is, did Abraham, while he was in this deep sleep, actually see in a dream what was going to happen to Jesus on the cross? Knowing who he would be, this could have been the reason for the terror and great darkness that came over Abram. Also, this type of death penalty was never used in Abram's day. So the very sight of anyone dying in this manner would have been a horrific sight for him to see.

Another thing to consider is the darkness that came over Abram late in the afternoon as he was asleep. This may have been the same type of darkness that came over all the land the day Jesus was dying on the cross as in Mat 27:45.

Mat 27:45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

God made another promise to Abraham in Gen 13:14-15.

Gen 13:14 Yahweh said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, "Now, lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and

*southward and eastward and westward,
Gen 13:15 for I will give all the land which you see
to you and to your offspring forever.*

All the land Abraham could see was to belong to him and his offspring forever. But the only land Abraham possessed during his lifetime was the small plot of land he purchased for his wife Sarah to be buried in. Therefore, in these verses, we see a promise of eternal life and of inheriting all the land Abraham could see. This will occur when Jesus Christ returns in all power and glory and resurrects the dead.

This will include Abraham, his direct descendants, and those who belong to Abraham through their faith in Jesus Christ they will be raised incorruptible and will inherit the land.

When Jesus died on the cross, this is when the promise God had made to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him became a reality. On the 14th of Nisan at about 3pm. Jesus died for everyone, for all nations, that their sins may be forgiven. This opens the door for those who choose to enter the Kingdom. For those who are the children of Abraham by both birth and by faith in Jesus Christ.

The day after this promise was made to Abraham was when the promise was ratified by God passing through the pieces of the carcasses on the 15th of Nisan.

When the Israelites left Egypt on the 15th of Nisan at night, the same time of the day God passed between the pieces of the carcasses, They went from being slaves to the Egyptians to being a free people and now a great nation. Fulfilling God's promise to Abraham that he would be a great nation, as we see in Gen 22:17-18.

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you and make your

descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, Gen 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

So, now what we read Isa 66:8, is this the first time Israel became a great nation and in 1948 it is the second time?

Isa 66:8 Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she gave birth to her children.

The promises God made to Abraham have been partially fulfilled. The entire world had been blessed because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Israel became a great nation. All that is needed now is the return of Jesus. Abraham and his children, both physical descendants and his spiritual children, to be resurrected and to claim the land God promised.

Christ's sacrifice confirming the New Covenant occurred on the anniversary of God's covenantal promise to Abraham. **It was even on that very same day** on the same day and hour! Its specific timing draws our attention to the "eternal inheritance" promised to Abraham and his spiritual seed. Jesus set the example of when and how he wants us to observe the Passover. This is at the start of the 14th of Nisan, and then on that afternoon, he shed his blood so that a New Covenant could be completed.

This covenant is an outgrowth of the covenant God made with Abraham, making his "great nation" a reality. It provides for justification based on faith, for Israelite and Gentile alike,

and promises eternal life to those who continue to the end in faith. Christ is our Passover, not by lining up with the timing outlined in the instructions given to Israel about the killing of the Passover lambs. But by renewing and advancing the covenant God made with Abraham 430 years earlier, **even on that very same day.**

Unleavened Bread At The Lord's Passover

There is one point that needs to be clarified if I am to cover the full meaning of the Passover, and that is what type of bread did Jesus eat at his Passover meal. Was it leavened or unleavened.

The first comment I would like to make about the bread Jesus had at the Passover meal is simply this. We know Jesus did nothing wrong and never failed to keep all of the commands of God, and this includes eating unleavened bread at the Passover meal. Therefore I am totally convinced that no matter what words are used to describe this bread, it was unleavened.

Second comment. Leavened bread rises and really needs to be cut with a knife, but as recorded in Mat 26:26 Jesus **broke the bread** which is what you do with unleavened bread.

Mat 26:26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it[eklasen ,broke [it]V-A1A-3S]. He gave to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Third comment. Many claim the term "artos" can only mean leavened bread. And therefore Jesus could not have eaten the Passover because he was eating the incorrect type of bread, leavened. But some dispute this as they see artos can be either leavened or unleavened bread. This adds to the confusion, but if they are correct then Jesus may have indeed eaten unleavened bread at his Passover meal.

<https://alt.messianic.narkive.com/oXGyvxmJ/artos-is-bread-whether-it-is-leavened-or-unleavened-bread>

[Shmuel] ? The Greek word for "bread" is "artos" whether it be made with "zumay" (leaven) or "azuma" (without leaven) just as the Hebrew word for "bread" is "leHem" whether it be "matzah" or not be "matzah". In the LXX, for example, the unleavened bread of Passover is referred to as "bread (arton) [of affliction]" (leHem onee). [cf. Deuteronomy (D'vareem) 16.3] And the unleavened bread offered to God in the temple was referred to as the "bread of presentation" (leHem hapaneem = artoi tays protheseos = the show-bread). [cf. 2 Chron. 4.19] Also, Jews who wrote in Greek like Philo and Josephus referred to unleavened bread (matzah) as "bread" (artos).

The Greek word "Azumos" is used for the feast of unleavened bread. This actually means "unleavened" bread and there is no argument there. So why was the word "artos" used in the account of Jesus having the Passover meal? The Wikipadia agrees with the the alt.messianic.narkive above.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azymes>

"Azymes" (plural of azyme) is an archaic English word for the Jewish matzah, derived from the Ancient Greek word ἄζυμος (ἄρτος) ázymos (ártos), "unleavened (bread)", for unfermented bread in Biblical times;^[1] the more accepted term in modern English is simply unleavened bread or matzah, but cognates of the Greek term are still used in many Romance languages (Spanish pan ácimo, French pain azyme, Italian azzimo, Portuguese pão ácimo and Romanian azimă). The term does not appear frequently in modern Bible translations, but was the usual word for unleavened bread in the early

Conclusion

We know that the Israelites plundered the Egyptians on the 14th of Nisan as God had foretold Abraham in Exo 3:22.

Exo 3:22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her who visits her house, jewels of silver, jewels of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons, and on your daughters. You shall plunder the Egyptians.”

Then in Exo 12:35-36 we see this prophecy fulfilled on the 14th of Nisan as the Israelites were about to leave Egypt.

Exo 12:35 The children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and clothing.

Exo 12:36 Yahweh gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. They plundered the Egyptians.

This happened on the 14th of Nisan. They left Egypt on the 15th at night the day after the Passover. This is when God's promise to Abraham that he would be a great nation was fulfilled. When they left Egypt no longer as slaves but as free people, and as a great nation. And with great wealth.

It was also recorded for us that they would leave with great wealth as God had also promised Abraham in Gen 15:14.

Gen 15:14 I will also judge that nation, whom they will serve. Afterward they will come out with great wealth;

The promise from God that all nations would be blessed through him came about when Jesus Christ died on that Roman cross many years later.

Gen 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

This part of the promise was kept when Jesus Christ died on the Roman cross for the forgiveness of our sins. It also opened the door for those who have faith in Jesus to be a part of Abraham's family. A family made up of direct descendants and also of those who have the faith of Abraham through their trust in Jesus. This makes Abraham's descendants a truly great nation.

Compare what happened with the promise God made to Abraham, and what happened when Jesus was crucified.

1. Great darkness and terror came over Abraham.
- 2 Great darkness came over the land when Jesus was on the cross.
3. Jesus died at the same time of the day the great darkness came over Abraham. Late in the day.
4. The covenant with Abraham was ratified the day after this great darkness came over him.
5. The Israelites came out of Egypt as a free and great nation on the 15th, corresponding to the day after the great darkness came over Abraham.

The great darkness that came over Abraham may well have been him envisaging the death of Jesus on the cross. We know from Gal 3:8 the scriptures that tell us the Gentiles would be justified by faith was preached to Abraham. If he saw a vision of Jesus on the cross, this would have indeed been a great terror to him. This type of cruel and barbaric execution was something Abraham could never have thought possible. So if he did have a vision of this event, it would have left him horrified.

Gal 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Good News beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed."

We also know Jesus died on the cross on the 14th of Nisan at about 3pm, this coincides with the day the great darkness came over Abraham 430 years earlier, to the very day. This is when God's promise of the whole world being blessed through him was made a reality. Through the death of Jesus Christ on that Roman cross this has opened the way for all people to receive eternal life. For all nations to be blessed.

Christ's sacrifice confirming the New Covenant occurred on the anniversary of God's covenantal promise to Abraham, the same day and hour! Its specific timing draws our attention to the "eternal inheritance" promised to Abraham and his spiritual seed. Jesus set the example of when and how he wants us to observe the Passover, at the beginning of the 14th, and then on that afternoon, he shed his blood so that a New Covenant could be made. This was always God's intention and it all came about exactly as he planned.

This covenant is an outgrowth of the covenant God made with Abraham, making his "great nation" a reality. It provides

for justification on the basis of faith—for Israelite and Gentile alike—and promises eternal life to those who continue to the end in faith. Christ is our Passover, not by lining up with the timing outlined in the instructions given to Israel for the Passover, but by renewing and advancing the covenant God made with Abraham 430 years earlier, **to the very day.**

About The Author

Leslie Rendell has been studying the bible for most of his life. When he is researching a topic, he looks at what other people have said in their books, or on the world wide web. He believes it is important to see opinions from every angle of a subject to be able to give his own informed decision. But still the most important reference is always the bible. There is no other authority when it comes to matters of what God expects from those He has created in His own image. If there is a conflict between the bible and man's thoughts, The bible will win every time.

All though he has not had any formal bible education, he believes the bible can be understood by the average bible reader. Otherwise how could they ever understand what God's will is for their lives?

Apart from bible studies, Leslie loves to spend time with his family watching his daughter grow into a wonderful woman and mother. His grand children starting on their life journeys, and now some great grand children to watch growing up. It is a special time in his life to see his family grow.

He is retired and now lives in the South West of Western Australia. Apart from his love of the Bible and his family, his other hobby is photography, where he loves to photograph God's creation.

If you have read one of Leslie's books, he would

appreciate you leaving a comment on his website
(www.lesliendell.com)