

Lesson 1: What Is Passover? Exodus 12:1-14, Leviticus 23:5

Homework Prior To Meeting:

1) Identify where Egypt and Israel are on a map.



2) Define “Full Moon” and “New Moon.”

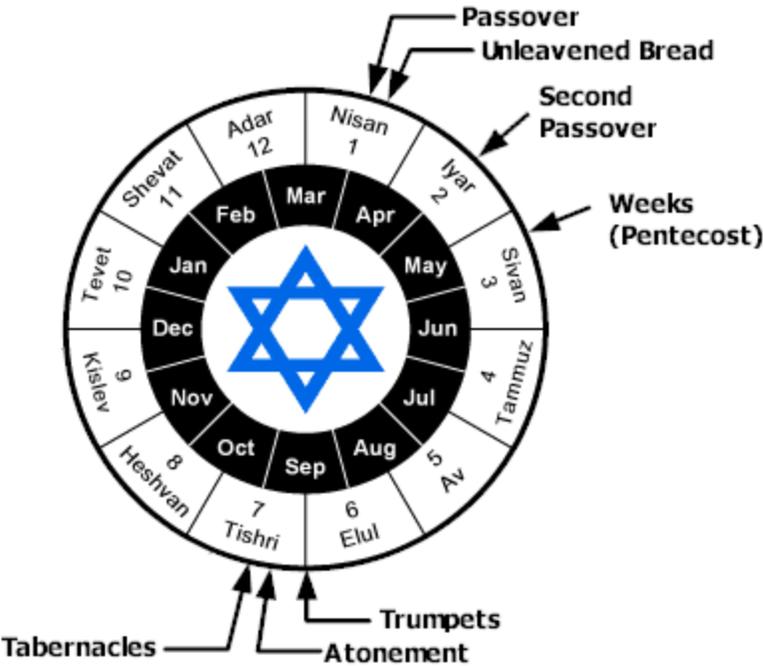




Full Moon: Phase of the Moon in which the Moon is at its brightest during the month from our perspective on Earth. This occurs when the Earth is located directly between the Sun and the Moon.

New Moon: Phase of the Moon in which the Moon is at its darkest during the month from our perspective on Earth. This occurs when the Moon is located directly between the Sun and the Earth.

- 3) Read Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:18.
- 4) Identify the Hebrew name for the first month of the year.



Introduction:

Passover (Pesach) is one of the best known Jewish festivals. It commemorates the event in which God freed the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt after living there for about 430 years. It is one of the most important events in the history of the Israelites, and it occurs on the fourteenth day of the first month of the year. Agriculturally, Passover represents the beginning of the harvest season in Israel.

Passover is an event that you may have heard in one form or another at some time in your life. It has even been depicted in major motion pictures. The story of Moses and the Ten Plagues of Egypt is an important aspect of Jewish history. The tenth plague that struck against Egypt during the time of Exodus was that of the death of the firstborn child in every home. God instructed the Israelites through Moses and Aaron to follow specific instructions in order to prevent the Israelites from this calamity. As a result of this Passover, the Israelites were released and allowed to leave Egypt.

Read through Exodus 12:1-14, Exodus 12:46, and Leviticus 23:5 together as a group or individually and answer the questions below.

Reading For Content:

- 1) According to verse 2, which month of the year does Passover occur?
- 2) According to verse 3, which day of the month is the lamb brought into the house?
- 3) According to verse 5, what type of lamb is being described?
- 4) According to verse 6, which day of the month shall the lamb be sacrificed?
- 5) According to verse 6, what time of day shall the lamb be sacrificed?
- 6) According to verse 7, where on the house shall the blood be placed as a symbol of obedience?
- 7) According to verse 12, the Passover occurred in which land?
- 8) According to verse 13, what is used as a symbol of obedience?
- 9) According to verse 46, what shall those who observe Passover not do with the bones?

Group Discussion:

- 1) According to Exodus 1:13-14 and Exodus 6:5-6, what is the land of Egypt symbolic for?

- 2) How does the Passover shape the identity of the Israelites and their understanding of God?

- 3) Read Genesis 12:1-7. Why did God free the Israelites from Egypt?

- 4) What are some differences between the Hebrew calendar and our modern solar calendar?

- 5) What is your understanding of God based on this lesson?

Bible Passages Used:

Genesis (12:1-7, 25:5, 25:33, 32:28), Exodus (1:13-14, 6:5-6, 12:1-14, 12:46), Leviticus (23:5), Isaiah (61:1), Luke (4:18).

Reading For Content: Answers

- 1) first: The first month in the Jewish calendar corresponds to March-April in our modern calendar.
- 2) tenth
- 3) without blemish / perfect, male, sheep or goat
- 4) fourteenth
- 5) evening / twilight / sunset
- 6) two sides of the door and above the door



- 7) Egypt
- 8) blood
- 9) break them

Group Discussion: Answers

- 1) Being in bondage is to be a slave. In a literal sense, the Israelites were slaves or captives of the Pharaoh of Egypt. Read Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:18. Luke 4:18 copies and slightly rephrases Isaiah 61:1. In a spiritual sense, God's desired state for us is to be free from the bondage of sin and to live in spiritual liberty apart from sin.
- 2) Passover marks the beginning of the nation of Israel. It is its origin story, and it is God who was directly involved in freeing them from Egypt.
- 3) In Genesis 12, God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. This promise was passed onto Isaac (Genesis 25:5) and then to Jacob (Genesis 25:33). Jacob's name was changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28), and he became the forefather of the nation of Israel.
- 4) The Hebrew calendar is based primarily on the movement of the Moon, whereas our modern solar calendar is based on the movement of the Sun. The Moon revolves around the Earth about every 29½ days. This is known as a Month. For the Hebrew lunar calendar, the New Moon occurs on the 1st day of the month, and the Full Moon occurs around the 15th day of the month. Passover occurs on the 14th day of the 1st month (aka Nisan). This means that it occurs just before a Full Moon in March or April.
- 5) Open discussion.

Conclusion:

The first Passover occurred around sunset on the 14th day of the 1st month. The first month (Nisan) in the Hebrew calendar corresponds to March-April in our modern calendar. A perfect lamb of a sheep or goat was brought into the house on the 10th day of the 1st month so that the family became emotionally attached to the lamb. This caused them to understand the cost of the lamb's sacrifice. The blood was placed on both sides and the top of the entry door. The bones of the lamb shall not be broken. Death of the firstborn occurred to each family of Egypt that did not follow the guidelines provided by Moses and Aaron.

Passover marks the beginning of the nation of Israel. Passover is Israel's origin story, and it is God who was directly involved in freeing the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt. In a literal sense, Israel was released from bondage of Egypt and set on a path toward a land flowing with milk and honey. In a symbolic sense, God's chosen people were released from the bondage of sin and set on a journey toward the Promised Land of freedom and liberty.