

**Torah Portion #25: Tzav (תז) "Command"**

Torah ~ *Leviticus 6:1-8:36* | Prophets ~ *Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23* | New Covenant ~ *Heb. 7:23-8:6; 1 Cor. 11:17-34*

**The Last Supper**

The Feast of Passover is on the 14th day of Nisan, which falls in either March or April (*Exodus 12:1-28 & Lev. 23:4-8*). All throughout the Bible we find Passover being celebrated, including with Yeshua and His disciples.

Upon reading about Yeshua's last Passover, it seems as if *Matthew 26:17, Mark 14:12*, and *Luke 22:7-8* are saying that the Last Supper was at the normal time for the Passover Seder, at the end of Nisan 14th.

But *John 13:1-2 & 18:28* seems to indicate that it was NOT at the normal time for the Seder, but a night earlier, at the beginning of Nisan 14th.

To clear up the confusion we need to examine the Gospels and learn about a Galilean Jewish tradition.

**Examining the Gospels**

*Matthew 26:3-5* and *Mark 14:2* both state that the leaders who conspired to have Yeshua put to death did not want His death to occur “*during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people*” NKJV.

*Luke 22:15-16* “*(15) And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. (16) For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”*” ESV

After the last lamb was sacrificed on the evening of 14th (before the Seder) the High Priest would say “*it is finished.*”

*John 19:30* “*So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*” NKJV

**Galilean Jewish Tradition for Passover**

The Mishnah records that Galilean Jews had a different tradition than the Judean Jews for celebrating Passover. For Galilean Jews, Nisan 13th was preparation day for Passover, not the Nisan 14th. All preparation for the feast was finished by the start of Nisan 14th. Then the celebration of Passover started at the beginning of Nisan 14th with a traditional “Last Supper” before the start of the Fast Of The Firstborn (Ta'anit Bechorot). This fast was a tradition for all firstborn males in order to remember the tenth plague that came upon Egypt.

Even to this very day Rabbinical Judaism keeps this traditional way of starting the Passover festival. This Galilean Jewish tradition is very important for understanding the Gospels telling of Yeshua’s “Last Supper” with His disciples.

Yeshua was the firstborn of Mary and Joseph. Both Yeshua and the disciples were Galilean Jews. Therefore they would have followed the tradition to prepare for Passover on Nisan 13th and keep the Fast Of The Firstborn with a “Last Supper” at the start of Nisan 14th. *Matthew 26:2* and *Mark 14:1* could be referring to this tradition when they say in “*two days is the Passover*”, which would be the 13th of Nisan.

We must also remember that a very important part of fasting is prayer. After the Last Supper, Yeshua and the disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

So Yeshua's Last Supper could have been a traditional way that He started the Passover celebration each year, not the Seder itself as we know it today. That year He used the traditional Last Supper to show His disciples a new revelation about Him to be remembered in every future Passover Seder (*Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39*).

**Chronological order of the Last Supper and Crucifixion**

- (1.) On Nisan 13th, Yeshua and His disciples keep the Galilean preparation day for the Passover.
- (2.) At sunset, the start of Nisan 14th, Yeshua and the disciples had the traditional Galilean "Last Supper" before the start of the Fast Of The Firstborn.
- (3.) The next afternoon, still on Nisan 14th, Yeshua was crucified at the exact time that the lambs were being sacrificed for the Passover Seder.
- (4.) At sunset, the start of Nisan 15th when the Passover Seder was to be eaten, Yeshua (sinless and unleavened) was placed in the tomb at the start of Unleavened Bread, fulfilling these Feasts.