



Easter: Acts 12:1-4

Easter Sunday 20

LWC 4/1/18

L I V I N G  
W E L L

**Review:** Jonah 4:1-3. Coming soon: Doest thou well to be angry? Jonah is angry that Nineveh was saved.

**Acts 12:1-3:**

1. Now about that time...: Context: Gospel going to the Gentiles. See Acts 11. An assembly (not a synagogue) is established at Antioch, as the gospel has gone out from Jerusalem.
2. Because it pleased the Jews that he killed James with the sword, Herod took Peter also. What!
  - A. Three James among the disciples: James brother of John, son of Zebedee (Mat 4:21); James the Brother of Jesus (Gal 1:9); James the son of Alphaeus (Acts 1:13).
3. Days of unleavened bread: This is a feast associated with the Passover. See Lev 23.

**Verse 4:** What about Easter? The word translated Easter is elsewhere translated Passover (every time).

1. The word is found 26 times in the gospels—historical records of Christ's first coming.
2. It is found 3 times thereafter: Acts 12:4, 1 Co 5:7, Heb 11:28. The Hebrews passage refers to Ex. 12.
  - A. In Acts 12:4 it is translated Easter. It is ridiculous to attribute this as a translation error!
    - (1) It is often taught that Easter is related to "Ishtar", but there is actually very little evidence to support that theory. The main support for the theory is that Easter sounds like Ishtar. That is not very convincing. If we let the Bible define itself, which we should, then we do not know much about Easter, and should not be dogmatic about it. The word Easter is translated from has nothing to do with Ishtar!
  - B. Looking at the changeover from the Passover to Easter:
    - (1) Easter has replaced Passover for the church.
    - (2) That which was foreshadowed by the Passover, occurred with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. There is no need for continued hints once the big reveal is over.
    - (3) The law (including the Passover) was fulfilled. We walk in newness of life (1 Co 5:1-8)
    - (4) The Lamb has been slain once and for all. We have a finished work, not a religious work. Beginning of a new day—at sunrise, not end of the day, at sunset....We gather together in victory, not in bondage!

**Small Group Questions:**

1. Has everyone in your small group accepted Christ as Lord and Savior?
2. Where in the Bible does it say Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? How could you find this if you did not know?
3. Can you explain the difference between a mentality of religious works and one of resting in the finished work of Christ? Do you ever struggle with this? How? What verses in the Bible discuss this?

## **Passover: Lev. 23: 4-14**

**Feast of the Passover** (Lev 23:4-5): On the 10th of Nisan a lamb is selected, it is brought to the temple and examined/observed for 4 days. Assuming it passes as unblemished, it was ritualistically sacrificed at the time of the evening sacrifice (3 pm) on the 14th of Nisan as a memorial of the Passover lamb of Exodus 12. Many traditional elements such as the singing of Psalms 113-118 (the Hallel) are followed.

**Feast of Unleavened Bread** (v. 6-8) As a memorial to the diet eaten during the exodus (Ex 34:18) on Nisan 15, the day after the Passover began a week long “Feast” lasting to the 22nd. During this time Israel was to eat only unleavened bread.

**Feast of First Fruits** (v. 9-14) First Fruits and the feasts that followed could only be instituted once Israel entered into the promised land—not in the wilderness. First Fruits began on Sunday—“On the morrow after the Sabbath.” It overlapped with unleavened bread. The first sheafs of the barley harvest were brought to the tabernacle to be presented to the Lord. The harvest was not to be gathered until this occurred. The people were not even to bake any bread for himself until God received the first fruits.

### **Fulfillment of the Passover by Christ:**

Adam to Christ is 4,000 years. If a day is as a thousand years, four days passed between the prophetic “choosing of the lamb of God (Gen 3:15) and the day of his sacrifice.”

John 12:1-2. We see that Jesus was at Bethany 6 days before Passover. Then they made supper. This would make it 5 days before Passover since the “next day” for the Jews started in the evening, not the morning. (so before supper it is Sunday, after supper it is Monday...) Then in verse 12, we see “the next day” again which makes it 4 days before Passover. What does Jesus do? He enters Jerusalem.

As he enters Jerusalem the people praise him. Mark 11:9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 5. Ps 118:22-29. Read verse 26 again with Mark 11:9. Israel is singing the Hallel to Jesus Christ!

Mark 11:18 we see the Pharisees seek to destroy him (select him to die), and in vs 28 the beginning of his examination. Having been found without fault (Luk 23:14). Matt 27:45-46--at the hour of sacrifice, on the fourth day after entering Jerusalem, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God is sacrificed.

He is in the tomb on the day of Passover Sabbath and the feast of unleavened bread. He rises from the dead on the feast of first fruits, and the Holy Spirit descends 50 days later on the feast of Pentecost which ushers in the harvest which will end when a trumpet sounds. This will be followed by a national atonement for the nation of Israel to be followed by a celebration memorializing the temporary suffering of the past.