

The Last Supper Was It A Passover Meal?



By: John Durr

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Unless otherwise noted, All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. The Greek text of the KJV New Testament are translated from the Received Text (also called Texus Receptus, Byzantine Text or the Majority Text). Modern versions of the Bible do not use the same Greek text as the KJV. The Greek text of the modern versions has nearly 6,000 changes. In some cases whole passages have been eliminated.

Some Little Known Facts About Modern Versions of the Bible

Modern versions of the Bible come from the Greek text of the 1881 Revised Version of the Bible. The Greek text of the Revised Version was a completely new text that had never existed before. It was compiled by Westcott and Hort beginning in 1870 from many different ancient texts. Westcott and Hort were authorized by the Catholic Church to form a Revised Revision Committee to update the English of the King James Version of the Bible. Rather than using the accepted Greek text of the KJV, they decided to use the Alexandrian Text (also known as Minority Text or Critical Text). The Alexandrian Text is known by this name because it is believed to have originated in Alexandria Egypt. They used several different versions none of which agreed with one and other.

The Alexandrian Greek texts used by Westcott and Hort are often older than existing copies of the Received Text. Many experts believe these Alexandrian texts to have survived because they were not accepted and used by the Christian Church. On the other hand the Received Text was heavily used and copied and as a result the oldest manuscripts didn't survive. Today there are many people who have to replace their Bible because they wore it out. Now imagine hundreds or thousands of people using the same Bible, it just wouldn't survive.

The Letters of Westcott and Hort were published by their sons. They reveal them to be men of very questionable integrity. In fact, I wouldn't consider them Christians at all. Neither Westcott or Hort believed in the infallibility of scripture. The evidence suggest they believed they knew better than God.

Westcott said that he was a skeptic; he said his faith was weak; and he was plagued with "unbelief". Westcott also didn't believe the creation account in Genesis and said there was no literal heaven.

Hort rejected Jesus' blood atoned for our sins; he called it a "fictitious substitution." He scripture was "perverted" and it was his goal to correct those perversions. He also believed the New Age teaching that man is "divine." He also believed that his changes to scripture would change the Christian Church.¹

Get my complete free study: *The True and The Corrupt Word of God*. Every Christian should have it. <http://americascomingjudgment.com/Bible-Studies.html>

¹ John Durr, *The True and The Corrupt Word of God*, 2006 & 2013, AmericasComingJudgment.com

The Last Supper – Was it a Passover Meal?

According to Leviticus 23, Passover is on the fourteenth day of the first month and is a Sabbath. The fifteenth day is the feast of Unleavened Bread. The thirteenth day, the day before Passover, is the preparation day. This is the day the lambs are slain and in keeping with the biblical timetable, this should be the day of the Crucifixion.

The Passover was a yearly rehearsal for the actual crucifixion of the Passover lamb. Jesus is our Passover lamb. The Lamb was slain on the preparation day which was the day before Passover. Jesus was slain in accordance with this yearly rehearsal on the preparation day. Therefore, according to the schedule set out in Leviticus, the Last Supper couldn't have occurred on the official Passover day. Yet Jesus could have used the Last Supper as a substitute Passover meal because he was going to be in the grave on the Passover day. Below are the biblical texts, original Greek and commentary to support and prove this scenario:

1. Jesus sent the disciples to get a room to prepare for the passover. “Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?” (Matthew 26:17) This text states that it was the first day of unleavened bread. This is obviously not correct for if it was the first day of unleavened bread in accordance with God's command in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23, it would already be Passover. The Greek shows the translators added the following words: “day”, and “feast of”. So the text actually reads: “Now the first ~~day~~ of the ~~feast of~~ unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?” First comes from the Greek word “protos” and according to Strong's it can also be translated before. The Interlinear translates it as “before-most” meaning the “day before” or in other words, “the first day preceding”. It was the day before unleavened bread or Passover.
2. It is more obvious that “protos” was translated inaccurately in Mark's gospel. The English states that the Passover lambs are killed on the first day of unleavened bread. Mark writes the following: “And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?” (Mark 14:12) The Passover Lamb is not killed on “the first day of unleavened bread” which is the Passover. Additionally, if it is the day they kill the Passover Lamb, it must be just past sundown which would begin the day. Therefore, the text would more accurately be translated: “And the ~~first day~~ *preparation day* of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?” Note: the disciples don't know that Jesus is going to be crucified so they are anticipating a Passover meal that Jesus will not be able to attend because he will be in the grave.
3. In Luke we also read that the slaying of the lamb and the day of unleavened bread appear to be the same day which can not be true if the biblical feast dates are being followed: “Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.” (Luke 22:7) When one studies the other texts in the original Greek and compares and contrasts this text in the original Greek, it is clear, that the text is actually making a reference to these two separate days approaching. The text would more accurately be translated: “Then ~~came~~ *approached* the day of unleavened bread, ~~when~~ *which required* the passover must be killed.”
4. The Gospel of John makes it clear in the English that the last supper was not Passover. John states that the Last Supper was “before the feast of the passover”. John records as follows:

“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;” (John 13:1-2)

5. Jesus states, in Luke, that he desires to eat the Passover with his disciples before he suffers. Jesus knows this isn't possible but he desires that he had the opportunity. Jesus states the following as recorded by Luke: “And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer:” (Luke 22:15) I frequently have desires, as do most of us, which do not come to pass. It is possible that Jesus intended the Last Supper as an pseudo Passover or replacement to the Passover because he wouldn't be able to be at the actual Passover. Today, many families do this with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Not everyone is available on the actual Holiday, so they get together, celebrate and have dinner on another day.
6. Jesus also desired that he would not have to go through with the crucifixion and everything else that went along with it including how his disciples would suffer but despite his desire, he did as God willed. Jesus prayed: “...Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.” (Mark 14:36) There are many other examples in scripture that show just as we often don't get what we desire, God often doesn't get what he desires. The reason is usually because he has given us free will and we make choices which are contrary to what he desires.
7. If the Last Supper was an actual Passover meal, the meal would have included lamb and bitter herbs. Lamb and bitter herbs were required elements for the Passover meal. Additionally, the Lambs were slain at the Temple by the Priests. There is no mention in any of the Gospels of eating lamb or bitter herbs during the Last Supper.
8. Jesus sent Judas off to do his act of betrayal. The disciples thought Jesus had sent Judas to buy something for the feast. If it had been Passover, it would have been Sabbath. Everything would have been closed and buying something would have been breaking the Sabbath; this was something Jesus would have never done. John writes: “For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.” (John 13:29-30)
9. If the Last Supper was the Passover, the Priest would have been in their homes celebrating the Passover; they would not have broken the Sabbath. They would not be conducting arrests or having trials. But this is what they did which indicates it was not the Passover. John writes: “Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.... And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.... The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.” (John 18:3, 13 & 19)
10. John records that when Jesus was taken from Caiaphas to Pilot, the Priest didn't go in to the judgment hall. They didn't want to be defiled because they had not yet celebrated Passover and they didn't want to be unable to eat the Passover meal. John writes: “Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.” (John 18:28)
11. Luke and John clearly state that Jesus was buried and therefore crucified on the preparation day. This was the day before Passover. Luke also writes that the Sabbath was approaching as Jesus

was buried: “This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.”(Luke 23:52-54) John also notes in his gospel that they used this particular tomb because it was close by. With the Passover drawing near, they didn't have time to take him any further away: “There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.” (John 19:42)

12. Matthew records that Pilot sealed the tomb of Jesus, the day after the preparation day which was Passover: “Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.” (Matthew 27:62-66)
13. Luke records for us that the day after the crucifixion was a Sabbath day, the Passover is a Sabbath. The women returned home after the burial and rested because it was the Sabbath. He writes: “And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.” (Luke 23:50-56)

The Bible overwhelmingly supports that the Last Supper was not the official Passover meal and couldn't have been. The Last Supper occurred very early on the preparation day, just after sundown. Jesus was tried, crucified and buried on the same day, the preparation day. John records that the Last Supper was “before the feast of the passover”. The Passover day was a Sabbath in accordance with God's law. The Chief Priest would have been breaking God's law if they had Jesus arrested and brought for questioning on Passover. The priests didn't go into Pilot's judgment hall because they didn't want to be defiled because they had not yet eaten the Passover meal. Luke and John clearly record that Jesus was buried on the day of preparation. There are texts in the English version of the Bible that appear to indicate the the Last Supper was the official Passover but these were mistranslations of the Greek word “protos” which can refer to the “first day before”. After comparing and contrasting all the texts concerning the Last Supper, the arrest, the trial, the crucifixion, the burial and the days following the burial, there is only one conclusion that can be reached, the Last Supper occurred on the preparation day.

Biblical References

Getting A Room to Eat The Last Supper

- **17** Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? **18** And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. (Matthew 26:17-18)
- **12** And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover? **13** And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. **14** And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? **15** And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us. **16** And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. (Mark 14:12-16)
- **7** Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. **8** And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. **9** And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? **10** And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. **11** And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? **12** And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. **13** And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. **14** And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. **15** And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: (Luke 22:7-15)
- Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. **2** And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; (John 13:1-2)

The Arrest And Judgment of Jesus

- **3** Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. (John 18:3)
- **13** And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. **14** Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. **15** And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. (John 18:13-15)
- **19** The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. (John 18:19)
- **28** Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. **29** Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this

man? (John 18:28-29)

Burial of Jesus

- **50** And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: **51** (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. **52** This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. **53** And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. **54** And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. **55** And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. **56** And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. (Luke 23:50-56)
- **38** And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. **39** And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. **40** Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. **41** Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. **42** There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand. (John 19:38-42)
- **59** And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. **61** And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre. **62** Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, **63** Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **64** Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. **66** So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch. (Matthew 27:59-66)

After the Burial

- Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch. (Matthew 27:62-66)
- And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. (Luke 23:50-56)