

# Is a 14th Passover High Sabbath New?

Today, there are many believers who haven't even heard of Passover being the first High Feast Day of the seven days of unleavened bread. However, *according to Scripture*, it is the *only* true 7-day Festival. The main problem with the other teachings on Passover is, they don't line up with Scripture. Those keeping a 14<sup>th</sup> Passover plus 7 days of unleavened bread with the 15<sup>th</sup> as the first high day, are keeping an 8-day festival, which is *unfound in Scripture*. The other popular teaching is that the Passover was killed on the 14<sup>th</sup> at noon or 3 p.m. with the high day beginning on the 15<sup>th</sup>, about 7 ¼ days. This is also *unfound in Scripture*.

There is only *one* teaching that fits Yahweh's Scriptural qualifications, please notice the following Scriptures:

<sup>NAU</sup> **Ezekiel 45:21**, "In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month, **you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days**; unleavened bread shall be eaten."

Note: In this "one of many Scriptures," Passover is included in the 7 days; (Deut.16:1-4). It does not say Passover plus a feast of seven days. It says Passover, a feast of seven days; which includes Passover in the seven days. Moreover, Scripture inspires "a feast," and nowhere indicates that Passover day is "a *partial day* of unleavened bread," or that Passover is a two-day event honoring the 15<sup>th</sup> as the high day as some teach. A true 7-day festival (according to Scripture) observes the first High Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> (the first day) and not the day **following** the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Is this New Doctrine... or something reprov'd?

<sup>KJV</sup> **2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

"All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of Yahweh," and should be the final authority. However, many pastors, deacons and elders have *clung to tradition* and have turned a deaf ear

to Scriptural words, not bending to the Word of Yahweh. On the other hand, over the past nine years that EAOY has been involved in teaching this truth, many of the brethren have had a contrite heart to Yahweh and *have changed to* Yahweh's way of observing the rightful High Sabbath of Passover. How sad it is when our teachers, deacons and elders do not teach the Word of Yahweh, but *cling to tradition*.

HalleluYah for the brethren that follow Yahweh and not traditions of men.

## A New Doctrine? No way! Look at History *and* the Bible:

Although in about 200 B.C.E. one sect of the Jews started slaughtering the lambs in the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> and then counted Passover for the 15<sup>th</sup>, however, Yahushua and His disciples kept Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> as Scripture teaches. (Mat.26:2)

**Josephus** who wrote his works just after 30 C.E. confessed that he (a Pharisee) kept 8 days for the Feast of Passover, (Anti 2:15:1)

However, **he also truthfully reports the original Passover was kept on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the Israelites left Egypt on the 15<sup>th</sup>** as outlined in Exodus 12. Please notice the following quotes: *emphases ours*

<sup>JOE</sup> **Ant 2:14:6 (311ff-313)**, ... he [Yahweh] commanded Moses to tell the people that they should **have a sacrifice ready**, and they should prepare themselves on the tenth day of the month of Xanthikos, before the fourteenth, (which month is called by the Egyptians Pharmuth, Nisan by the Hebrews...**312**Accordingly, he having prepared the Hebrews ready for their departure, and having sorted the people into tribes, he kept them together in one place: but when the fourteenth day was come, and all were ready to depart they offered the sacrifice, and purified their houses with the blood, using bunches of hyssop for that purpose, and when they had supped, **they burnt the remainder of the flesh, when just ready to depart**. [burning in morning

Abib 14, Exo 12:10,22] **313**Where it is that we do still offer this sacrifice in like manner to this day, and call this festival Pascha which signifies the feast of the passover; because on that day [Elohim] passed us over, and sent the plague upon the Egyptians; for the destruction of the firstborn came upon the Egyptians that night, so that many of the Egyptians who lived near the king's palace, persuaded Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go."

<sup>JOE</sup> **Ant 2:15:2 (318)**, "They left Egypt in the month of Xanthikos, **on the fifteenth day of the lunar month**; four hundred and thirty years after our forefather Abraham came into Canaan, but two hundred and fifteen years only after Jacob moved into Egypt.."

The Historian Eusebius in his works, *Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History* 5:23:1 (which was compiled in the 2nd century C.E.) states, "The churches of all Asia, guided by a remoter tradition, supposed that **they ought to keep the fourteenth day of the moon for the festival of the Savior's Passover**, in which day the Jews were commanded to kill the Paschal Lamb; and it was incumbent on them, at all times, to make an end of the fast on this day on whatever day of the week it should happen to fall."

The interesting thing that Eusebius notes is that those who followed the Savior kept the 14th day, but the Jews (mainly Pharisees) only killed the lambs on the afternoon of the 14th. That's exactly what **John 18:28** shows; the Jews had not as yet eaten their Passover, while Yahushua and His disciples ate their Passover the evening before. Then in John 19:14 the Jews who did not follow Yahushua killed their Passover. Those who teach a 15th Passover rely on this verse heavily and it does say, "the sixth hour," but a close examination and comparison with the synoptic text places this event at 6 a.m. and not the Hebrew 6th hour (12 p.m.). This could not be 12 p.m. because it was before Yahushua was put on the stake. Further examination of John 19:16-18 shows that this was before Yahushua was put on the stake; and Mark 15:25 verifies that He was impaled the third hour (i.e. 9 a.m.). Luke 24:44, Mark 15:33 and Matthew 27:45 all state that at the 6th hour (i.e. 12 p.m.) there was darkness over all the land until the 9th hour (i.e. 3 p.m.); so while the Jews who did not follow Yahushua's example were slaughtering their lambs at the 6th hour, they were doing so in the dark! Yahweh didn't provide His light for their Passover.

## HISTORY And WITNESSES FOR SOLID TRUTH

The stable doctrines of the Scriptures do not come from Christianity, the Catholic Church or Constantine; but rather from Yahushua our Messiah; the apostles, John and Paul, who set up many assemblies in Asia, and their leadership who loved truth over *traditions of men*.

**Eusebius** in *Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History*, 3:23:3-4, quotes from **Irenaeus' second book against heresies**, "And all the presbyters of Asia, that had conferred with John the disciple of our [Master], **testify that John had delivered it to them**; for he continued with them until the times of Trajan." And in Irenaeus' third book of the same work, he showed the same thing in the following words, "But the [Assembly] in Ephesus also, which had been founded by Paul, and where John continued to abide until the times of Trajan, is a faithful witness of the apostolic tradition." (Irenaeus was regarded worthy of all credit in maintaining sound doctrine in the assembly.)

**Polycarp**, the bishop at Smyrna, learned personally from John and according to Revelation 2:10 the assembly at Smyrna was blameless.

In *Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History* he reports **Polycarp went to Rome in defense of Passover being on the 14th**. Anicetus on the other hand kept the 15th and agreed to disagree with Polycarp and each to keep the date they thought correct. It wasn't until after Polycarp's death that Anicetus made trouble for the assemblies that observed Passover the 14th. Eusebius further states in 4:14:5, "The same Polycarp, coming to Rome under the episcopate of Anicetus, turned many from the aforesaid heretics to the [Assembly of Yahweh], proclaiming the one and only true faith, that he had received from the apostles."

## WHICH DAYS?

Over the past few years I have acquired quite a number of ancient works of history and in doing so have come to understand considerably more concerning the truths and fallacies on Passover. While some authors quote sources that condemned the early assemblies who kept the 14<sup>th</sup> the rest of the story reveals they did that **so that they could promote Easter**.

For example, Victor, the bishop of the church at Rome, excommunicated all the assemblies in Asia who were not in favor of his day. **This excommunication included such faithful followers as John's disciple, Polycarp, and Polycrates;** and if they were still living, would have included Philip, one of the twelve apostles; Philip's daughters; John the apostle; Thraseas, bishop of Eumenia; and many others who believed or taught a 14<sup>th</sup> Passover (*Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History* 5:24:1-7).

What isn't mentioned is that although Victor promoted the resurrection day, many bishops including Irenaeus wrote Victor and "admonished Victor not to cut off whole [Assemblies of Yahweh] who observed the tradition of an ANCIENT CUSTOM." *Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History* 5:24:11 **reveals the ancient custom was observing the 14th Passover, which the Apostle John taught.**

Sabbath keepers always acknowledge the above disciples for upholding Yahweh's commandments and rightfully so: why not take the disciples' word on Passover instead of those who uphold Easter?

## THE 14th THROUGH THE 20<sup>th</sup>

Some of the quotes in this article are taken from *The Festivals and Sacred Days of Yahweh*. Some of their materials can be downloaded on the Internet at [www.yahweh.org](http://www.yahweh.org). We wish to thank Qadesh La Yahweh Press for their work and for giving us permission to quote reference materials from their publication that we otherwise wouldn't have access to. Any emphases (**bold** type, all CAPITAL lettering, or underlining) in the quotes is ours. Square brackets [ ] denote restorations added by us to ancient works.

The next historical dates come from **Anatolius of Alexandria** who lived around 230-283 C.E. He later became bishop in Asia Minor around 270 C.E. He, like the other followers of Yahushua, claims the authority to keep the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> came through Yahushua and John. In his day, the Passover had evolved into being kept on the first day of the week within the 7 days of unleavened bread. This tradition had crept into the assembly sometime earlier.

One thing we wish to point out is that Anatolius explains to

the Egyptians how to count the days of unleavened bread using their days [sunrise to sunrise] corresponding to Hebrew days, which start at sunset.

For example, in *The Passover Canon, II*, Anatolius states, "we should keep the solemn festival of Phasekh on the Sovereign's day and after the equinox, and **yet not beyond the limit of the moon's 20th day** . . . For the sovereign ascribes no less praise **to the 20th day than to the 14th.**

In *The Passover Canon, 7, 9, 11, & 16* Anatolius explains the Greek term *vesperum* (evening) for Exodus 12:15,18. To show the count of 7 days he writes, ". . .**from the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the moon, which marks the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, on to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup>, at which the 21<sup>st</sup> day also begins.** . ." *The Passover Canon, 8.*

Anatolius later explains again in *The Passover Canon, 8*, "**Calculate, then, from the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> (scriptural) day of the moon, which marks the beginning of the 14th** (scriptural day), on to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> (scriptural day), at which the **21<sup>st</sup> (scriptural day) also begins, and you will have only seven days of unleavened bread,** in which, by the guidance of the sovereign, it has been determined before that the most true festival of Phasekh ought to be celebrated."

The historians Bede and Jerome along with Eusebius note and applaud Anatolius' work on the 10 books he did on the Passover and mathematics.

Hippolytus who died around 235 C.E. was a supporter of the Roman system of Passover who like the Pharisees kept the 15th. What is noted in his works, *Refutation of all Heresies*, is that he uses Paul's epistles to ridicule members of the Asian assemblies (known as "Quartodecimans;" which John and Paul originally set up), condemning them for keeping the 14<sup>th</sup> and accusing them of not looking to the apostle who said, "For I testify to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to keep the whole Torah." ("The Festival of Phasekh and Unleavened Bread differs from circumcision in that it is an *olam* statute attached to the Covenants of Promise and does not find its origin as a *dogmasin* of the Torah of Moses.")

## 7 Days Unleavened Bread

**Anatolius of Alexandria** (230-283 C.E.) says in *The Passover Canon*, 10, that **what he writes came down from the teachings of the evangelist John. He criticizes those who keep a 15th Passover** and those who keep Passover prior to the spring equinox and **those who “erred in the matter of the 21st day of the moon,”** *The Passover Canon*, 8,9.

He writes in *The Passover Canon*, 11, “we should keep the solemn festival of Phasekh on the Sovereign’s day, and after the equinox, and yet **not beyond the limit of the moon’s 20th day.”**

Describing the High Sabbath days he writes, “For the sovereign ascribes no less praise to the 20th day than to the 14th,” *The Passover Canon*, 11.

**Anatolius** also explains to the Egyptians, who use sunrise to sunrise time reckoning, how to observe Passover correctly. In *The Passover Canon*, 8, he writes, “For the (Egyptian) day which in the morning, that is up to the six and one-half hour, is numbered the 13th of the moon is found *ad verperum* (at twilight) to be the 14th (scriptural day).”

He continues to explain that up until the 21st day *ad vesperum* (at twilight) (i.e. the six and one-half hour) was reckoned the 20th (in the Egyptian system).

He then concludes in *The Passover Canon*, 8, “Calculate, then, from the end of the 13th (scriptural) day of the moon, which marks the beginning of the 14th (scriptural day), on to the end of the 20th (scriptural day), at which the 21st (scriptural day) also begins, **and you will have only seven days** of unleavened bread, in which, by the guidance of the sovereign, it has been determined before that the most true festival of Phasekh ought to be celebrated.”

Other ancient writers such as Columbanus (598 C.E.) wrote to Pope Gregory the Great that **these seven days, “are to be numbered from the 14th day of the moon to the 20th”** and that they are not to be exceeded, *Registry of*

*Letters*, 127.

**Bede** in *Historical Works*, 2:4 wrote (673-735 C.E.) that the Britons and the Scots kept the Phasekh from the 14th of the moon to the 20th. Bede also reports in 3:3 that a Scottish bishop named Aidan “was wont to keep the Sovereign’s day Phasekh from the 14th day after the change of the moon to the 20th according to the custom of his nation, whereof we have diverse times made mention. For the north province of the Scots (northern Ireland) and all the nation of the Picts (Scotland) did at that time still solemnize the sovereign’s Phasekh celebration, thinking that in this observation they had followed the advertisement written by the holy and praiseworthy father Anatolius.”

In 664 C.E. another writer, **C.E. Coleman**, who makes reference back to both the apostle John and Anatolius of Alexandria (who relied on the Apostle John), claims, “that Phasekh ought to be celebrated **from the 14th unto the 20th day of the moon. . .**,” *Historical Works*, 3:25. “For John (the apostle) observed the time of Phasekh according to the decrees of the Mosaic law and had no regard to the first day after the (weekly) Sabbath; and this you do not follow, who keep Phasekh only on the first day after the (weekly) Sabbath,” *Historical Works* by Bede, 3:25.

## Did Yahushua eat the Passover?

It was through Hippolytus’ teachings (*On the Sacred Passover* [frags. from Commentaries] *On Proverbs*), which the definitions came about that the lamb Yahushua ate was not the lamb of the Torah. In other words, **he acknowledges that Yahushua ate a lamb**, but says it was not the “legal lamb.”

The case and point is that what was commonly known over 200 years after the Messiah returned to heaven **is that Yahushua did eat of the lamb.**

However, today some advocates of a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover still attempt to teach that although Yahushua and His disciples were in the upper room and a lamb was prepared He did not eat it period! They ignore the fact that 3 witnesses; Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22 show in the context of these chapters that **He did.**

In about 300 C.E. **Peter of Alexandria** (who writes along the same lines as Hippolytus), states in, frag. 5:7, that the Quartodecimans confidently affirm that **after he had eaten the Phasekh**, he was betrayed.

**Chrysostom** who wrote about 50 some years later (370 C.E.) states in his works, *Commentary on Matthew*, 82:1, that Yahushua ate the Passover meal on the 14th, but not the legal one kept by the Jews. His argument was, how could Yahushua eat the Passover on the 14th then sit down at the banquet on the 15th. The ongoing argument between the Quartodecimans (14th observers) and Quintodecimans (15th observers) was and is centered on the Messiah and whether or not He ate the Passover. The ancient writers taught and witnessed that **Yahushua did eat the Passover**.

**Bede** in, *Historical Works*, 2:2,4; 3:3; 3:17,35; 7:21 reports the original assemblies kept Passover on the 14th from the origin until the end of the 7th century C.E. For example, **Jerome** also writes, that the bishops in Asia, “in accordance with some ancient custom, **celebrated the Phasekh with the Jews on the 14th of the moon**,” *Lives of Illustrious Men*, 45.

The fact of the matter is that today many Sabbath keepers list John, Paul, Polycarp, Polycrates and their line of successors to show that the Sabbath and the feast days were in force up until the time of Constantine; but jump board and support the Pharisees (who didn't accept the Messiah and were called “blind guides” by Yahushua, Matthew 23) and even deny that Yahushua partook of the Passover when, in fact, four witnesses who were inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote in Scripture that Yahushua did, in fact, eat that last Passover (Mt. 26:21; Mk. 14:12,18; Lk. 22:8; 1 Cor. 5:24-25).

The same thought is echoed throughout ancient history. **Eusebius**, who wrote in the late 200 C.E., states in his book, *On the Passover Solemnity*, 9, 10, “Nor did the saviour observe the Phasekh with the Jews at the time of his suffering. . . **But before he suffered he did eat the Phasekh** and celebrate the festival - with his disciples, not with the Jews.”

All the lineage of the Asian assemblies testifies that **Yahushua observed the Passover on the 14th and partook of it**.

Most of the lineage of Christendom and those who support a 15th Passover report that Yahushua ate a lamb on the night of the 14th, but squabble on whether or not it was a legal or illegal Passover lamb. The Highest Authority, The Scriptures, settles the matter. The witnesses mentioned above tell us He did eat it and other Scriptures tell us Yahushua is our example. Follow Him as He was sinless, therefore, it would have been a sin for Him to partake of an illegal Passover. He cannot lie, therefore, His statement **that He would die on Passover (Mt. 26:2) brings us to the fact that the Passover is on the 14th and He said that He would eat the Passover**, (Mark 14:12ff) not some type of mock or illegal Passover. Moreover, not *ONE* ancient historian taught or wrote that the day *after* Passover is a High Day; and the Scriptures confirm this truth.

## Passover: one day or two?

In 2 Chronicles 35:16 Scripture tells us that the Passover is **a one day service**; and Ephraem writes in *Commentary on Exodus*, 14, “. . . on the 14th day (of the moon) they slaughtered AND ATE IT.” Numbers 9:11 also confirms that the Passover was **killed and eaten** on the 14th.

Aphraates states in *Demonstration on Passover*, 12:6, “Our savior ate the Phasekh with his disciples in the sacred night of the 14th . . . And he was taken in the night of the 14th, and his trial lasted until the sixth hour, and at the time of the sixth hour they sentenced him and lifted him up on the (torture-) stake.”

The Jews ate a *different Passover (Jn. 18:28; 19:31)*. Scholars have noticed this important difference between the Quartodeciman view and the Hasidic practice of the Pharisees. Raniero Cantalamessa in his book, *Easter in the Early Church: An Anthology of Jewish and Christian Texts*, contrasts this eastern Quartodeciman premise as expressed by Aphraates with that of the Jews (Pharisees), writing: “The Jewish passover was eaten in the night after the fourteenth of Nisan, but Aphraates puts [Yahushua's] Passover meal in the night leading to the fourteenth, which his tradition held as the day of [Yahushua's] death.”

In 165 C.E. **Melito of Sardis** explains the Hebrew term *byn ha arabim* as found in Exodus 12:6 in the Greek LXX

(*pros esperan*; at twilight) in the context as beginning a day. [Request our free booklet, "What time is byn ha arabim?"]

In his works, *On the Phasekh*, 12f, Melito states, "For behold, he (Yahweh) says, you will take a lamb without flaw or blemish, and (*pros esperan*; at twilight) you will slaughter it in the midst of the sons of Israel, and at night you will eat it in haste, and not a bone of it will you break. These things, he said, you will do **IN A SINGLE NIGHT**. You will eat it according to families and tribes, with loins girt and staff in hand. For this is the Phasekh of the sovereign, an eternal memorial for the sons of Israel."

## Today's Scholarship:

As mentioned above, the believers in the north province of the Scots (northern Ireland) and all the nation of the Picts (Scotland) to this day observe the Passover as Yahweh instructed.

There is only ONE MIDNIGHT of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Word of Yahweh states 100% of the time that Passover is the 14<sup>th</sup>!

In the book, "*The History of The True Religion*," by Elders Dugger & Dodd, William Bodine and Herbert Armstrong are listed amongst the pioneers who taught the truth. Elder William Bodine taught the use of the Sacred Name and a 7-day Passover system with the 14<sup>th</sup> being the High Day. However, in the (1930's-40's) Herbert Armstrong opted to *not* use the Sacred Name and popularized the 8-day system (Passover plus seven days). Today many Sacred Name Assemblies follow Herbert's WWCG 8-day system. However, Elder William Bodine believed and taught the seven-day Passover system with the 14<sup>th</sup> being the High Day.

In a tract Elder Bodine published in 1972 titled "*Passover Study*," he wrote concerning Exodus 12 verses 8-12, "And they shall eat the flesh in **that** night..." which is the same night they killed it. 'And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning... For I will pass through the land of Egypt **this** night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...' This all took place in the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> beginning with the

killing of the lamb. Keep in mind there is only one night in a 24hour period and it begins when the sun goes down. 'And **this** day shall be unto you for a memorial: and ye shall keep it a **feast** by an ordinance forever.' Keep in mind that this day is a feast day as well as a memorial."

He continues later on in Leviticus.23:4-7, " 'These *are* the feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is Yahweh's passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto Yahweh (showing that the feast continues on): seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.' The 14<sup>th</sup> is the first feast day and the seven days of feast continue with the fifteenth day being a feast day, as is the sixteenth, seventeenth, etc. This fact is supported in various other scriptures."

Elder Bodine simply aligned all the Scriptures on Passover and they all harmonized pointing to Passover as being the first feast day of a seven-day festival observance.

The proof is there without looking up all the technical words. The outcome is the same if we just believe the Scriptures and don't reason them away.

We thank Elder Ed Hayes of Cane Hill, Arkansas, for his many years of teaching this truth and for providing EAOY with the tract titled, "Passover Study" written many years ago by Elder W.L. Bodine.

## Summary:

Until about the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the majority of the population relied on *the clergy* to tell them the truth of the Scriptures. We all suspected that *our pastors, deacons and elders* studied the Bible and reported the Good News *truthfully*; "no pastors of Jeremiah 23 for us." However, it's **HORRIFYING** to know that our *pastors, deacons and elders* are teaching **TRADITIONS OF MEN** even though a mountain of evidence has been presented proving the date, the timing and that Passover **is** a day of unleavened bread. Virtually *All Scriptures* support Passover as the *first day* of unleavened bread and a Feast Day! I pray that our religious leaders do change.

The Days of Unleavened Bread have always existed. Close scrutiny of the Scriptures reveal that events such as the de-

struction of Sodom & Gomorrah more than likely came on the first day of unleavened bread. For example, when the Messengers came to Abraham he served them bread from fine flour, but just days later when the Messengers came to Lot's house, that evening *unleavened bread* was served. Is it coincidental that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed (unleavened) during the days of unleavened bread? (Genesis 18-19)

The same thing happened at the time of the Exodus, the destroyer “*unleavened*” Egypt also on the first day of unleavened *bread* and at the same time Yahweh protected Israel whose houses were covered by the blood representing Yahushua the Savior. With the Passover happening on the first day of unleavened bread, it began to be known as the Feast of Passover or just The Passover. (Many Scriptures) It is no coincidence that eventful events happen on Yahweh's Holy Days. Just look throughout the Bible and you will see that all major events will come to pass on Yahweh's Holy Days in the restoration of the Kingdom of Elohim; but not one of them is scheduled for the day *after* Passover, the 15<sup>th</sup>.

From early historical and Christian writings we can see that many assemblies abandoned the days of unleavened bread, but still taught the history of them. The Western assemblies adopted the 15th system taught by the Pharisees, while the Asian assemblies in many cases still observed the whole 7 days and taught that they did so by commandment of Scripture and the example of the Apostle John handed down to Polycarp, Polycrates and others.

Both Western and Asian assemblies supported many of the doctrines taught by the Apostle John and claimed him for their ancestry. Yet, the Western assemblies taught different on the Passover.

The same principle applies to assemblies today. All Assemblies support the evangelism of the Apostle John handed down to Polycarp, Polycrates and others. Yet, on the teachings of Passover many Assemblies cling to the Pharisee's system although Yahushua called the Pharisees blind guides, serpents, and hypocrites, Matthew 23:13-33. They also ignore what the Apostle John (who was personally taught by Yahushua) was teaching on the subject of Passover.

Yahushua taught by example (1 Peter 2:21), John taught by example **and it has always been the faithful followers of Yahushua** (Paul, Philip, Polycarp, Polycrates, Anatolius, and a host of others too numerous to mention) **that have contended for a 14th Passover**. *Yet, we have teachers today that follow the example of the Pharisees (who rejected Yahushua as the Messiah) and uphold a 15th Passover and deny that Yahushua ate the Passover. How HORRIFIC!*

The historical evidence shows that in Yahushua's day teachers of the 15th depended largely upon the interpretations of the Jewish Pharisaical system, just as they do today. It's sad to say, **but historic, as well as modern day teachings, deny Yahushua just as Peter did**. Peter denied Yahushua 3 times, but just look how many times the Assemblies deny him on *His* day. Many deny that Passover is a Feast Day, **How SHOCKING** especially when *all* Scripture is affirmative!

- (1) Assemblies that teach a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover deny that Yahushua ate the Passover. (Mark 14:14 says, “. . . The Master saith, ‘Where is the guest chamber, where **I shall eat the Passover with** my disciples?’” And verse 18 says, “And as they sat and **did eat...**” It also tells that Yahushua ate the Passover with his disciples in Matthew 26:17-25 and Luke 22:7-14,21-23.) Assemblies that teach an 8-day Feast deny that Passover is the **first** day when, in fact, *many Scriptures (100%)* say that it is.
- (2) Assemblies that teach a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover deny Yahweh's words that the Passover is the 14<sup>th</sup>. Those who keep a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover and those who keep an 8-day feast both teach that Passover is simply a preparation day for the 15<sup>th</sup> and deny that Passover is a feast day (Ex.12:14; Ez.45:21; Mt. 26:2). Both deny that Passover is a *mowed*, the appointed Holy Day (Num. 9:2; Lev. 23:4-5; Ex. 13:5-10).
- (3) Assemblies that teach a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover deny that the Passover service is a one-day service and reset the time for *byn ha arabim* to noon or 3 p.m. (2 Chron. 35:16; Num. 9:11). Assemblies that teach 8 days deny that the Passover is a full day of unleavened bread and only eat a little unleavened bread at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and then attribute the 15<sup>th</sup> as the first D.U.B.

Yahushua is perfect and sinless and throughout history the apostles and teachers such as Paul, Philip, John, Polycarp, Polycrates, Anatolius and a host of others fought the good fight and defended the fact that Yahushua ate the true Passover beginning (*byn ha arabim*) the 14th of Abib (Mt. 26:17; Mk. 14:12; Lk. 22:7 Ex.12:6). They too upheld the 14th as a Feast Day and observed the 7 day Feast of Passover (not 8 days or 7 ¼ days), it is just as Yahweh's word says (Ez. 45:21, Exo.12: 14-16). In fact nothing can be found in the historical works of Quartodecimans keeping the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup>, then observing the 15<sup>th</sup> for the High Day like many Sacred Name Assemblies teach today.

Yahweh says in Isaiah 45:21-22, "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I Yahweh? and there is no Elohim else beside Me; a just El and a Savior; there is none beside Me. Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am El and there is none else."

This Passover season **let's be ambassadors of truth** and follow the **TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES; THE EXAMPLES OF THE APOSTLES AND THE EVIDENCE OF TRUTH LAID DOWN IN HISTORY.** Let's **NOT** follow blind guides and the reasoning of men, or simply comply with *Assembly doctrine and tradition*. The strategy of today's world is reasoning and compromising. In the world during Moses' day the Pharaoh of Egypt reasoned the same strategy to Moses, but Yahweh did not accept his reasoning and Yahweh will not accept man's reasoning about Passover today.

The word of YAHWEH says 7 days not 7 ¼ days or 8 days as reasoned by men. The Pharaoh reasoned about the 1st Passover, they were still reasoning about Passover in Yahushua's day; and today men are *still* reasoning about the Passover.

Scripture states to keep the 1st *mowed/chag* day and the 7<sup>th</sup> *mowed/chag* day Holy. Men teach to keep the 2nd *chag* day (which is not a mowed) then add an 8th day to accommodate their system of Passover. Oh yes, they read and say seven, but isn't that the *same thing* Christians say about the Sabbath, don't they call *Sunday* the Sabbath? Yes! And it's just as wrong to read in Scripture that Pass-

over is the 14<sup>th</sup>, **the first day and a feast day**, then hold the NEXT DAY HOLY; the 15<sup>th</sup>! Brethren we must listen to Yahweh's words concerning the Feast of Passover. Throughout Scripture it is demonstrated that He does not compromise one Yod from worship concerning Him. There is no second best or relaxing the rules of worship, that is what satan wants - compromise; that is what the King of Egypt wanted - compromise; that is what King Saul wanted - compromise; and that is what man wants today - compromise. Yahweh's word states emphatically that the Passover is on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a feast day (Ex. 12:14; Ez. 45:21), but man says *oh no* it is a preparation day. Yahweh says Passover is a *mowed* "the appointed High Day" (Num.9:2-5, Lev.23:4-5) and that no work, except for food preparation is to be done on a *mowed*.

Who will you choose to follow.... the Pharisaic Jews (who deny Yahushua), *Assembly tradition* (which denies that Passover is a day of unleavened bread; *even when 100% of Scripture say it is*), or Yahushua and his followers? Whose words and thoughts do we count on for salvation? Yahweh states in Isaiah 55:8, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways."

Dennis Bitterman

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