

# **The Last Passover, Part 1**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Jesus came with the purpose of dying. (Mark 10:45)

B. The death of Christ is the theme of the story.

C. Sacrifice is necessary.

D. Text: Matthew 26-28.

E. Jesus prepares for his death through the last Passover.

## II. Jesus was committed to keeping the Passover with his disciples. (Matthew 3:15; Luke 22:15)

## III. Background.

A. The Jews had many feasts to celebrate things throughout the year.

B. The Passover commemorated the freedom that Israel was given during the Exodus through the blood of lambs put on door posts.

C. None of the lambs of the Passover could take away sin.

D. Passover fell on a Friday on the day that Jesus was crucified. (Mark 15:42, John 19:14)

E. The lamb had to be slain between 3 and 5 PM--there were a quarter million to be slain. (Exodus 12:6, 8)

## IV. Jesus commands the disciples to find a general man carrying water (normally men did this) to prepare for the Passover. Jesus sees himself on a divine mission with a divine time table.

## V. Jesus ate the Passover on Thursday, and the Jews did not. (John 18:28; 19:14; Matthew 26:37; 1 Corinthians 7)

A. Jesus came as the Passover lamb.

B. He died at the same time that the lambs were being slaughtered.

C. All the evidence indicates that he had to be having the Passover meal.

D. Special Jewish days were celebrated sunset to sunset days. Jews also recognized sunrise to sunrise days. (Matthew 28:1; Deuteronomy 16:1)

E. This helps to harmonize John 18-19. The only way that Jesus could keep Passover and be the sacrifice lamb is to celebrate it early in the alternate way of counting Jewish days.

F. God rules history. Jesus had to keep the Passover to fulfill history.

**Application Questions:**

1. How would you explain Passover to someone who never heard? What is the significance of Passover falling on Jesus' death?

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2. Why was Jesus allowed to celebrate Passover against the traditional time in John 18:28?

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3. How is God's sovereignty demonstrated in these passages? Explain.

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