



Pesach/Passover & Holy Week

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K.L.Moore

1 / 23

Session Agenda

01

Pesach/Passover & Holy Week (Title)

03

What Are the Moedim?

05

The Calendar: Setting the Date (Month Chart)

07

The Substitutionary Sacrifice

09

A New Life: Speed and Sincerity

11

The Messianic Connection

13

The Selection of the Lamb (Palm Sunday · 10th of Nisan)

15

The New Covenant Seder (Maundy Thursday · 14th of Nisan)

17

The Sabbath Rest in the Tomb (Holy Saturday)

19

Summary: From Law to Grace

02

Session Agenda

04

The Calendar: Setting the Date (Overview)

06

The Passover (Pesach) — Part I

08

The Feast of Unleavened Bread — Part II

10

Teaching Outline: From Slavery to Sonship

12

The Foundational Connection: Type and Antitype

14

The Testing of the Lamb (Monday & Tuesday · Testing Days)

16

Justice and Mercy Meet at the Cross (Good Friday)

18

The First of a Great Harvest (Resurrection Sunday)

20

God Always Keeps His Promise



Pesach/Passover & Holy Week

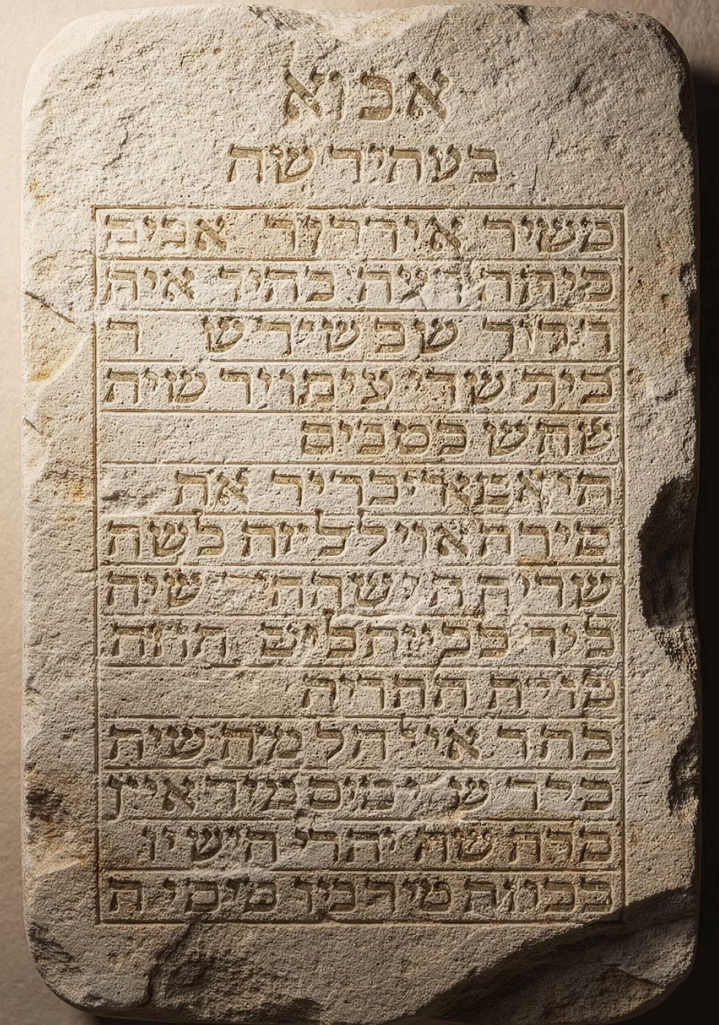
From the Moedim of Leviticus to the fulfillment of Holy Week
— a journey through God's divinely appointed rehearsals for redemption.

What Are the Moedim?

The Hebrew feast of Pesach (Passover) and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are often spoken of as one event, but Leviticus 23 distinguishes them as two specific, consecutive appointments on God's calendar.

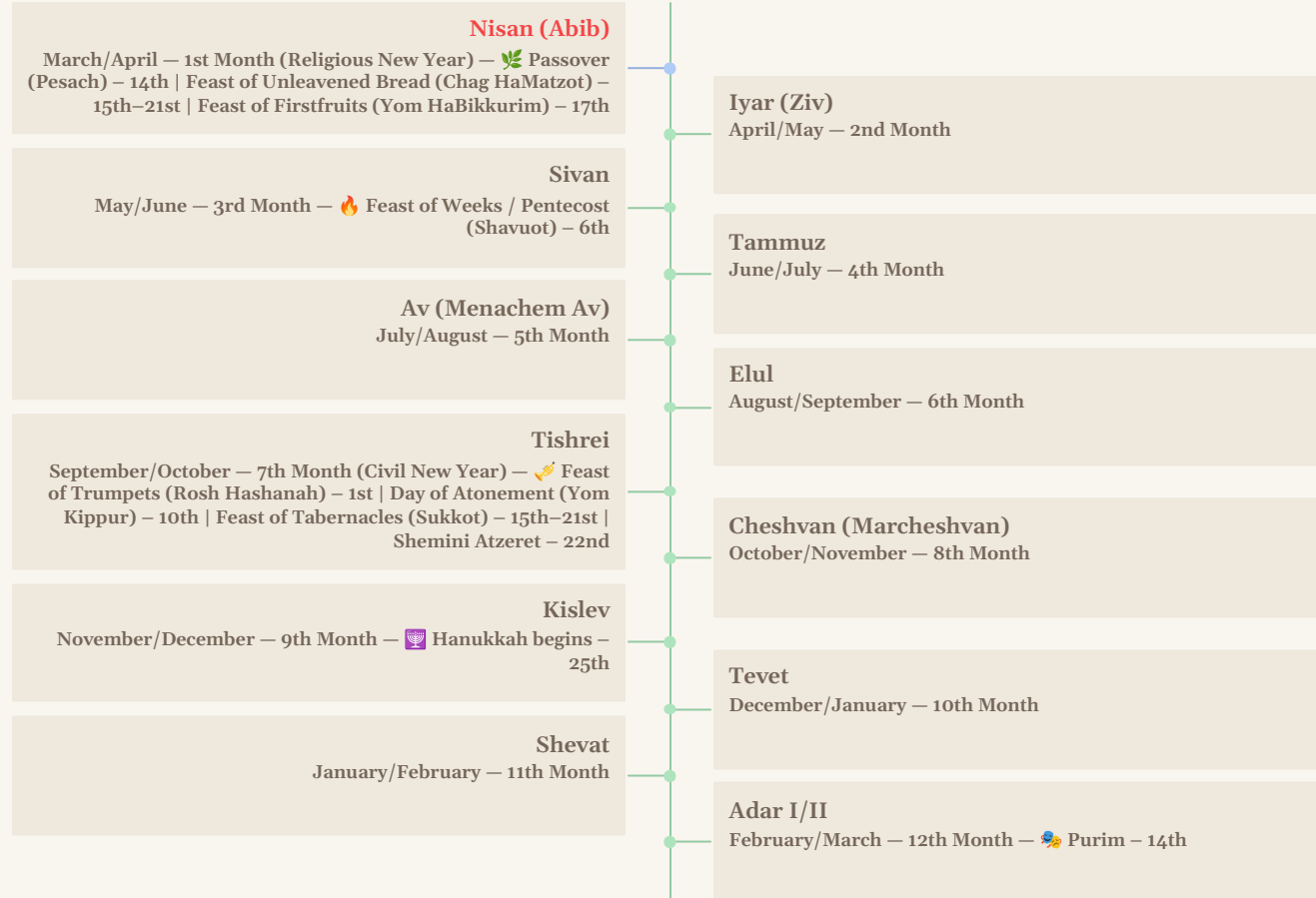
In the Hebrew context, these are called Moedim — divinely appointed times or "rehearsals" for God's redemptive plan. They are not merely historical commemorations; they are sacred previews of what God would accomplish in Christ.

4 / 23



The Calendar: Setting the Date

Understanding the ancient Hebrew calendar is crucial for appreciating the timing of the Moedim, especially how it differs from our modern Gregorian calendar. The Hebrew calendar operates on a lunar-solar cycle, aligning both with the moon's phases and the solar year, primarily for agricultural and religious purposes.



The Calendar: Setting the Date

According to Leviticus 23:4-5 (NLT), these festivals are "sacred assemblies" that must be celebrated at their appointed times.

The Month

The first month of the Hebrew religious calendar —
Nisan/Abib.

Passover (Pesach)

Begins at twilight on the 14th day of the first month.

Unleavened Bread

Begins on the 15th day and lasts for seven days.

The First of a Great Harvest

The concept of "firstfruits" is deeply rooted in the ancient Hebrew calendar, signifying dedication to God and a promise of future abundance. It's more than just an agricultural practice; it's a profound spiritual principle.

Old Covenant: A Pledge

As described in Deuteronomy 16:1-17, the first and best of the harvest were offered to God as an act of worship and gratitude.

This offering acknowledged God's sovereignty and expressed faith that He would provide the rest of the harvest.

It was a reminder that all good things come from Him, requiring both faith and obedience.

Deuteronomy 16:16 - "All your males are to appear three times a year before the Lord your God in the place He chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths. No one is to appear before the Lord empty-handed. Deuteronomy 16:17 - Everyone must appear with a gift suited to his means, according to the blessing the Lord your God has given you. CSB

CSNew Covenant: Christ's Fulfillment

Romans 8:23 speaks of believers having "the firstfruits of the Spirit," indicating the initial presence of God's Spirit in our lives as a guarantee of future glory.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 declares Christ as "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep," meaning His resurrection is the pledge and promise of our own future resurrection.

His rising from the dead guarantees the resurrection of all who believe in Him, inaugurating a great spiritual harvest.



The Passover (Pesach)

"The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month." — Leviticus 23:5 (NLT)

While Leviticus 23 provides the schedule, the meaning is rooted in Exodus 12. Passover commemorates the night the Angel of Death "passed over" the houses of the Israelites marked with the blood of a lamb — the foundational act of God's redemption.

The Substitutionary Sacrifice

The Lamb

A spotless yearling male was sacrificed — unblemished, set apart.

The Blood

It wasn't enough for the lamb to die; its blood had to be applied to the doorposts.

The Lesson

Redemption is never free — it is bought with a price. This points directly to Jesus, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).



The Feast of Unleavened Bread

"On the fifteenth day of the same month, the Lord's Festival of Unleavened Bread begins. For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast." — Leviticus 23:6 (NLT)

The Symbol of Leaven

In Scripture, yeast (leaven) is almost always a symbol of sin, pride, or corrupting influence. Removing it was a physical act of a spiritual truth: holiness requires separation.

The Regulation of Rest

Per Leviticus 23:7-8:

Day 1: Sacred assembly; no ordinary work permitted

Day 7: Sacred assembly; no ordinary work permitted

All 7 Days: A special food offering presented to the Lord

A New Life: Speed and Sincerity

The Israelites ate unleavened bread because they left Egypt in haste — there was no time for bread to rise. This urgency carries a profound spiritual lesson.

→ **Move Immediately**

When God calls us out of "Egypt" (the world/sin), we are to respond without delay.

→ **Live in Sincerity and Truth**

We are called to leave the "old yeast" of malice and wickedness behind — 1 Corinthians 5:7-8.



Teaching Outline: From Slavery to Sonship

Four core truths emerge from Leviticus 23's appointed feasts:

Point	Concept	Scripture (NLT)
1. The Appointment	God sets the time; we do not define our own way to Him.	Lev. 23:4
2. The Protection	Safety is found only under the blood of the Sacrifice.	Lev. 23:5
3. The Purity	Those redeemed by blood must live holy lives.	Lev. 23:6
4. The Rest	Our relationship with God starts with His work, not our "ordinary work."	Lev. 23:7-8

The Messianic Connection

For those studying through the lens of Holy Week, the timing is staggering:

Passover → Justification

Jesus was crucified on the 14th of Nisan — the very hour the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple. Saved from the penalty of sin by the blood.

Unleavened Bread → Sanctification

Jesus, the "Bread of Life" without the "leaven" of sin, was placed in the tomb on the 15th of Nisan — the start of this feast. Walking away from the influence of sin.

- ❏ **The connection between Holy Week and Pesach is not merely chronological — it is theological. Jesus did not just celebrate Passover; He became the Passover.**

The Foundational Connection: Type and Antitype

To understand Holy Week, one must understand the "Shadow" (Passover) and the "Substance" (Christ).



The Passover Lamb

In Exodus 12, the lamb's blood saved the firstborn from death — a physical act of substitutionary protection.



The Lamb of God

In John 1:29, John the Baptist declares: "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"



The Chronology

Jesus entered Jerusalem as the lambs were being selected, and was crucified as the lambs were being slaughtered.



PALM SUNDAY · 10TH OF NISAN

The Selection of the Lamb

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-11). Per Exodus 12:3, this was the day the Israelites were to choose their lamb and bring it into their homes. Jesus "presented" Himself to Israel for inspection.

- ❏ **Key Point: The King comes in humility — not for political revolution, but for spiritual redemption.**

MONDAY & TUESDAY · TESTING DAYS

The Testing of the Lamb

The Event

Jesus cleanses the Temple and engages in debates with religious leaders (Mark 11:15-18).

The Connection

The Passover lamb had to be blemish-free. Jesus was publicly "inspected" by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the law — yet no fault was found in Him.

📌 **Key Point:** Holiness is the prerequisite for sacrifice.



MAUNDY THURSDAY · 14TH OF NISAN

The New Covenant Seder

Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples (Luke 22:14-20). While eating the Passover meal, He redefines the elements:

The Bread

"This is my body, which is given for you" — Luke 22:19.
Unleavened bread represented purity.

The Wine

"This cup is the new covenant between God and his people — an agreement confirmed with my blood" — Luke 22:20.

- ❏ **Key Point:** Jesus moves the focus from the physical Exodus from Egypt to the spiritual Exodus from the slavery of sin.

Justice and Mercy Meet at the Cross

The Crucifixion and death of Jesus (John 19:16-30). 1
Corinthians 5:7 explicitly states: "*Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*"

Not a Bone Broken

The Passover lamb was not to have a bone broken (Exodus 12:46). Likewise, the soldiers did not break Jesus' legs (John 19:33-36).

The Blood Applied

The "Blood on the Doorpost" is now the "Blood on the Cross" — covering all who place their faith in the Lamb.

The Sabbath Rest in the Tomb

The Event

Jesus remains in the tomb during the Sabbath — a day of stillness and waiting.

The Connection

This aligns with the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread — a sacred assembly, a day of rest and removal of leaven (sin).

- ❏ **Key Point:** Jesus' body, the "Bread of Life," was "planted" in the earth to bring forth much fruit — *John 12:24*.



RESURRECTION SUNDAY · FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

The First of a Great Harvest

The empty tomb and the appearance of the risen Christ (Matthew 28:1-10). On the Sunday following Passover, the priests offered the Firstfruits of the harvest (Leviticus 23:10-11).

"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died." — 1 Corinthians 15:20 (NLT)

❏ **Key Point: His resurrection is the "down payment" on our own.**

Summary: From Law to Grace

Every day of Holy Week fulfills a specific moment in the Hebrew feasts — God keeping His promise across the centuries.

Holy Week Day	Jewish Context	Christian Fulfillment
Palm Sunday	Selection of the Lamb (10th Nisan)	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Thursday	Passover Seder (14th Nisan)	Institution of the Lord's Supper
Friday	Slaughter of the Lambs	The Death of Christ
Saturday	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Jesus in the Tomb — the sinless one
Sunday	Feast of Firstfruits	The Resurrection



God Always Keeps His Promise

What He started in the Exodus — delivering a single nation from physical slavery — He finished in Jerusalem by delivering all of humanity from spiritual death.

Holy Week is the story of God keeping His promise. The shadow became substance. The rehearsal became reality. The Lamb was slain — and rose again.



Pesach, Passover & Holy Week

From the Moedim of Leviticus to the fulfillment of Holy Week — a journey through God's divinely appointed rehearsals for redemption.