

~NISAN (396)

(Ni'san)

.. Adjusting The Lunar Calendar

.. Lord's Evening Meal Instituted

- The postexilic name of the first Jewish lunar month of the sacred calendar, corresponding to part of March and part of April.
- In the first month, that is, the month **Nisan**, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, someone cast Pur, that is, the Lot, before Haman from day to day and from month to month, to the twelfth, that is, the month Adar. (**Esther 3:7**)
- And it came about in the month **Nisan**, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him, and I as usual took up the wine and gave it to the king. But never had I happened to be gloomy before him. (**Nehemiah 2:1**)
- This month, first called, Abib, was originally considered the seventh month and is evidently the month referred to at;
- And in the **seventh month**, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. (**Genesis 8:4**)
- At the time of the Exodus from Egypt, Yehowah assigned this month to be the first of the months of the year.
- This month will be the start of the months for you. It will be the first of the months of the year for you. (**Exodus 12:2**)
- Today you are going out in the month of Abib. (**Exodus 13:4**)
- And they proceeded to pull away from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month. Directly the day after the Passover the sons of Israel went out with uplifted hand before the eyes of all the Egyptians. (**Numbers 33:3**)
- From then on, a distinction existed between a sacred calendar instituted by Yehowah and the previous secular calendar.

See Also **CALENDAR**

See Also **ABIB**

- The weather was often quite cool during this spring month, and in Jerusalem, fires were lit at night to provide warmth.
- Now the slaves and the officers were standing about, as they had built a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ([John 18:18](#))
- Snow has even fallen in Jerusalem as late as April 6, as it did in **1949 C.E.** **Nisan** came at about the close of the rainy season, and the latter or spring rains were counted on to bring the grain to fullness prior to the harvest.
- I also shall certainly give rain for your land at its appointed time, autumn rain and spring rain, and you will indeed gather your grain and your sweet wine and your oil. ([Deuteronomy 11:14](#))
- And we will know, we will pursue to know Yehowah. Like dawn, his going forth is firmly established. And he will come in like a pouring rain to us, like a spring rain that saturates the earth. ([Hosea 6:3](#))
- But they have not said in their heart; Let us, now, fear Yehowah our God, the One who is giving the downpour and the autumn rain and the spring rain in its season, the One who guards even the prescribed weeks of the harvest for us. ([Jeremiah 5:24](#))
- At this time of the year the Jordan River was normally at flood stage.
- And at the instant that the carriers of the Ark came as far as the Jordan and the feet of the priests carrying the Ark were dipped in the edge of the waters, now the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest. ([Joshua 3:15](#))
- These are the ones that crossed the Jordan in the first month when it was overflowing all its banks, and they then chased away all those of the low plains, to the east and to the west. ([1 Chronicles 12:15](#))
- The barley harvest began along the coastal plains, and down in the subtropical Jordan Valley the wheat was reaching maturity.

- Thus Naomi made her return, Ruth the Moabite woman, her daughter-in-law, being with her when returning from the fields of Moab, and they came to Bethlehem at the commencement of barley harvest. (**Ruth 1:22**)
- And she continued to keep close by the young women of Boaz to glean until the harvest of the barley and the harvest of the wheat came to an end. And she kept on dwelling with her mother-in-law. (**Ruth 2:23**)
- About this time, harvested flax on Rahabs rooftop in Jericho provided a place for the Israelite spies to hide.
- She, though, had taken them up to the roof, and she kept them out of sight among stalks of flax laid in rows for her upon the roof. (**Joshua 2:6**)
- And the people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and took up camping at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. (**Joshua 4:19**)

·· **Adjusting The Lunar Calendar**

- God's command required that the Israelites offer up a sheaf of the firstfruits of their harvest on the 16th day of **Nisan**, or **Abib**, and that, on the 50th day thereafter, they offer up a second grain offering. These offerings corresponded naturally with the barley and wheat harvests, respectively.
- This precept made essential an adjustment in the calendar of lunar months used by the Israelites. There was need to compensate for the difference of 11 1/4 days between the full solar year and the shorter lunar year.
- Otherwise, within the space of three years, the month of Nisan would arrive some 33 days earlier in the season and far ahead of the barley harvest.
- The Bible record does not specify what method was originally used by the Israelites to accomplish such coordination, but the evidence indicates that a 13th month was added every two or three years to restore the seasons to their proper position in the calendar year.

- It seems likely that this was determined by simple observation, relating the new moon to the vernal, or spring, equinox of the sun, which comes about March 21 of each year.
- If the new moon that would ordinarily mark the start of the month of **Nisan**, or **Abib** was too distant from the time of the spring equinox, then the month was counted as a 13th or intercalary month, and Nisan began with the following new moon. It was not until the **Fourth Century C.E.**, that a definitely standardized calendar was adopted by the Jews.
- The first of **Nisans** festivals was the Passover, originally celebrated in Egypt, it came on the 14th of the month and included the sacrifice of the paschal lamb.
- This month will be the start of the months for you. It will be the first of the months of the year for you. (**Exodus 12:2**)
- Speak to the entire assembly of Israel, saying; On the tenth day of this month they are to take for themselves each one a sheep for the ancestral house, a sheep to a house. (**Exodus 12:3**)
- But if the household proves to be too small for the sheep, then he and his neighbor close by must take it into his house according to the number of souls; You should compute each one proportionate to his eating as regards the sheep. (**Exodus 12:4**)
- The sheep should prove to be sound, a male, a year old, for you. You may pick from the young rams or from the goats. (**Exodus 12:5**)
- And it must continue under safeguard by you until the fourteenth day of this month, and the whole congregation of the assembly of Israel must slaughter it between the two evenings. (**Exodus 12:6**)
- And they must take some of the blood and splash it upon the two doorposts and the upper part of the doorway belonging to the houses in which they will eat it. (**Exodus 12:7**)
- And they must eat the flesh on this night. They should eat it roasted with fire and with unfermented cakes along with bitter greens. (**Exodus 12:8**)

- Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, cooked in water, but roast with fire, its head together with its shanks and its interior parts. (**Exodus 12:9**)
- And you must not leave any of it over till morning, but what is left over of it till morning you should burn with fire. (**Exodus 12:10**)
- And in this way you should eat it, with your hips girded, sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand, and you must eat it in haste. It is Yehowah's Passover. (**Exodus 12:11**)
- And I must pass through the land of Egypt on this night and strike every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from man to beast, and on all the gods of Egypt I shall execute judgments. I am Yehowah. (**Exodus 12:12**)
- And the blood must serve as your sign upon the houses where you are, and I must see the blood and pass over you, and the plague will not come on you as a ruination when I strike at the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 12:13**)
- And this day must serve as a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to Yehowah throughout your generations. As a statute to time indefinite you should celebrate it. (**Exodus 12:14**)
- In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the two evenings is the Passover to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:5**)
- Let there be an observing of the month of Abib, and you must celebrate the Passover to Yehowah your God, because in the month of Abib Yehowah your God brought you out of Egypt by night. (**Deuteronomy 16:1**)
- The following day was the beginning of the week-long Festival of Unfermented Cakes, running from the 15th to the 21st of the month. On the 16th of **Nisan** came the offering of the firstfruits of the barley harvest.
- Seven days you are to eat unfermented cakes. Yes, on the first day you are to take away sourdough from your houses, because anyone eating what is leavened, from the first day down to the seventh, that soul must be cut off from Israel. (**Exodus 12:15**)

- **And on the first day there is to take place for you a holy convention, and on the seventh day a holy convention. No work is to be done on them. Only what every soul needs to eat, that alone may be done for you. (Exodus 12:16)**
- **And you must keep the festival of unfermented cakes, because on this very day I must bring your armies out from the land of Egypt. And you must keep this day throughout your generations as a statute to time indefinite. (Exodus 12:17)**
- **In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening you are to eat unfermented cakes down till the twenty-first day of the month in the evening. (Exodus 12:18)**
- **Seven days no sourdough is to be found in your houses, because anyone tasting what is leavened, whether he is an alien resident or a native of the land, that soul must be cut off from the assembly of Israel. (Exodus 12:19)**
- **Nothing leavened are you to eat. In all your dwellings you are to eat unfermented cakes. (Exodus 12:20)**
- **You will keep the festival of unfermented cakes. You will eat unfermented cakes seven days, just as I have commanded you, at the appointed time in the month of **Abib**, because in it you came out of Egypt. And they must not appear before me empty-handed. (Exodus 23:15)**
- **The festival of unfermented cakes you are to keep. You will eat unfermented cakes, just as I have commanded you, seven days at the appointed time in the month of **Abib**, because it was in the month of **Abib** that you came out of Egypt. (Exodus 34:18)**
- **And on the fifteenth day of this month is the festival of unfermented cakes to Yehowah. Seven days you should eat unfermented cakes. (Leviticus 23:6)**
- **On the first day you will have a holy convention occur. No sort of laborious work may you do. (Leviticus 23:7)**
- **But you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah seven days. On the seventh day there will be a holy convention. No sort of laborious work may you do. (Leviticus 23:8)**

- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 23:9**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; When you eventually come into the land that I am giving you, and you have reaped its harvest, you must also bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. (**Leviticus 23:10**)
- And he must wave the sheaf to and fro before Yehowah to gain approval for you. Directly the day after the Sabbath the priest should wave it to and fro. (**Leviticus 23:11**)

•• Lord's Evening Meal Instituted

- Over 15 centuries after the Exodus, on **Nisan 14** of the year **33 C.E.**, Jesus gathered with his 12 apostles in Jerusalem to celebrate the last valid Passover, and then, having dismissed the traitorous Judas, he proceeded to institute the memorial of his death by means of the Lords Supper, or Evening Meal.
- On the first day of the unfermented cakes the disciples came up to Jesus, saying; Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover? (**Matthew 26:17**)
- He said; Go into the city to So-and-so and say to him; The Teacher says, My appointed time is near, I will celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your home. (**Matthew 26:18**)
- And the disciples did as Jesus ordered them, and they got things ready for the Passover. (**Matthew 26:19**)
- When, now, it had become evening, he was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. (**Matthew 26:20**)
- While they were eating, he said; Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me. (**Matthew 26:21**)
- Being very much grieved at this, they commenced each and every one to say to him; Lord, it is not I, is it? (**Matthew 26:22**)
- In reply he said; He that dips his hand with me in the bowl is the one that will betray me. (**Matthew 26:23**)

- True, the Son of man is going away, just as it is written concerning him, but woe to that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been finer for him if that man had not been born. (**Matthew 26:24**)
- By way of reply Judas, who was about to betray him, said; It is not I, is it, Rabbi? He said to him; You yourself said it. (**Matthew 26:25**)
- As they continued eating, Jesus took a loaf and, after saying a blessing, he broke it and, giving it to the disciples, he said; Take, eat. This means my body. (**Matthew 26:26**)
- Also, he took a cup and, having given thanks, he gave it to them, saying; Drink out of it, all of you. (**Matthew 26:27**)
- For this means my blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins. (**Matthew 26:28**)
- But I tell you, I will by no means drink henceforth any of this product of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father. (**Matthew 26:29**)
- Finally, after singing praises, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (**Matthew 26:30**)
- For I received from the Lord that which I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was going to be handed over took a loaf (**1 Corinthians 11:23**)
- And, after giving thanks, he broke it and said; This means my body which is in your behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me. (**1 Corinthians 11:24**)
- He did likewise respecting the cup also, after he had the evening meal, saying; This cup means the New Covenant by virtue of my blood. Keep doing this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. (**1 Corinthians 11:25**)
- Before **Nisan 14** passed, he died as the Lamb of God. On **Nisan 16**, the day the priest at the temple waved the firstfruits of the barley harvest, Jesus, as the firstfruits of the resurrection, was raised up to life again.

- Now it was the day of Preparation, and the evening light of the Sabbath was approaching. (Luke 23:54)
- Saying that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be impaled and yet on the third day rise. (Luke 24:7)
- However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep in death. (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- In obedience to Christ's instructions, keep doing this in remembrance of me, the 14th day of Nisan continues to be observed by his followers till this day as the time for memorializing Christ's death.
- Also, he took a loaf, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying; This means my body which is to be given in your behalf. Keep doing this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19)
- Also, the cup in the same way after they had the evening meal, he saying; This cup means the New Covenant by virtue of my blood, which is to be poured out in your behalf. (Luke 22:20)

See Also LORD'S EVENING MEAL