

Uncovering the Passover Roots of the Resurrection



Scripture

- **Acts 12:4 (KJV)**
And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
- **Acts 12:4 (NKJV)**
So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

Other Scriptures

- Leviticus 23
- I Corinthians 15:20
- John 4:22
- Romans 11:17
- Matthew 1:1; 5:17
- Revelation 21: 2, 12; 22:16
- I Corinthian 5:7
- John 6:54; 11:24-26

Main Points

- Polycarp, one of the Apostolic leaders of the 2nd Century Church, argued against celebrating Easter in favor of Passover.
- Easter was originally the pagan celebration of the spring equinox.
- Polycarp was the bishop of the church in Smyrna and could have been the person to whom Jesus was speaking in Revelation 2.
- Vayikra is the Hebrew transliteration for Leviticus.
- Hebrew Holy Days Fulfilled by Jesus
 - Jesus was crucified on Passover.
 - The Spirit of God came on Shavuot/Pentecost.
 - Yeshuah was buried on the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
 - Yeshua rose from the dead on the Feast of First Fruits.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the Easter celebration originally?
2. How did the title Easter become associated with the resurrection of Jesus?
3. Why is Polycarp an important witness from the past to hear on this issue?
4. How did Jesus' life, death, and resurrection fulfill the Feasts of the Lord?
5. What wonderful meaning does this have for us who believe? What does Passover encompass? (I Cor. 5:7)
6. What does the resurrection power Christ imparts to us daily do for us in our lives, besides being the guarantee of our future hope?
7. Will your celebration of the resurrection be different this year in light of this knowledge? How so?