

Joshua 5:10-12: Passover Reaffirmed – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Joshua 5:10 The children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and **kept the passover** on the **14th day** of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

5:11 And they did eat of the **old corn** of the land **on the morrow after the passover, (15 Abib)** unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

5:12 the **manna ceased** on **the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn** of the land (**16th**); neither had the children of Israel manna any more;

but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. (Beginning on Abib 17)

Now many expositors write, in effect, that whereas “**on the morrow after the passover**” (5:11 above) would normally denote the **15th** of Abib but here it must mean the 16th. (???) By this, or similar rational, they incorrectly number the days & miss the biblical reoccurring day - the 17th!¹

The reason for such illogical reasoning is that the Israelites could not eat of the new corn in Josh. 5:12 (above) until a sheaf of the first fruits from that crop had been waved by a priest unto the Lord (Lev. 23:10-11). So by applying Lev. 23 on Josh. 5:12 they force “on the morrow after the sabbath” in Leviticus 23:10 to be the same Sabbath as the Passover at “the morrow after the Passover” of Josh 5:11 above – but they are not the same! Thus, applying Lev. 23 here is flawed.

The first and obvious clue that such must be flawed is “**the morrow after the passover**” (Josh. 5:11) clearly denotes the **15th** of Abib. Since Passover is on Abib 14 and Unleavened Bread begins the day after Passover (Lev. 23:5-6), the “morrow after” in Josh. 5:11 is Abib 15. Hence, the day after that in 5:12 is Abib 16. These are the unmovable facts of Scripture, and Scripture never contradicts itself. Therefore, “the morrow after” a 14th Passover cannot be the 16th.

Furthermore, the above commentators have misread and thus grossly misapplied Leviticus 23 to Joshua 5:10-12. Look at Leviticus 23:10-11: ¹⁰When ye come into the land which I give unto you, *and reap the harvest...* then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of **your harvest** unto the priest: ¹¹And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD...“on the morrow after the sabbath.”

Israel crossed the Jordan River Abib 10 (Josh. 4:19) 1451 BC and began circumcising all the males born during the wilderness wandering. They have “come into the land” but obviously not begun any tillage by Abib 17 – the men are still unable for such. Obviously there is as yet no harvest of their planting from which to bring a sheaf for a priest to wave! Leviticus 23:10-11 do not yet apply! This is the fatal flaw to the Josh. 5:11 “morrow after” Passover being twisted into a 16th.

Indeed, due to a 7 year war with the Canaanites that same year, their tillage did not begin until BC 1444.² During the war Israel lived off crops planted by the Canaanites, volunteer crops, and supplies from the 2½ tribes that settled east of the Jordan (Josh. 4:12-13, 5:12, 24:13; cp. Num. 26:7, 18, 34). The land must first *belong* to Israel for the harvest to be **theirs** – then wave a sheaf!

Conclusion: Israel killed the Passover lambs on Abib 14 (their first month, Josh. 5:10) at even,³ they ate the old corn (grain) on the 15th (Josh 5:11), after eating on Abib 16, the manna ceased (Josh. 5:12), and on Abib 17 BC 1451 they ate of Canaan’s new spring crops (mostly Barley & lentils) and its later various harvests during the remainder of the year – exactly as Joshua 5:12 indicates.

¹ The Flood (Gen. 7:11); Red Sea opens (Exo. 12:37, 13:20, 14:2; Num. 33:1-8); Jesus’ resurrection (Luk. 24:1, 13, 21) +

² Floyd Nolen Jones, *The Chronology of the Old Testament: 2022*, (Green Forest, AR: Master Books Pub.) p. 289.

³ Literally “between the two evenings” – Josephus (a Hebrew Pharisee & priest) said the Passover lamb was slain between the 9th and 11th hours (*Wars*, 6.9.3), our 3-5 p.m. Thus the 9th hour (3 p.m.) death of Christ, the Lamb of God (Mat. 27:45-50) well fits the time of the Exodus 12:6 offering of the Passover lamb (also see: Deut. 16:6).