Passover for Gentiles

by Roger Walkwitz

Is the Passover Memorial celebration for Israel only or are Gentiles included? It might surprise some but a certain kind of Gentile is included while others are excluded. As always with **APMF**, the Bible in its Hebrew and Greek texts are basic for accuracy as reflected in certain English versions to be our source for belief and practice. My Volume 2 exposes any false translations which have led to false belief and wrong practices, some deliberate to promote certain false and some evil Agendas. Our Agenda is to walk with God in honesty and transparency.

There are several passages in Exodus12 that will help us. First copied is the Orthdox Jewish Bible followed by the New King James version to help understand Hebrew words.

**Exodus 12:19b**. whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that nefesh shall be cut off from Adat Yisroel, whether he be a **ger,** or native born in ha’aretz. OJB

**Exodus 12:19b**. whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* a stranger or a native of the land. NKJV

We learn two things from this verse. First, it is the **ger** kind of Gentile out of the five kinds in the Tanakh that is acceptable, and second, that the **ger** is part of the congregation of Israel! Surprised?

**Exodus 12:43, 45**. **43**And Hashem said unto Moshe and Aharon, This is the Chukkat HaPesach: there shall no ben **nekhar** eat thereof;… **45**A **toshav** and a sachir shall not eat thereof.

**Exodus 12:43,45.**  **43**And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This *is* the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it……**45**A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it.

In these verses we learn two more kinds of Gentiles, both of which are not acceptable to God. Of interest, however, is that the **nekhar** kind is made an offer by God to be acceptable if he keeps Shabbat among other things. No evidence is recorded that he ever took God’s offer seriously.

**Isaiah 56:6-7.**  **6**Also the bnei ha **nekhar,** that join themselves to Hashem to minister unto Him, and l’ahavah es Shem Hashem, to be His avadim, every one that is shomer Shabbos avoiding chillul Shabbos, and holding fast to My Brit; **7**Even them will I bring to My Har Kodesh, and make them have simcha in My Bais Tefillah. OJB

**Isaiah 56:6-7.** “Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— **7**Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. NKJV

In the next two verses we again learn two very important facts. First is that the **ger**, like all Jewish men, must be circumcised. Second is that the **ger** lives according to the Torah, again like all Israel is expected to live. This is the distinguishing factor that separates the **ger** from all the other 4 kinds of Gentile, that he voluntarily wants to live God’s way. He does not covert to Judaism and become a Jew! More later.

**Exodus 12:48-49**. **48**And when a **ger** shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the Pesach unto Hashem, let all his zachar receive bris milah, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is native born in ha’aretz; for no arel (uncircumcised person) shall eat thereof. 49Torah echad shall be to him that is native-born, and unto the **ger** that sojourneth among you.

**Exodus 12:48-49**. **48**And when a stranger [[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-1865l)]dwells with you *and wants* to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. **49**One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”

This requirement continued until a few centuries before Yeshua came, when the Rabbis claimed that only Israel had a part in the world to come; therefore a Gentile had to convert to Judaism, be a proselyte, to have salvation (their idea of salvation!). The **ger** did not need to convert, did not become a proselyte, and maintained his status “as one who feared God,” an integral part of the nation called “Israel.” This is found in many places in the Tanakh, and very clear in Psalms 22:23; 115:11, 13; 118:4 and 135:20. Notice Psalm 115:9-13: NKJV,

O Israel, trust in the Lord;   
He *is* their help and their shield.  
**10**O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord;

He *is* their help and their shield.  
**11**You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord;   
He *is* their help and their shield.

**12**The Lord [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+115&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-15843b)]has been mindful of *us;*  
He will bless us;  
He will bless the house of Israel; (12 Tribes)  
He will bless the house of Aaron. (Levite tribe)  
**13**He will bless those who fear the Lord, (ger)  
*Both* small and great.

The Apostles and all Israel believed this false claim of the Rabbis until Yeshua decided to clear up the matter with Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10. Cornelius was a ger, one who feared the Lord, but as a Roman officer, he would not have been circumcised. Acts 10-11 make very clear that Cornelius and others there were born-from-Above just like the Apostles at Shavuot, Acts 2, exposing the falsity of the Rabbinic requirement. From then on, God has made it clear that circumcision is not required for Gentiles, and forbidden if part of any conversion process.

**Galatians 5:1-6.**Stand[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%205&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29164a)] fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. **2**Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. **3**And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%205&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29166b)]a debtor to keep the whole law. **4**You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. **5**For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **6**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. NKJV.

The Jerusalem Council in Acts15 makes clear that all Gentiles coming to faith in Yeshua must leave all pagan practices behind and learn and live by the Torah, as Cornelius and all ger were already doing. The Rabbinic conversion process which included circumcision was ignored.

Circumcision for all Jewish men is a requirement forever, as it is the sign of their Covenant with God in Abraham. Gentiles have no such privilege but can be circumcised for other reasons such as cleanliness or health.

Finally, there is the encouragement to celebrate the Passover to a mostly Gentile congregation in Corinth. **1 Corinthians 5:7-8.**

**7**Therefore [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28462d)]purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28462e)]for us. **8**Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

Leaven or yeast is a corrupting enzyme that breaks down starch molecules into carbon dioxide, water and other products. The CO2 is used to raise bread dough to a certain level which is then baked, killing the yeast enzyme. Therefore, God uses leaven as a symbol for sin.

Nisan14 is Passover Day on which all leaven in home and heart is dealt with and removed. At sundown, Nisan 15 begins, which is the first day of the seven-day Moed (Appointed time) of Unleavened Bread, and the time for the first Seder. As Nisan 15 goes thru the night, Yeshua is betrayed, tried, condemned and crucified about 9 am (time of daily morning lamb sacrifice), dismissed His Spirit about 3 pm (time of the evening lamb sacrifice) and buried.

At sundown, Nisan 16 begins with Yeshua in the tomb. Again at sundown, Nisan 17 begins and soon, Yeshua is raised from the dead, which is discovered early in the morning. Yeshua is dead for a maximum of 28 hours since His body “did not see corruption.” “3 days and 3 nights” is an Idiom that does not mean 72 hours!! 28 hours as described fulfills this Idiom, as part of a day is sufficient. The usual expression is that Yeshua will be raised “on the third day.” So, 3 hours on Nisan 15, 24 hours on Nisan16, and one hour on Nisan 17.

The Bible goes by the calendar date. The Catholic Church goes by the original day, so there is Good Friday (why good?) and Holy Week.