The Christian Easter, as seen by Hebrews who keep Passover.

Bernie Besherse, CJ, 2014 - 2018

There are *many* reasons why those who believe the Hebrew Scriptures **are not able to** accept the New Testament as a compatible literary or religious work. In order to qualify as a compatible work on a par with the Tanakh, the New Testament would have to pass many tests that it simply cannot pass.

This is one of my own papers on why Jesus cannot be the Messiah that was promised by YHWH in the Tanakh. It is a work in progress, like most of my documents, and I invite anyone who loves YHWH and wishes to obey Torah to do a critique. I am seeking not only to prove, but to *disprove*, even my most cherished theories, and in so-doing, I am *sincerely* seeking improvement and becoming closer to the source of all Truth.

One thing that had bothered me for years was the Greek Tragedy scene at the Garden of Gethsemane where **all of the disciples went to sleep**, yet <u>someone</u> recorded the events of the prayers of Jesus. With <u>no witnesses</u>, and when there is <u>no verification statement</u> like one finds in the Tanakh saying "*Thus says YHWH to Moses and Aaron*" or "*the word of YHWH came unto* ______ *the prophet*," then where can one find the attestation or verification of the accuracy of this information about what Jesus did while the disciples were asleep? The Tanakh does not leave us hanging like this.

Why is the N.T. so lacking in statements that a prophesy is directly from YHWH? That used to bother me, but it doesn't any longer. I just don't worry about it because I was told not to fear them. YHWH said through Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:20-22**¹ that we must not fear what *any* false prophet says, so I just don't worry about it any longer. Anyway, this article is being made available for people so they can try to shoot holes in it. *Any and all* criticism that comes out of the Tanakh will be considered. *Nothing* that comes out of the N.T. can possibly be considered as qualified criticism until and unless the N.T. is established as an authoritative source. The writings found in the 2,231 pagan sourcebooks providing information used by the 1,786 pagan priests at the Council of Nicea for compiling into the New Testament cannot be considered as being sufficient proof. Unless, of course, one is looking for proof that the N.T. is of pagan origin.

If you are open to criticism of the N.T. under the microscope of the Torah, then you might begin by looking at the claim in the New Testament that *Jesus was the perfect Passover lamb, slain from the foundation of the world*² *for forgiveness of sins*³. Next, we need to look at

21 And if thou say in thy heart: 'How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

¹ <u>Deuteronomy 18:20</u> But the prophet, that shall speak a word presumptuously in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.

²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken; the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously, thou shalt not be afraid of him.

² <u>Revelation 13:8</u> And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

³ <u>Colossians 1:14</u> In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

everything that Torah says about the **Passover**, and the **Passover lamb/kid**, and see if the New Testament writings line up with the Tanakh, or they have a *different* sourcebook.

Even without having anyone point out special verses to you, you will most likely find that the Passover lamb was *not* killed for forgiveness of the sins of the world, or even for the sins of the Israelites, and not even for the sins of the people who took part in the sacrifice. The original Passover lamb was slain, and this animal's blood was placed on the door-posts and over the doors, in order that the Angel-of-Death would <u>PASS</u> - <u>OVER</u> (Passover) that house and <u>NOT</u> kill <u>ONLY</u> the <u>firstborn male</u> of that household and the <u>firstborn male</u> of the animals owned by the household. The [animal] <u>blood of the lamb or kid</u> was for <u>protection</u> of the <u>firstborn male</u> of the <u>obedient</u>, and was <u>in no way</u> for <u>salvation</u> for <u>sinners</u>. Subsequent Passover lambs or kids are slain as a <u>commemorative</u> sacrifice, and eaten as <u>food</u>, not for forgiveness of sins.

The lamb/kid was to be eaten, and in order to be fit for human consumption, the **Passover** sacrifice had to be a kosher animal (lamb or kid) and *die by blood loss*. It had to bleed to death. Jesus died by crucifixion (basically, strangulation), and still had his blood in him when he died.⁴

The **blood** of Jesus was *never* placed on any **door-posts** or **over the doors** of the houses of any righteous or obedient people (or even sinners, for that matter), so there is no recorded method of protection in any way, any shape, or any form provided by any of the **blood** that **did** come out of the body of the man called "Jesus."

You will find that the Passover lamb was to be a <u>male</u>⁵ of **less than one year of age**, without spot or blemish at the time of the sacrifice. The lamb was to be separated out of the flock <u>four days before Passover</u>, and protected very well. The lamb was to be killed <u>at</u> or just <u>after sunset</u> at the beginning of the Passover day, the 14th day of Abib, and the entire animal was to be eaten in haste, in one night, and finished well before daybreak. See: <u>Leviticus 23:5-6</u>⁶ and <u>Numbers 28:16-17</u> ⁷ The next day (15 Abib) began the Week Of Unleavened Bread. These two events, celebrations, and dates, although immediately following and are strongly associated with each other, are not confused in the Jewish minds. Passover, at times, may have been called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but it was not the WEEK of Unleavened Bread. A week is seven days, and Passover was the day that preceded the week.

In <u>Deuteronomy 16:1-8</u>⁸, YHWH gave *specific and detailed instructions* that when keeping the Passover *after* entering the land of Israel and *after* building the temple, then *the*

⁸ <u>Deuteronomy</u> 16:1 KJV Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

⁴ John 13:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

⁵ If Jesus was *conceived* by a *virgin*, then his birth *must have been* by <u>parthenogenesis</u>, and the "*he*" would have been a "*she*," because Jesus would have lacked the "*Y chromosome*" that would have made him a <u>male</u>. Jesus, if the fore-going were true, would have been a female cross-dresser, and *failed* to pass the "*Passover Lamb*" test on this account, also.

⁶ <u>Leviticus 23:5</u> In the <u>fourteenth</u> *day* of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S Passover.

⁶ And on the **<u>fifteenth</u>** day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

⁷ <u>Numbers 28:16</u> And in the <u>fourteenth</u> day of the first month *is* the Passover of the LORD.
17 And in the **fifteenth** day of this month *is* the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

priests would kill the Passover, *at the temple*, and <u>everyone</u> would *eat the Passover at the temple* and *then* return to their own homes. It was *strictly forbidden* for people to observe the Passover in their private homes.[verse 5] Anything remaining of the lamb was to be *burned before morning*.

In the New Testament, there are some very wide differences between the four accounts of the events surrounding Jesus's death.

- Some accounts say that he was killed *before* the Passover. Some say that he was killed *on* the Passover.
- Others say that he was eating the Passover with his disciples in a private dwelling, at the beginning of the second day of the week of unleavened bread, forty-eight hours AFTER the Passover was to be killed.⁹ Mark 14:11-15
- Some accounts say that Jesus was killed *outside of the city*, *by pagans*, whereas Torah says that the Passover lamb was to be killed *at the temple*, *by priests*. Deuteronomy 16:6
- Some of the accounts say that Jesus died outside of the city at about <u>3:00 PM</u>, whereas Torah says that the Passover lamb was to be killed *at sundown*.
- Jesus was supposed to have had a crown of thorns *beaten into his bloody head* before he was killed, whereas Torah says that the Passover lamb was to be *without spot or blemish* when he was killed. ¹⁰ Deuteronomy 17:1
- Jesus was not treated very peacefully and respectfully for the last four days of his life by the people who killed him (*as the Passover lamb must be*), in fact, they reviled Jesus and gnashed upon him with their teeth. Depending upon what "gnashed upon him with their teeth" means, they might have even been biting chunks out of his flesh.

2 Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the Passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, **in the place** which the LORD shall choose to place his name there. [*This is the Temple, in Jerusalem.*]

3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, *even* the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

5 Thou mayest <u>not</u> sacrifice the Passover <u>within any of thy gates</u>, which the LORD thy God giveth thee: 6 But at the place which the LORD thy God <u>shall choose to place his name in</u>, there thou shalt sacrifice the **Passover at even**, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

7 And thou shalt roast and eat *it* in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: and thou shalt turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents.

8 Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day *shall be* a solemn assembly to the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work *therein*.

⁹ <u>Mark 14:12-16</u> 12 And the <u>first day</u> of <u>unleavened bread</u>, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of **water:** follow him.

14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

15 And he will shew you a large upper room furnished *and* prepared: there make ready for us.

16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

¹⁰ <u>Deuteronomy 17:1</u> Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God an ox, or a sheep, wherein is a blemish, even any evil thing; for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

⁴ And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast **seven** days; neither shall there *any thing* of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.

- Jesus was neither roasted with fire nor eaten, neither in haste nor in leisure, neither as a single course meal nor with all of the normal trimmings of a cannibal feast, plus dessert.
- What remained of Jesus was *not burned before morning*, but was placed in a tomb <u>before</u> <u>the sun went down¹¹</u>. This helps secure that the time of death was *well before* sundown.

All of these new testament verses leave us wondering exactly what part of being the Perfect Passover Lamb that Jesus actually did fulfill.

The original **Passover** Lamb was a sacrifice for protection of the **obedient** believers, however, **there** <u>was</u> one <u>lamb</u> who's blood was shed as a <u>sin</u> sacrifice.

Leviticus 4:27 And if any one of the common people **sin through** <u>error</u>, in <u>doing</u> any of the things which the LORD hath <u>commanded</u> <u>not</u> to be done, and be guilty:

Leviticus 4:28 if his sin, which he hath sinned, **be known to him**, then he shall bring for his offering a **goat**, a *female without blemish*, for his sin which he hath sinned.

Leviticus 4:32 And if he bring a lamb as his offering for a sin-offering, he shall *bring it a female without blemish*.

Leviticus 4:33 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin-offering, and *kill it for a sin-offering* in the place where they kill the burnt- offering.

Leviticus 4:34 And the priest shall take of the **blood** of the sin-offering with his finger, and put it upon the **horns of the altar** of burnt-offering, and all the *remaining blood* thereof shall he pour out at the base of the altar.

Leviticus 4:35 And all the fat thereof shall he take away, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of peace-offerings; and the priest shall make them smoke on the altar, upon the offerings of the LORD made by fire; and the priest shall make atonement for him as touching his sin that he hath sinned, and **he shall be forgiven**.

Is this what happened to Jesus? If it did not, then Jesus did not qualify as a sacrifice in place of the Passover Lamb. Remember, **YHWH** wrote the qualifications for the Passover Lamb, **not** your church, **nor** the Council of Nicea.

You notice how specific each detail is regarding the sacrifices for normal sins. If it were possible to forgive the sins of the entire universe, *do you think that the details would be any less specific?* Why would a *female* lamb or kid be stipulated for forgiveness of *one man's* sin, and a male human be <u>assumed</u> to be an acceptable sacrifice for the world's sins? Wouldn't it be a virgin maiden? Was Jesus a female?

You will find that the only **adult**, **male** animal that was used for sacrifice for the sins of the *entire nation* of *Israel* was the scape<u>goat¹²</u>, which was *left alive* and <u>NOT</u> killed. There is

¹¹ John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. (Remember, Sabbath starts at sundown.)

¹² <u>Leviticus 16:7</u> And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the **scapegoat.**

⁹ And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

no sacrifice stipulated in the Torah that will cover the sins of the entire world. There were actually *two* goats. One was killed and the other, called "*the scapegoat*," was turned loose in the wilderness.

If John the Baptist's phrase "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world!"¹³ were to be even *partially* accurate <u>according to Torah</u>, John would have had to have said, "Behold the <u>Billy Goat</u> of God, who takes the sins of <u>Israel</u> with him into the wilderness!"

Somehow, that doesn't quite have the same ring to it, does it? Maybe that's why the Nicean writers who wrote this scene for John the Baptist felt the need to use poetic license (*again*), and borrow some more phrases out of Mithraism (*again*).

The following is an excerpt out of a letter that I presented in a slightly different way to the son of a friend who still believes in the Christian version of events, found in the popular work-product of the Council of Nicea.

The Passover lamb was a *commemorative* sacrifice who's blood was placed on the doorposts and lintel of the door of the home of *BELIEVERS*, not *SINNERS*, to protect the *OBEDIENT*, not forgive the sins of the *DISOBEDIENT*. Even Israelites who failed to PROPERLY fulfill <u>ALL</u> of the requirements for selecting, caring for, killing at the proper time and in the proper manner, cooking in the proper manner, eating in haste, and burning the leftovers before daylight were subjected to the *same penalty* as the Egyptians. Only <u>the Obedient *in advance* were protected</u>, therefore it was specifically <u>NOT</u> a sacrifice for <u>FORGIVENESS of SIN</u>. If it had been a sacrifice for <u>SIN</u>, it would have forgiven <u>the sins of the SINNERS</u>, who in this case were Pharaoh and his servants. Also, <u>sin sacrifices are not eaten by the one who brings the sacrifice</u>. <u>Nowhere does the Tanakh say that the Passover lamb was a sacrifice for sin</u>. Where did the idea of being a sin sacrifice come from? It had to come from somewhere other than YHWH's word, and because of the similarities of the relation of the source appears to be a consensus of the pagans at the Council of Nicea.

The Passover had to be celebrated with a kosher <u>animal</u>. Was Jesus a kosher animal that would qualify? Nope.

The Passover animal was <u>less</u> than <u>one year</u> of age. <u>How old</u> was Jesus? The best guesses are that Jesus might have been about 33 years old. Does Jesus fit the description of the Passover lamb? Nope.

The Passover lamb could either be a MALE <u>lamb</u> (sheep) or a MALE <u>kid</u> (goat). This is <u>STIPULATED</u>. Was Jesus either one of these? Nope.

The Passover lamb had to be <u>selected</u> out of the flock. This means that the lamb would be compared with all of the rest of the animals that would potentially qualify, and the very best of the flock was the one that they would <u>eat</u> at Passover. Was Jesus <u>compared</u> with other potential sacrifices before being selected as the very best? Nope.

¹⁰ But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the **scapegoat**, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, *and* to let him go for a **scapegoat** into the wilderness.

¹³ <u>John 1:29</u> The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The Passover lamb had to be selected FOUR DAYS (*no more, no less*) before Passover. This is *stipulated*. When was Jesus selected? Some people allege that Jesus was *selected at the foundation of the world*, before there was even any flock out of which he could be selected. IF that can be verified, does this qualify Jesus as the Passover lamb? Nope.

After being selected, the Passover lamb was taken into the home of the family that was going to *cook* him and *eat* him, and treated with a lot of *calm pampering*. Is this what happened to Jesus? Nope.

Jesus was yelled at, cussed at, and they "gnashed upon him with their teeth." Depending on if "gnashing" means "gnawed," he may have even had chunks bitten out of his flesh. Does this qualify Jesus for being a substitute for the Passover lamb? Nope.

According to <u>the Christian</u> belief that <u>Isaiah 52 – 53</u> applies to Jesus and that the New Testament says, Jesus was beaten bloody and disfigured, making him totally unfit for being a sacrifice even if Jesus was a baby billy goat. When the lamb was sacrificed, it had to be without spot or blemish. Would this have described Jesus at his death? Nope.

The Passover lamb had his throat cut, and *died of <u>blood loss</u>*. Jesus died of *suffocation (similar to <u>strangulation</u>)*, on the cross (or stake), and <u>AFTER</u> he died, his side was pierced and then, *SOME* of his blood came out, looking like blood and water. This means that *even if* Jesus HAD BEEN a kosher ANIMAL of *less than one year of age*, he would have been *totally unfit* to eat. Does this mean that the bread and wine that you eat at communion are *also* FILTHY, and *unfit to eat*? *THINK ABOUT IT*. Did the "Jesus sacrifice" die of blood loss? Nope.

Jesus was killed OUTSIDE of the Temple, on the hill of Golgotha, by Romans (*not Levite priests*). According to Deuteronomy chapter 16, after the building of the Temple, the Passover lamb was to be taken to the Temple by each family, where it was killed <u>by the Levites</u>, and cooked <u>by the Levites</u>. Is this what happened to Jesus? Nope.

Jesus was not cooked, at all, either roasted with fire *OR* boiled in water. Does this conform with the stipulations regarding the Passover lamb? Nope.

There is no record of Jesus *being eaten*, at all, other than *perhaps* in the "*Secret Gospel of Mark*," but you can "Google" that, and *speculate* on that for yourself. Some info is at: <u>http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_miss5.htm</u>

The Passover lamb was to be killed "*between the evenings*," which is generally accepted as meaning between the time that the sun went down and when it was full dark. Jesus was killed at about 3:00 PM. Does this conform with the requirements for the Passover lamb? It depends on your understanding of the meaning of "between the evenings." Most likely *NOT*. They say that Jesus was placed in a tomb of someone who may have been a rich uncle of his, *even before the sun went down*.

<u>Exodus 12:8</u> And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. The Passover lamb was a <u>commemorative</u> sacrifice that was <u>specifically</u> supposed to be <u>eaten</u> by the <u>household</u> providing the lamb. What kind of bitter herbs did they eat with Jesus? After the Passover lamb was eaten, or at least as much of it as could be eaten that night, the rest of the body was burned with fire before dawn, until it was <u>completely consumed</u> by the fire. Is this what happened to Jesus? Nope.

The Passover lamb was not a <u>sin</u> sacrifice. There has never been even a single verse pointed out in the Torah that gives directions for the Passover Lamb to be used as a <u>SIN</u> sacrifice. NOR are there directions regarding a Passover Lamb that at least part of the lamb was <u>NOT</u> consumed for nutrition by people (*including <u>non</u>-Levites*). So, in order to represent <u>a lamb as a SIN sacrifice</u>, Jesus would have to represent the lamb described in <u>Leviticus 4:28 – 35</u>. The <u>sin sacrifice</u> lamb was a <u>female</u> lamb. Read the verses if you do not believe me. Are you still going to claim that Jesus was the perfect Passover lamb who *paid for the <u>SINS</u>* of the world? Was Jesus a female? You tell me. <u>IF</u> humans were a proper species for being sacrificed, and <u>IF</u> Jesus was going to be a <u>SIN</u> sacrifice, wouldn't he have had to be a real, perfect, <u>unmutilated</u> female, not a tranny or just a cross-dresser? You tell me.

You notice how specific <u>each detail</u> is regarding the sacrifices for <u>normal</u> sins. If there was a sacrifice that could possibly be made that would forgive the sins of the entire universe, do you think that the details would be any <u>LESS</u> specific? Or would they be <u>MORE</u> <u>specific</u>? Any answer to these questions would require speculation and conjecture, because there are absolutely NO verses in the Tanakh that stipulate the requirements for performing any human sacrifice.

Why would a <u>FEMALE LAMB</u> be stipulated for forgiveness of <u>ONE</u> man's sin, and a <u>MALE HUMAN</u> be <u>ASSUMED</u> to be an acceptable sacrifice for the world's sins? Wouldn't it have to be a <u>VIRGIN MAIDEN</u>? How could Jesus qualify? Can you find directions in the Torah for this sacrifice? Where did this idea come from when it is totally foreign to the Torah? Could it possibly be that it was adapted from the pagan practices of the participants in the Council of Nicea? I see no other reasonable conclusion.

So, because ALL of the other stipulations regarding the Passover Lamb have been covered, and NOTHING written above about Jesus qualifies Jesus to be a *commemorative*, *Passover* sacrifice that was to be *eaten* by *everyone in the household*, all that is left that <u>MAY</u> have been similar between Jesus and the Passover lamb is that Jesus <u>may</u> not have ever had a broken bone. He <u>MAY</u> not have, but the standard way of nailing an ankle to a cross or a stake was to put the nail through the ankle bone. There is simply not enough <u>EVIDENCE</u>, one way or the other, to say whether Jesus had broken any bones in his life or at his death to support a <u>conclusion</u>.

Remember, it is the Christian scriptures, *not the Jewish scriptures*, that are promoting the theory that Jesus is the *perfect Passover Lamb*, which was *never* to be for the forgiveness of sin. The *only lamb* to be used as a *sin sacrifice* was *FEMALE*.

Neither <u>your belief</u> nor <u>mine</u> can make up for <u>lack</u> of <u>evidence</u> that would support a <u>conclusion</u> regarding the broken ankle bone, but it does not take a rocket scientist to see that Jesus could not possibly have been any kind of substitute for the <u>Passover</u> Lamb.

So, we are still looking for evidence in the <u>Torah</u> that Jesus *could have been* the perfect (complete) Passover Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world for forgiveness of sins. We won't find it. That evidence will be found in the books on Mithraism and other pagan cults.

Please send any comments about this article to:

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יהוה

The name of our Creator is made up of four, Hebrew <u>vowels</u>, **Y H W H** יהוה. Vowels are <u>sounds</u>, not just marks on paper. (source: Flavius Josephus - Antiquities of the Jews)

The letter ☐ (h) when used as a vowel, usually has the "ah," "ha," or the "huh" sound. The ☐ is the *definite* article, or *THE*, *SPECIFIC*, *to the EXCLUSION of ALL others*.

This is exemplified in showing the difference between the word "eretz," meaning land, and the words "ha_Eretz," meaning *THE Land of Israel, to the exclusion of all others*.

In Hebrew, the letters $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{y})$ and $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{w})$ are used interchangeably, and when located in the first, second, or third position in a word, indicate the tense of the word, either past, future, or continuing.

Being placed in the first and third positions, the ' and ' indicate that the name is **both past and future**, or, - *Eternal*.

The **T** associated with **both** the **'** and the **'** means that the name is specifically, to the exclusion of all others, both *past* and *future*, or **THE Eternal**.

Furthermore, being *singular*, and *being found twice*, the $\overline{}$ would also allow the addition of the word, **ONE**, as a descriptor.

The Name, **YHWH**, could then be logically rendered as **The Eternal ONE**, because **He** has eternal existence, **to the exclusion of all others**.

It is pronounced in one, long breath, like the wind, with the accent on the middle syllable. .

eeeeeaaaaaa UUUUUUU' waaaah