

Major Passover texts in the Bible

EXODUS 12-13:

Narrates the “emergency” nature of the feast to protect against YHWH’s avenging angel’s strike on the firstborn. Establishes a family/neighborly sacrifice with unleavened bread.

NUMBERS 9:

Establishes a date for Passover (14th day of the 2nd month) and adds “bitter herbs” to the lamb and unleavened bread.

DEUTERONOMY 16:

Establishes Passover as a cultic feast “at the place that YHWH your God will choose as a dwelling for his name,” (16.6) and not elsewhere. Also focuses on the lamb and unleavened bread as elements.

JOSHUA 5.10-11:

Narrates the Israelites keeping Passover as they enter the land, eating unleavened bread and “parched grain.”

2 KINGS 23.21-23:

Narrates King Josiah’s commandment to keep the Passover, which is said not to have been kept “since the days of the judges”. Fits with Ezra 6.19-20 and 2 Chronicles 35.

EZRA 6.19-20:

Narrates the first post-exilic Passover, focusing on the priestly/Levitical lamb sacrifice.

2 CHRONICLES 35:

Narrates Josiah’s Passover, in which the king provides thousands of lambs, kids and bulls for sacrifice, along with unleavened bread.

Passover is never mentioned in the prophets or wisdom literature.