



## Acts 12:4 – Easter or Passover?

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.

There has been controversy about this verse for years. Especially from those who hate the King James Bible, the Masoretic Hebrew Text & the Greek Textus Receptus as well as those who persecute those who stand by the King James Bible and the underlining texts and also want to push and ram Westcott and Hort and all the corrupt versions down our throats. The Questions is regarding Acts 12:4

Should it be Easter or Passover?

Before we start, I want to state my Doctrinal Statement on the Bible. (Below is a partial only) The Bible consists of 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. The canon is complete. There is no new revelation (Rev. 22:18-19). Plenary (Full, Absolute) Authority – Sole Authority for Faith and Practice (Isaiah 8:20; I Peter 1:23–25)

1. Inspiration (God Breathed) – In the Original Writings (2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17)
2. Inerrancy – Without Error (Psalms 12:6)
3. Infallible – The Scriptures are incapable of teaching any error or being wrong (1 Peter 1:19, Psalm 19:7)
4. Preservation – I believe God has preserved His Word in the Hebrew Masoretic Text (Old Testament), in the Greek Textus Receptus (Erasmus, Stephens, Beza) (New Testament) and in Latin (The Old Latin Vulgate of 157 A. D. ) I believe that the King James Bible is the only translation in the English language which is based on the pure Word of God and the most accurate translation. (1 Peter 1:25, Psalms 12:7, Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8)

**All other versions such as NIV, NASV, RSV, NKJV, etc from the Westcott & Hort and Nestle-Aland Texts are all counterfeits of God's true Word!**

I do accept as this Blog Article; a 21st Century Translation called King James Bible 2016 Edition, translated by Nick Sayers of [www.textus-receptus.com](http://www.textus-receptus.com) (Theodore Beza's 1598 Greek Text Used). Remember Beza's Text of 1598 (Primarily Used) and Stephens 1550 Greek Texts (Secondary) were the texts used by the King James Translators.

Also, there is another translation from the Textus Receptus called the Modern English Version (or MEV, the website is [www.modernenglishversion.com](http://www.modernenglishversion.com)) which begun in 2005 and completed in 2014.

## Acts 12:4 – Easter or Passover? – Page 2

The work was edited by James F. Linzey (Southern Baptist Minister), and is an update of the King James Version (KJV), re-translated from the Masoretic Text and the Textus Receptus. The ecumenical Committee on Bible Translation is composed of 47 American and English scholars from the three major branches of Christendom: Orthodox, Protestant, and Roman Catholic. According to Wikipedia, Committee members include Eugene C. Ulrich, Stephen L. Herring, Eric Mitchell, Edward W. Watson, and T.J. Betts. The scholars working on the translation represent many academic institutions as professors or graduates, including Fuller Theological Seminary, Geneva College, Harvard University, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, University of Notre Dame, Yale University, and others; and they represent many churches across a wide range of denominations, including the Church of England, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, General Council of the Assemblies of God, Presbyterian Church of America, Southern Baptist Convention, and others.

However, I do not know which edition of the Textus Receptus is used and I had made inquiries regarding this with no return answer.

I also encourage the reader to take a lot of time and do the research; this blog article only scratches the surface on this issue as there is so much on the bible version issue, which is only a layman's study, research & opinion to let all know that Almighty God has preserved his Word!

Below are all the English Versions before the King James Bible; First Edition 1611

Wycliff (1380 – 1395) And whanne he hadde cauhte Petre, he sente hym in to prisoun; and bitook to foure quaternyouns of knytytis, to kepe hym, and wolde aftir **pask** bringe hym forth to the puple.

**pask** back then is Passover today

Tyndale (1534) And when he had caught him he put him in preson and delyvered him to .iiii. quaternios of soudiers to be kepte entyndyng after **ester** to bryng him forth to the people. **ester** in 1534 is Easter

Miles Coverdale (1535) Now whan he had taken him, he put him in preson, and delyuered him vnto foure quaternions of soudyers, to kepe him: and thought after **Easter** to bringe him forth to the people.

Matthews Bible (1537) – **Easter** was used. The only online editions I found, here <http://www.bibles-online.net/1537/>

Great Bible (1539 – 1540) has the word "**Easter**"

Geneva Bible (1587 – 1560) And when he had caught him, he put him in prison, and deliuered him to foure quaternions of souldiers to be kept, intending after the **Passeouer** to bring him forth to the people. **Passeouer** is Passover

Bishop's Bible (1568) And when he had caught hym, he put hym in pryson also, and delyuered hym to foure quaternions of souldiers to be kept, intyndyng after **Easter** to bryng hym forth to the people.

Douay Rheims Version (1609) And when he had apprehended him, he cast him into prison, delivering him to four files of soldiers, to be kept, intending, after the **pasach**, to bring him forth to the people.

## Acts 12:4 – Easter or Passover? – Page 3

**pasach** is Passover

Here are the English Bibles AFTER 1611 but BEFORE Westcott – Hort of 1881

Wesley's New Testament (1755) (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) Whom having apprehended, he put in prison, delivering him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him forth to the people after the **passover**.

Noah Webster's Bible (1833) After Producing his Famous Dictionary, Webster printed his Own Revision of the King James Bible: And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after the **passover** to bring him forth to the people.

On the next page we have a new version of the Bible based on Theodore Beza's 1598 Greek Text which was the primary Text used by the King James Translators from 1604 – 1611.

### 21st Century Translations

As I just mentioned, in 2014 the **MEV (Modern English Version)** was completed.

**King James Bible 2016 Edition**, translated by Nick Sayers of [www.textus-receptus.com](http://www.textus-receptus.com) (Beza's 1598 Greek Text Used) So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending after Easter to bring him before the people.

*This Section Below Covers the Greek Texts of Erasmus as well as Beza's and Stephens, the 2 Texts used (Beza's Primarily and Stephens was also used) for the King James Bible in 1611, The Latin Vulgate of 157 A.D. and even a HEBREW New Testament I found Online in my Research!*

The Textus Receptus of Erasmus (Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus, known as Erasmus or Erasmus of Rotterdam) (1522), Stephens (Robert Estienne – known as Stephanus) (1550) and Theodore Beza (1598) all have the Greek word "Páscha" for Passover.

The only known copy of Erasmus 1522 text is AS OF 1989 when I was still doing Textual Research on the Bible Versions was sealed at the American Bible Society of New York, now located in Philadelphia.

Stephens (1550) says: ον και πιασας εθετο εις φυλακην παραδους τεσσαρσιν τετραδιοις στρατιωτων φυλασσειν αυτον βουλομενος μετα το πασχα αναγαγειν αυτον τω λαω – In

**English Translated via Google: being and grab put into prison Ex tessarsin tetradiouis soldiers fylassein him stuffy after the **passover** anagagein him among the people**

Theodore Beza's 1598 Greek Text, for those who can read Greek and Latin, this link take you to Beza's 1598 Text which has notes and is also accompanied by the Latin version on the New Testament.

The Old Latin Vulgate of 157 A.D. has "pascha"

I even found the New Testament in HEBREW! See the Next Page

## Acts 12:4 – Easter or Passover? – Page 4

The Aleph and Tau Messianic comings website ([www.bayithamashiyach.com](http://www.bayithamashiyach.com)) points out in their HEBREW New Testament (B'rit haChadashah (New Testament) Hebrew-Greek-English color) says Passover in Acts 12:4 as you see below:

חיילים של חוליות ארבע לו ומספק, בכלא אותו לשים הוא, בו אחד כשהוא  
העם בפני אותו להביא פסח לאחר כוונה מתוך, עליו לשמור כדי

wayo'chez 'otho wayit'nehu b'mish'mar wayim's'rehu l'ar'ba` mach'l'qoth  
shel-ar'ba`ah 'an'shey tsaba' l'sham'ro kiy 'amar l'ha`alotho 'acharey haPesach liph'ney  
ha`am.

*This Section Below Covers Other Non-English Versions to present my article*

Latin Vulgate (382) quem cum adprehendisset misit in carcerem tradens quattuor  
quaternionibus militum custodire eum volens post pascha producere eum populo

Martin Luther's Bible (German – 1522) has "Oster" (Easter)

Reina-Valera is a Spanish translation of the Bible published in 1602 – the word "Pascua"  
(Passover)

Syriac Peshitta of 150 A.D. (Syriac Aramaic, is a dialect of Middle Aramaic that was once  
spoken across much of the Fertile Crescent and Eastern Arabia) has Passover!

✦ ܕܝܫܘܥܝܢܝܢ ܠܚܝܚܝܢ ܢܥܠܡܝܗܘܢ ܦܩܝ ܕܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܕܝܫܘܥܝܢܝܢ ܫܠܝܠܝܢ ܥܡܝܗܘܢ ܠܡ ܕܥܠܡܝܗܘܢ ܕܝܫܘܥܝܢܝܢ ܕܝܫܘܥܝܢܝܢ ܕܝܫܘܥܝܢܝܢ  
Peshitta Aramaic/English Interlinear New Testament – source <http://www.peshitta.org/>

*Let's look @ 2 scriptures here!*

(Ezekiel 45:21) In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the  
Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.

(Luke 22:1) Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

This next quote is from **1<sup>st</sup> Century Historian Josephus** (Titus Flavius Josephus, born Joseph  
ben Matityahu – lived 37 A.D. TO 100 A.D.)

"Now, upon the approach of that feast of unleavened bread, which the law of their fathers had  
appointed for the Jews at this time, which feast is called the Passover, and is memorial of their  
deliverance out of Egypt." (Josephus, in "**Antiquities of the Jews**," Book 17, ch. 9, #3.)

Keep in mind this FACT! The Early Church **BEFORE** Constantine (Lived February 27, 272 A.D.  
– May 22, 337 A.D.) became Emperor of Rome (306 A.D. to 337 A.D.) did NOT celebrate Easter  
OR Christmas!

*After you read below go to this website; According to Nick Sayers <http://www.easterau.com>:*

Hebrew Pesach became Greek Pascha.

In most languages the word for Easter is exactly the same as the word for Passover, so the  
relationship between the feast of Passover, and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is  
directly linked. A few examples are; Latin Pascha, French Pâques, Italian Pasqua, and Dutch  
Pasen. All these words mean both Easter and Passover, only the context formulates the  
difference.

## Acts 12:4 – Easter or Passover? – Page 5

According to Nick Sayers at <http://www.easterau.com>: (continued)

With the exception of English and German, all other European languages do not have separate words for Easter and Passover, but simply use a single term derived from Pesach, the Hebrew word for Passover.

In one way, this is an advantage to the believer, who immediately associates Jesus Christ as the Passover Lamb. Whether reading the New or Old Testaments, the association between Christ and the Passover is clearly seen. This was also the case in the original Greek language which uses the Greek word Pascha for both Passover and the resurrection of Christ. This has been the same for 2000 years in the Greek. Even if you look up a Modern Greek dictionary it will tell you that Pascha means both Easter and Passover. This was also the case in English until Tyndale coined the term Passover. But as we shall see, the English rendition of Easter and Passover in the King James Bible is superior and needs to be exalted into its rightful place in English Bible versions, dictionaries and Christian literature again. This does not conclude that the English is superior to the original Greek, which is a form of Ruckmanism, (The Late Peter Ruckman – Peter Sturges Ruckman; Lived November 19, 1921 – April 21, 2016) but in this particular instance there is a special feature in the KJV, which is made clear in the original Greek when read in context, but is made abundantly clear by the scholarship of the KJV translators. Just as most Bibles include things like capitalization of deity or have the words of Christ in red, and other helps, so too did the KJV translators make the Old Testament Passover and New Testament Easter easier for the reader to understand in context.

Latin – (According to <http://www.easterau.com>: (continued))

When the Bible was being translated into the Latin language in the fourth century, when translating the word Pascha, which can mean both Passover and Easter in Latin, Jerome simply used the same Greek word without creating a new Latin word in its place, thus Pascha was basically un-translated.

## *My Conclusion*

Since the Latin Vulgate of 157 A.D. (Which in my opinion is the Preserved Word of God in Latin) and the Textus Receptus (In my opinion the Preserved Word of God in Greek representing the texts of Erasmus, Stephens & Beza) and with the evidence of the Hebrew New Testament that I showed earlier. The ENGLISH word should be **TRANSLATED**:

# Easter

Acts 12:4 in my opinion is properly translated Easter!

But Remember:

From 1 Corinthians 5:7 KJV: For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

Page 5 of 5 by Jeff Hertzog of [www.jeffhertzog.net](http://www.jeffhertzog.net)