

Why the Day of Our Lord's Death Had to
Be the 15th of Nisan, the First Month (Numbers 28:16-23)

Search, as you will, you will be unable to locate in the whole Levitical economy a single Sacrifice for sin or trespass appointed for the 14th day of the 1st month, which was the date in Israel's Calendar when our Lord was put to death. This date had no significance because it contained no offerings of any kind, which were typical of His Sacrifice on the account of sin. This fact should at once satisfy every enquirer who does not yet appreciate why God refuses to reckon time in relation to the death of His Son according to the Calendar of Israel.

When, however, we consider the sacrificial elements of the next day, namely, the 15th of the 1st month and the 1st day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we find it to be a day saturated with sacrifices. It opened with the sacrifice of the Passover at 6P.M., and on the following morning the Law commanded that should be the presentation of special Burnt Offerings with their Meat Offerings, together with a Sin Offerings with these Offerings forms a separate and typical aspect of the One Sacrifice offered by our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary on the 15th day of the 1st month in the year A.D. 33.

In Exodus 12:6, and in other Scriptures, we are told that the Passover was to be killed "in the evening". According to the Hebrew this should be translated, "between the evenings"- an expression which refers to a point of time between the last 3 hours of the 14th day namely 3 to 6 P.M., and the first 3 hours of the 15th day of the first month, namely, 6 to 9 P.M. This in practice meant that the Passover was to be killed at or about 6 P.M. which was the opening of the 15th of Nisan or Abib, as this month was called before the Babylonian Captivity. Then in Numbers 28:17, we read: "In the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten".

No one, therefore, could get a glimmer of Biblical understanding of our Lord's Sacrifice on Calvary on the 1st May A.D 33, without the help of this passage in Numbers 23 in which the typical sacrifices of the 15th of the 1st month – the day in the Divine Calendar on which our Lord was crucified – are set forth.

From the book *The Restored Vision* by A.E. Ware.