

Acts 12:4, the one and only occurrence of Easter in the King James Bible

A Brief Word Study of G3957 (pascha) and H6453 (pesach)

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Tags: pesach, word_study

Introduction

The Greek word pascha (Strong's number G3957) is found 29 times in the New Testament of the King James bible. It is translated 28 times as Passover and only once as Easter. I like the King James bible for many reasons but the use of Easter in Acts 12:4 could be its most egregious example of a bad translation.

King James Concordance of G3957 πάσχα pascha

As you can see below, the concordance lists all 29 occurrences of this Greek word.

Total Occurrences: 29

passover, 28: [Mat 26:2](#), [Mat 26:17-19](#) (3), [Mar 14:1](#), [Mar 14:12](#) (2), [Mar 14:14](#), [Mar 14:16](#), [Luk 2:41](#), [Luk 22:1](#), [Luk 22:7-8](#) (2), [Luk 22:11](#), [Luk 22:13](#), [Luk 22:15](#), [Joh 2:13](#), [Joh 2:23](#), [Joh 6:4](#), [Joh 11:55](#) (2), [Joh 13:1](#) (2), [Joh 18:28](#), [Joh 18:39](#), [Joh 19:14](#), [1Co 5:7](#), [Heb 11:28](#) ;

easter, 1: [Act 12:4](#)

Strong's Definition for G3957

Of Chaldee origin (compare [H6453]); the *Passover* (the meal, the day, the festival or the special sacrifices connected with it): - Easter, Passover.

Not having done an extensive etymology of the Greek word “pascha” it would however seem pretty clear that its roots are clearly Hebrew as it is merely a transliteration the Hebrew word pesach (Strong's number H6453). The one and only Hebrew word cross-referenced in the Septuagint (LXX) for the Greek word pascha is (not surprisingly) this word pesach. The first occurrence of it in the Torah can be seen below.

H4975 it; your מתניכם H853 אתו H398 shall ye eat תאכלו H3602 And thus וככה **Exo 12:11**
H7272 on your feet, ברגליכם H5275 your shoes נעליכם H2296 girded, חגרים loins
אתו H398 and ye shall eat ואכלתם H3027 in your hand; בידכם H4731 and your staff ומקלכם
H3068 the LORD's: ליהוה H1931 הוא **H6453 passover. פסח** H2649 it in haste: בחפזון H853

Acts 12:4 Redacted

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~~ Passover ^{G3957 pascha, LXX H6453 pesach=passover} to bring him forth to the people.