



Preparing for Passover & the Spring Festivals

I. DOING THE FESTIVALS FOR YHWH

A. Festival Observance: There are multiple times in Israel's history when YHWH was not pleased with Israel's festival observance

13Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. 14Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. 15When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

16“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18“Come now, and let us reason together,” says YHWH, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:13-18

⁵Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: “When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me? ⁶When you eat and when you drink [the annual feasts], do you not eat and drink for yourselves? ⁷Should you not have obeyed the words which YHWH proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous?” Zechariah 7:5-7

21“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. 22Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

23Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.

24But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. Amos 5:21-24

B. Pleasing YHWH: How would I/we please You in observing the festivals this year?

1. Repent: we can be honest about the times that we fall short, acknowledge it, ask His forgiveness, and then make any necessary changes.
2. Thank You: we can grow in our practice of thanking YHWH for what He's done.
3. First Commandment: we are to love Him with all of our heart, soul mind, and strength (our everything)
 - a. Grace: there's grace to be wholehearted in loving God
 - i. There's grace for a wholehearted, zealous, radical love for and pursuit of God
 - ii. There's grace for this! Is there a radical God-loving desire in your heart? There's grace for that!
 - iii. There's grace to ask God what changes are necessary in our life at this time.
 - iv. He wouldn't have called us to love Him with all of our heart if it wasn't within reach
 - v. Grace gives you a greater ability to press in towards God, but grace doesn't give you the ability to shrink back from a wholehearted pursuit of Him
 - vi. We are saved by grace and kept by grace; we have His grace to be firm to the end
 - b. Non-grace: Does it take any grace to eat junk food or to binge watch Netflix? No, we don't need any help to do that or other largely unedifying things. There's mercy available when we blow it with a focus on superfluous or inconsequential things, but God doesn't give us grace to do those things.
 - c. Unbelief: We often struggle with unbelief that wholehearted obedience to God is within reach; He's called us to a wholehearted response towards Him.
 - d. Refusing to Hear: “But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Zechariah 7:11
 - i. Yeshua says quite often that we are to take heed how we hear

4. Second Commandment: we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

C. Loving Our Neighbor as Ourselves in the Festivals: Usually YHWH uses the expressions of mercy and justice to our fellow man (particularly those most in need) as barometers of our love for Him.

27Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself **if he does not judge the body rightly**. 30For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

1. The Rebuke: The Corinthian ekklesia was rebuked by the Lord because of their divisions, their selfishness, and their unwillingness to share their food and include the poorer members of the Body.
2. Recognize the Body Rightly: What would recognizing the Body rightly involve? It would certainly involve avoiding negative connotations like what the Corinthians were doing. But, on a higher plain, I believe it would involve serving, celebrating, expressing love, and appreciation to the members of the Body congregating around the tables on Friday night.

II. PASSOVER LOGISTICS

A. Power of Covenant

1. Threshold Covenant

- a. a host would pour blood of animal on the threshold, and the visitor would step over and find protection in the house (more prestigious the guest, more costly the animal sacrificed). There would be a basin in the threshold to store the blood
- b. A king would visit the land; if in allegiance to the king, would put blood on the doorposts.
 - i. This practice would be used if a king was trying to extend his territory
 - ii. He would send messengers through the land; they would go in to those houses where the blood was shed to work out final covenantal details.
 - iii. For those who didn't have the blood on the doorposts, the king would send in the army
 - iv. Later custom to make it clearer was that the host would dip their hand (later a bush) into the blood and "paint" the blood on the doorpost
- c. Two Hebrew words:
 - i. Abar **יעבר**: pass by or pass over
 - ii. Pesach (**פסח**): to step across a threshold where blood has been poured out—and have fellowship with those people

12For I will **go through** (abar) the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am YHWH. 13The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will **pass over** (pesach) you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

21Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb. 22You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.

23For YHWH will **pass through** (abar) to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, YHWH will **pass over** (pesach) the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you. 24And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. 25When you enter the land which YHWH will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. 26And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' 27you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to YHWH who **passed over** (pesach) the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshiped. Exodus 12:12-13; 21-27

- d. Passover was God coming in covenant with Israel and skipping over the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:11)

2. God's Mark: Observing Passover depicts God's mark (Exodus 13:9)

9And it (Passover) shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of YHWH may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand YHWH brought you out of Egypt.

10Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year. Exodus 13:9-10

a. Devil's mark (Rev. 13:16, 14:9; 20:4)

b. A mark is a mark: whether we are overwhelmingly impacted and inspired or not, God's mark is still efficacious.

3. Second Passover: If Israelites missed this festival, they were to observe it a month later in the second month.

a. 9Then YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, 10"Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If any one of you or of your generations becomes unclean because of a dead person, or is on a distant journey, he may, however, observe the Passover to the Lord. 11In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall observe it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 12They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it. Numbers 9:9-12

B. Married to YHWH: The overarching metaphor for all the festivals is that of a wedding where God is marrying His people

C. Focus on Yeshua (Not on Your sins)

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the First day you shall remove leaven from your houses.

Exodus 12:15

1. Removing the leaven *after* the Passover (on the first day of unleavened bread)

D. Descriptors of the Day

1. YHWH's Passover: God says that it is His day (Leviticus 23:5)

5In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is YHWH's Passover. Leviticus 23:5

2. Scriptural Descriptions: Exodus 12 & 13; Leviticus 23:4-22; Numbers 9; Deuteronomy 16

E. Overview of the Original Story

1. God's Four Promises (Exodus 6:6-7) correspond to the four cups drunk at the Passover seder

6Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am YHWH, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am YHWH your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. Exodus 6:6-7

a. *I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians*

i. personally what burdens do you need to be delivered of in this season?

ii. are you boldly asking God to deliver you from these burdens?

b. *I will deliver you from their bondage*

i. personally in what areas does God want you to see yourself (and thus walk) differently?

c. *I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments*

i. personally will you renew your "mark" with God this year?

d. *I will take you for My people, and I will be your God*

i. personally are you living differently because of your connection with God?

ii. personally are you looking for (and living in light of) Yeshua's return?

2. Themes: freedom, deliverance, atonement, covenant

F. Preparation/Regulations:

1. No foreigner to eat of it (Exodus 12:43, 48)

a. Only those in covenant with YHWH

b. Messianic Believers (Colossians 2:11-13)

i. Reinforced from Tanakh (Jeremiah 4:3-4)

ii. Jews to Become Jealous (Romans 11:13-14)

iii. Points to Yeshua (John 1:29)

iv. Yeshua is Knocking at our Door (Revelation 3:20)

2. Everyone to partake within community

a. A lamb for every house; enough for everyone

b. Individual salvation but within the context of family/community

3. Permanent Ordinance (Exodus 12:14)
4. Starts a feast of Unleavened Bread

G. Overview of the Gospel Story

1. Yeshua as the Lamb of God (John 1:29)
2. The Last Supper (Passover meal)
3. Communion: Yeshua and the Cup of Redemption & the afikomen

H. Personal Preparation

1. Prepare your heart for the renewal of the vows for your Bridegroom
2. Suffering leading to breakthrough
3. The rewards of God
4. Don't give up

I. Keeping Vigil

Tell them: "It [is] the sacrifice of YHWH'S Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And: "Because YHWH kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor YHWH for the generations to come." Exodus 12:27

J. How Do I Become Redeemed?

1. Persistently and Consistently Apply the Truths of God's Word to your own life
 - a. *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23*
 Personal Affirmation: God, I acknowledge that I am a sinner who has fallen short of Your glorious standard. I am in great need before You.
 - b. *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Messiah Yeshua our Lord. Romans 6:23*
 Personal Affirmation: God, I acknowledge that it is only through Your free gift of righteousness through Yeshua's shed blood that my sins are covered. I freely receive anew Your gift through Yeshua's sacrifice today.
 - c. *9If you openly declare that Yeshua is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Romans 10:9-11*
 Personal Affirmation: Yeshua, I affirm that You are YHWH and that You rose from the dead. I declare You to be the Lord of my life, I hand over the control of my life to You, and I commit to obey You.
2. Talk to God (About these truths and how you are feeling)
3. Actively believe God's Word: *Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible (not necessarily my feelings) tells me so.*

K. As Redeemed Persons...

1. We "Feast On" Yeshua (we talk to Him and have relationship with Him, and He through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit's conviction brings greater light to the things in our life that are not like Him.
2. We Repent (a consistent process), place our sin on Yeshua, and commit to walk differently
 - a. *more repentance as we grow*: Spiritual maturity should be expressed by more holiness, less sin, but not by less repentance. As we grow in holiness, our awareness and sensitivity to sin increases. The Holy Spirit sheds more light in our souls, and we see sins which we didn't see before or which we ignored. We feel the gravity of sins which may have previously seemed small or insignificant...Paradoxically, the less we sin, the more we repent. Gil Afriat
3. We Apply God's teachings in
4. We need God's help us in this process
5. We realize our sin most effectively as a by-product of realizing Who He is
 - a. we realize our need
 - b. sanctification is a life-long process

III. WHO YESHUA IS

A. Focus on Yeshua: we are to meditate on Him; think about Who the Bible says He is; agree with Who the Bible says He is; and ask for greater revelation of Who He is

1. We naturally worship when we “see” Him
2. We couldn’t handle a focused view of Him
3. We are changed from glory to glory by just a dim glimpse of Who He is

18But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror (dimly) the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

B. Yeshua: Yeshua implicitly claimed deity in at least twelve ways.

He claimed three divine rights:

1. to judge mankind,
2. to forgive sins, and
3. to grant eternal life.

He declared that:

4. His presence was God's presence as well as the presence of God's kingdom and that
5. the attitude people took toward Him would determine their eternal destiny.
6. He identified His actions with God's actions,
7. He taught the truth on His own authority, and
8. He performed miracles on His own authority.
9. He appeared to receive worship or obeisance.
10. He assumed that His life was a pattern for others, a ‘divinely authoritative form of life.’
11. He applied to Himself OT texts that describe God; and
12. in several parables indirectly identified Himself with a father or king who represents God.”

Daniel Doriani, "The Deity of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 37:3 (September 1994): 339-40.

IV. WHAT HE DID: YESHUA’S REDEMPTIVE WORK

For greater depth and understanding related to Yeshua’s work on the cross, can refer to the notes & sermon: *Passover – 7 Statements from the Cross* found at www.lighthousecolorado.org given on April 11, 2014

A. Why Look at This?

1. God’s Emphasis in This Season (Leviticus 23)
2. Greatest Proof of God’s Love: The cross of Yeshua is the greatest proof of God’s love and goodness extended to us.
3. Produces Greater Love for Yeshua: Meditating on this story will produce greater thankfulness and love in our hearts for God.
4. Gives Perspective in Our Suffering: Our suffering gains greater perspective if we realize anew that we serve a God Who suffered the world’s greatest suffering to procure our redemption and to provide for a connection with Him.

B. Setting the Narrative

1. A Hidden Rescue Plan

6Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1 Corinthians 2:6-8

2. Crucifixion Was Prophesied of Before (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; John 3:14-15)

25Then Yeshua said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” 27Then Yeshua took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:25-27

3. Yeshua Gave His Life (It wasn’t taken from Him) John 10:18

No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.” John 10:18

4. Yeshua Didn't Want to Do This: Yeshua didn't want to do go to the cross and asked the Father to take this cup from Him (Luke 22:42). The primary reason for His reticence was not due to the physical pain of the crucifixion but in experiencing the only break in relationship with His Father because of our sin being placed upon Him.

5. Yeshua's Motivation: For the joy before Him He endured the cross

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2We do this by keeping our eyes on Yeshua, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Hebrews 12:1-2

C. Declaring His Death Until He Comes

23For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Yeshua in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. Why Death?

a. Yeshua's Death Purchased our Salvation: Without His death, our atonement could not have been procured.

b. Following His example and using the strength He provides, we are to “take up our cross” and supernaturally live out God's upside-down kingdom

23Then [Yeshua] said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. 24If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Luke 9:23-24

D. Conclusions

1. No Other Way of Salvation (Acts 4:12)

2. Meditate on Yeshua's Death: Especially in this season, there is great relevance and benefit at looking afresh at this story. Talk to Yeshua as you read about this story. Ask Him questions, declare your love for Him, ask Him for a greater revelation of the love He has for You, and ask Him for a greater love to grow in your heart for Him.

V. UNLEAVENED BREAD

A. What Did the Hebrews Leave Behind in Egypt?

“Exo 12:34 And the people *took* [possibly can be translated as cast or burned] their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their garments on their shoulders. They took (possibly cast out or burned) their dough, which was in the process of leavening, but remember that dough from this ancient type of leaven took **a long time** to rise, not like today when bread made from "instant yeast" can rise in a much shorter time. Notice it says they had their kneading troughs packed up to go. They were ready for the journey of the Exodus, they had their troughs packed, their sandals on their feet, their hips girded, and they ate in haste. Where did they keep their sourdough starter? In their kneading troughs. They had their troughs packed up there was no other place to store the sticky gooey leaven, they had to leave it behind! It would be a while before they could start a new batch of leaven. But I ask you...what else were they to leave behind in Egypt? Was it just their literal leaven, or was it also **ideas** that had been passed down to them while in Egypt, that had been nourished and fed for hundreds of years, ideas that had strayed from the truth that Abraham knew, and had developed into new different and foreign ideas?”

<http://cyclesofyah.com/2013/11/06/understanding-leaven/>

B. Get the Leaven Out...When?

14'Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to YHWH; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance. 15Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread,

but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16On the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and another holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you. 17You shall also observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance. 18In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 19Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land. Exodus 12:14-19

Get the leaven out on Nisan 15 *after* the Passover meal

C. An Accurate Picture of Sanctification: We, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, begin the process of sanctification only *after* we are justified. We don't "get cleaned up to take a bath." I believe this is the main part of the reason that the leaven is removed from the homes *after* the seder on the first day of Unleavened Bread.

D. Leaven Represents Sin But Also Represents Teaching

E. 7th day Solemn Assembly Convocation

VI. FIRSTFRUITS

For greater depth and understanding related to Firstfruits and Yeshua's resurrection, can refer to the notes & sermon: *Firstfruits– Yeshua's Resurrection* found at www.lighthousecolorado.org given on April 19, 2014

A. The Timing of Firstfruits

5In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is YHWH's Passover. 6Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. 7On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. 8But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to YHWH. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work." 9Then YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, 10"Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. 11He shall wave the sheaf before YHWH for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.... 15'You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. 16You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to YHWH. Leviticus 23:5-11, 15-16

B. Yeshua Our Firstfruits: Yeshua (as well as the resurrected saints listed in Matthew 27:51-53) was waived before the Father in the heavenly temple on the Firstfruits 2000 years ago.

17and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished. 19If we have hoped in Messiah in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 20But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:17-21

51And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. 52The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:51-53

17Yeshua said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" 18Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her. John 20:17-18

