

God has a mark for our hand and forehead associated with observing the passover



9And it [passover observance] 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 the Lord brought you out of Egypt. 10Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year. Exodus 13:9-10

Receiving God's Mark

I remember as a young man being somewhat morbidly fascinated by the concept of the “mark of the beast.” This is the mark to be taken on the hand or forehead of those in concert with the AntiChrist and is described in a few places in the book of Revelation (13:16-17; 14:9-11; 16:2; 19:20).

As I began to celebrate the biblical festivals, I came to the surprising realization that YHWH Himself stated that He had a mark/sign that He also puts on the hand and forehead of those in covenant with Him. In the Scriptures the clear understanding of this mark was that it was within the context of the observance

of Passover (Exodus 13:8-10).

In observing Passover each year and looking at this God-mark associated with it, I discovered some very meaningful things.

The blood of the lamb on the Hebrew doorposts was also a mark/sign to God (this sign was a related Hebrew word to that used in Exodus 13:8-10). Initially I thought this blood placed on the doorposts was just a savvy “why not” thing to do as a way for the Hebrews (and perhaps scared first-born male Egyptians) to hedge their bets “just-in-case.” In looking a little deeper, I discovered that this “blood sign” was actually a threshold covenant. It was an act of sedition against the Pharaoh that indicated to Him and everyone else of the “signer’s” conviction that there was a new King coming and that these blood-signed households were now in allegiance to this new King. So with this blood on the doorposts, the Hebrews (and the Bible indicates there were a number of Egyptians who did so as well) were declaring that their coming King was more powerful than the present one.

I also initially believed that God passed by (skipped over) the houses with the blood upon the doorposts. The covenantal word *pesach* used indicates “stepping across a threshold where blood has been poured out—and having fellowship with the inhabitants.” So YHWH didn’t “skip over” the blood-signed houses but actually crossed the entrance threshold and provided fellowship (and protection) for those households.

These concepts provide a foundation to understand more of the spiritual realities of what Jesus’ sacrifice means for Believers today. As I eat of the Passover meal, I will certainly be mindful of God’s signs and wonders in Egypt but will focus the fullness of my attention on the Greater Passover that occurred approximately fifteen hundred years later—when the holy Lamb of God shed His blood for me on that day.

Just as the Hebrews in Egypt had to apply the blood of the lamb to make the lamb’s blood efficacious for them, so too, it is true of Jesus’ blood shed for us. Specifically as we take “communion” during the seder by partaking of the third

cup of wine (the cup of redemption) and eating the afikomen (the special matzah that was hidden and discovered), I am reminded of Yeshua's body and blood and by faith once again apply His blood on the doorposts of my heart. Having already done so (and in doing so again) in a sense I "re-up with God" each time I do this and proclaim anew His death until He comes (1 Cor 11:26).

Furthermore, as I have applied His blood by faith and find forgiveness for my sins, Jesus doesn't merely skip over me, but crosses the threshold of my heart and the Holy Spirit now dwells within me (Romans 8:9-14; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 1:13-14, etc.), allowing me to grow in righteousness as I partner with Him, and saving me from the fear of death and the wrath of the judgment to come. What an awesome God!

So on Wednesday evening this week as we partake of this covenant meal with our brothers and sisters in Messiah, may we focus on Jesus as THE reason we gather together and receive YHWH's mark anew. As we do so we'll also be renewing our wedding vows with God....but that story will have to wait until we gather around the tables to partake of the covenant together.