

Passover starts this coming Monday evening



*On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is YHWH's
Passover. Leviticus 23:5*

Thoughts Heading in to Passover

We are heading into the biblical spring festivals. I've been celebrating these holy days for over thirty years now and sometimes take for granted some of the things that I've discovered over these years. As we head into Passover (starting this Monday evening), I thought I'd write down some of my thoughts during this season. For many of you, these thoughts will be things that you are already aware of, but for others there might be something new and helpful.

To start out, I believe these festival days are for all Believers. YHWH states that these festivals are His days (Leviticus 23:2)—notice He didn't say these days are Jewish days—even if they were initially given to the Hebrews through Moses to celebrate and steward. Part of my initial desire to celebrate these days was that I felt there was benefit to aligning myself to my God's calendar and the themes associated with these days.

One of the other reasons that I wanted to celebrate these days was in discovering that Yeshua fulfilled the spring festivals exactly through His life and mission.

- He was the Passover Lamb sacrificed directly on Passover.
- He was resurrected on the biblical festival of Firstfruits.
- The Holy Spirit was poured out exactly on Shavuot (also known as the Day of Pentecost).
- I also believe that there is good evidence that Jesus' second-coming will be fulfilled in the fall festivals. In fact, Colossians 2:16-17 states that these festival days are shadows of things that are yet to come.
- Most scholars also believe that Yeshua was not born in the winter but most likely in the fall during the festival of Sukkot.

So, if there is any interest this year in participating in the Passover (it starts this Monday evening), why not just dive in. Also, I'd be glad to help provide resources for anyone who would want help in getting started. I would encourage you if starting this year to do your best to hit the heart of the matter but don't take yourself too seriously. And, if you make some "mistakes" as you start out, it is doubtful that you can make a bigger mistake that I did when I led

my first Passover meal over twenty five years ago.

I remember trying my best to be organized and to help provide a worshipful atmosphere for our group as we focused on Yeshua as the Lamb of God Who took away our sins as Believers in Him. I wanted to appear wisely competent to lead our group in such a holy time. In the course of divvying out the food assignments for the evening, I made the huge mistake of asking a godly older woman to bring the dinner rolls—as most of you know, dinner rolls and any other leavened item are decidedly unwelcome at a Passover meal where the attendees are to eat only matzah for their bread item. And what made my mistake all the more embarrassing, I did not catch this gaffe until the Passover meal had already started. How I inauspiciously removed the rolls from the table is another story for another time. All this to say, as you start out, you will undoubtedly make more mistakes than if you never started out—but go easy on yourself and use my example if you'd like to laugh and give yourself confidence that "at least you wouldn't do that."

Tomorrow I'll share more about Passover and the importance of community in the context of observing it. Here's to a great festival season for all of us!