



## Preparing for Passover

### I. He is a Covenant-Keeping God

**God is a God that makes and Keeps Covenant:** Noah, Abrahamic, Moses, David, and Yeshua!

**Appointments:** God Himself calls for His people to keep His appointments. Sabbaths, New Moons, Passover/Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Shavuot, Yom Turuah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot/Eighth Day

Do you trust God to tell you when He has a day or even a week as an appointment He wants you to keep with Him? And if so do you prepare to meet with Him? Do you think/act He won't show up? He is not the god of lies. He is The God of Truth!

**Passover Scripture:** Read Ex. 12:1-51 When God first told Moses what was going to happen on the 14th night he told them to prepare 4 days in advance. By picking out a year old spotless male lamb to watch over it until the 14th day then at twilight they as a whole community of Israel they would slaughter the lamb. Take the blood and put it on the 2 doorposts and on the crossbeam of the houses wherein they will it. And they eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire and unleavened bread; with bitter herbs they will eat. He goes on to give further instructions. In verse 14 God says: "This is a memorial for you. You are to keep it as a feast to YHVH. Throughout your generations you are to keep it as an eternal ordinance. Then He goes on to give more instructions. Then Moses instructs the Israelites on what they are to do and then Moses says in verse 24 'Also you are to observe this event as an eternal ordinance, for you and your children.' In verse 25 God says When you come into the land which YHVH will give you as He has promised, you are to keep this ceremony. 26 Now when it happens that your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 You are to say, 'It is the sacrifice of YHVH's Passover, because He passed over the houses of Israel in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians, but spared, our households.'" So the people bowed their heads and worshipped. In verse 42 It was a night of watching for YHVH to bring them out of the land Egypt. This same night is a night of vigil for YHVH for all Israel throughout their generations. In Exodus 12:48 God says males must be circumcised. Yet lets READ 12:43 -49. Let us also READ at Deut.10:16 Circumcise the foreskin of your heart. READ Col.2:11 a circumcision not made by hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Messiah. Acts 15:1-20; 24-29 God sets the standards. Then He lets us choose.

**The signs/elements**-Blood of the slaughtered lamb on the doorposts, roasted lamb, unleavened bread- remove yeast from your homes on the first day, bitter herbs, on the first day and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day have a holy convocation, no matter of work is to be done on those days.

**Yeshua/Jesus is the Lamb.** John the Immerser, The one sent to **PREPARE** the way for Yeshua said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." This is the One and the same Lamb who we see in the Throne room of Heaven when we hear one of the 24 elders say to John, "Stop crying! Look the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, has won the victory. He is worthy to break the seals and open the Scroll." John said, Then I

saw a Lamb that looked as if had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the 24 elders.

**Yeshua is the unleavened bread-** The bread of life! The next sign is unleavened bread. Ex.13:7. Leaven (yeast) represents sin. Anything we put before Jesus in our lives is sin. The remarkable truth is He knows the only way we can overcome sin is through him so He reminds us, in a tangible way, that every time we feast on Unleavened bread, He is empowering us with the truth that the one who is set free is free indeed with the key being Yeshua. The Bread of Life is our daily bread. He is without sin, pierced for our transgressions; by His stripes we are healed!

**The bitter herbs represent sin, slavery.** The why and what we are delivered from. Ex. 12:8; Num.9:11

## II. Preparing for Passover

**This is an appointed time from God** to Israel first and yet with others to join in if they want and they understand and meet the requirements. Amos 3:3 Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction.

**When we celebrate Passover we remember the past-** The actual Israelites who placed the blood of the lamb on their doors so God would Passover into their homes and not let the plague of death come in so their first born children would be spared and they would be delivered out of Egypt. We also remember the present. He said it is an eternal ordinance and He is just as much the God of today as He is in the past and the future. We come on the day He says to, to celebrate our sanctification for we are set apart, we remember we sacrificed the lamb and placed His blood on the doorpost of our hearts and minds which brought our deliverance from the slavery of sin and false gods which brings us to celebrate our redemption. And we look forward with hope to the future when our King Yeshua is coming back!

**He wants this feast to be remembered and kept** by adults and our children as an eternal ordinance. This is a big deal to God. He says here is the date you are to observe. The 14<sup>th</sup> of Nissan. The first thing we remember is that there is a male lamb without blemish that the ancient Israelites slaughtered all at the same time at twilight yet were then instructed to eat it in our homes and if there were a small number in your home not big enough for a lamb then you would join a neighbor. WE see the whole community coming together at the same time, twilight. Then households gathering in the home, and then individuals, each person marked on their hand and forehead by the Mighty Hand of God. What an amazing God we have who loves us and wants a relationship with a people that honors the cost of having a relationship with us. There is a cost to every relationship we have. This one costed our God a great deal and we get the privilege of celebrating the first anniversary of this joining every year.

**The bitter herbs represent slavery** – to sin, to lies, of being ruled by the ungodly. Recognizing what we are delivered from. Ex. 12:8; Num.9:11

All 4 Gospels talk about Yeshua preparing for the Passover meal with His disciples READ Mat. 26 Yeshua says in 2 days the Passover begins and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified, at the same time leading priests & elders are meeting with the high priest Caiaphas, plotting how to capture Yeshua secretly to

kill him. But not during the Passover, or the people will riot. Yeshua and disciples are in Bethany at Simon's home eating. A woman comes in and anoints Yeshua with expensive perfume pouring it over his head. Yeshua rebukes the disciples for criticizing her saying she has PREPARED his body for burial. It is after this incident Judas Iscariot goes to the leading priest and asks 'How much will you pay me to betray Yeshua? And they gave him 30 pieces of silver. Judas begins to look for an opportunity to betray him. We can see here that Judas Iscariot is choosing to lean on his own understanding because Yeshua is not meeting his expectations.

Mathew writes it is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Unleavened Bread, when the disciples ask Yeshua "Where do you want us to prepare for the Passover meal with you?" At the meal Yeshua points to a future Passover saying "Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom. In the Gospel of Mark he writes that Yeshua leaves out the 'with you' and says in the Kingdom of God.

Mark writes the same account as Mathew sometimes with not as much details and other times with a little more. For instance in verse 12 He also says it is the first day of the festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. And that he sent two disciples to go prepare for the Passover meal and what to look for so they know who to ask about where they would have it. Later, as they sat and ate He says "I tell you the truth; one of you eating with me here will betray me." All our distressed asking, "Am I the one?" He replied, "It is one of you twelve who is eating from the same bowl with me. For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!" Mark never mentions Yeshua saying it is Judas or when Judas leaves. It does say that Judas arrived with the crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. And that there was a prearranged signal that Judas had given them.

Luke mentions Yeshua going to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover when he was 12 as usual. It is after the festival when they start to travel home that Yeshua stays in Jerusalem and His parents think he is with the others traveling with them.

The next time we see the Passover in Luke is in chapter 22 Luke is all about details He also starts. He says Satan entered into Judas and went to the leading priests and the captain of the Temple guard. Luke also confirms it was now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. Luke mentions who the 2 disciples Peter and John are that Yeshua sends to prepare the Passover meal.

Luke writes, Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After upper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

But at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.”

The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. READ verses 25-30

John tells us in chapter 2 verse 13 that it was nearly time for the Passover celebration, so Yeshua went to Jerusalem. READ 2:14 -22

Then in John 11 we are told it was after Yeshua raised Lazarus from the dead the leading priests and Pharisees called the Sanhedrin together to discuss what they were going to do. Caiaphas the high priest that year was lead to prophesy when he said “You don’t realize that it is better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.” This prophesy says Yeshua would die for the entire nation. And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world. So from that time on , the Jewish leaders began to plot Yeshua’s death. Yeshua stopped his public ministry and left Jerusalem and went into the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.

John tells us it was now the almost time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem early so they could go through the ceremony before Passover began.

Six days before Passover celebration began; Yeshua arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus, the one he raised from the dead. At the meal where Yeshua was the honored guest we are told Mary took a jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard and she anointed Yeshua’s feet with her hair. Judas says “that perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” Not that he care for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciple’s money, he often stole some for himself. Yeshua replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in **preparation** for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

We see in chapter 12 verse 20 Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. This is another great read to meditate on when you are keeping vigil with the Lamb on this Passover. Some incredible words are spoken by Yeshua as well as the responses of the people to him. Chapter 13 tells us Before the Passover celebration, Yeshua knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper and the devil had already prompted Judas to betray Yeshua. John is the only Gospel that includes that Yeshua washes his disciples’ feet. Knowing and telling them He knows they don’t understand now what He is doing, but someday you will. He tells them He is giving them an example to follow and now that they know these things, God will bless you for doing them. Yeshua quotes Ps.41:9 The one who eats my food has turned against me. I tell you beforehand, so that when it happens your will believe I Am the Messiah. Yeshua being deeply troubled says “I tell you the truth; one of you will betray me!” “ It is the one whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.” And when He had dipped it, he gave it to Judas Iscariot. When Judas had eaten the bread Satan entered into him. Jesus told him “Hurry and do what you are going to do.” None of

the others at the table knew what Yeshua meant. John gives us great details of the words Yeshua spoke during the meal and on the way to the Mount of Olives.

### III. 7 things God hates

- 1) Haughty Eyes Judas is indignant to the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. Pride/ Woman shows Humbleness, Humility
- 2) A lying tongue-Serpent speech/ Judas says it's because it could help the poor yet John says it was because he was a thief and would often take money for himself. Jesus speaks truth
- 3) Hands that kill the innocent-Judas sells Yeshua for 13 pieces of silver.
- 4) A heart that plots evil-Judas went and asked how much they would give him if he turned Yeshua over to them.
- 5) Feet that race to do wrong- From then on Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Yeshua/ Yeshua says Hurry and go do what you are going to do.
- 6) A false witness who pours out lies- Judas shows up with a crowd who are carrying clubs and swords and the prearranged signal was for him to kiss the one they were to arrest. Here is a clear example our actions speak louder than words.
- 7) A person who sows discord in the family- Judas' betrayal not only affected Yeshua but all the disciples. So did his thievery.

Before we have haughty eyes, let's make sure we do self-examination. This is the key element of purging the leaven out of us. Where we find it let's be quick to repent and confess and stop doing wrong and start learning to do right.

### IV. Closing Assessment

Every day we get to choose what we will do with our time. We all get the same 24 hours a day 365 days a year and we all will reap what we sow with our time. Then we get to see what we will do with our money. We all have different incomes and yet we are still called to be givers to God and to each other. God sees our hearts and our motives for giving and we will reap what we sow. speaking about motives what about our thoughts? Do they line up with His word or are we caught up in our own opinions or thinking what the world says is correct. The world says a lot about what we can do with our bodies, and so does God's word. Where are we lining up? As an example God starts with hating haughty eyes. We are bombarded with images and signs wherever we are. Are we making a covenant with our eyes or are we loopy- goosy believing the lie it doesn't matter what I let my eyes look at? This leads us to what we focus on. Is the meditation of our minds on things that are excellent and praiseworthy, or on selfish conceit? Either way we will reap what we sow.

Listening and following God's instructions. Our Heavenly Father's instructions are to bind His teaching on our hearts and hands, as a crown and around our throats.

Not unlike the ancient Israelites, many today are crying out to the LORD for deliverance from the oppression of evil rulers, literal slavery and trafficking, and laws against God being imposed upon us. And I think about the sign that God puts on those who believe in Yeshua/Jesus, our true Savior and Deliverer, and put their trust in Him. In Revelation 9:4, it refers to the last days plagues and torment that mirror the plagues of the

book of Exodus. It says, "They [the locusts tormenting those on the earth] were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those who did NOT have the seal of God on their foreheads."

He says to the people, "On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand, and a reminder on your forehead that the Torah of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with His Mighty Hand. You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year." (Exodus 13:8-10).

I believe we can take these things literally and gain important understanding. In Deuteronomy 6:8 the LORD commands the Israelites to keep His commandments and to teach them to their children. He also says, "Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads." These are the specific places on our bodies that the God of the Universe has chosen to mark His own. So, it cannot be a coincidence that this is how the enemy will choose to mark his people in the end-time. Revelation 14:16 says, "He [the false prophet] causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads." It is the mark that will be willingly taken by all who CHOOSE to worship Satan's counterfeit saviors. It is those who choose to save their lives but lose it. Those who sell their birth right for a bowl of beans. Those who would betray Yeshua, their true Savior, for 30 pieces of silver.

As the birth pains increase, food supplies get more scarce, jobs are wiped out, and disease touches our loved ones and/or ourselves, it is imperative that we pray to God that we keep Yeshua as our first love, that we hate and do not give into or practice false teachings, and strengthen our resolve to serve Him and no other! Keep the Passover - it is a sign between you and your Heavenly Father! With a Mighty hand He delivered us. On our hand and our foreheads He marks us as His.

Read again the ancient account of the Exodus - and tell it to your sons and your daughters - to be reminded of the Mighty Power of our God, who saves and who provides for us. Also read the book of Revelation, let people know of the God who is, who was and who is still to come!

We come in obedience and love to the Holy One, I hope this truth fills you with such joy knowing He looks at us and He sees His mark is on us! And then that joy bears fruit as you prepare for the covenantal meal, the all-night vigil, and the 7 days of unleavened bread. My friend, in the end, there is going to be a wedding. It's the reason I am living. To marry the Lamb!