



## Preparing for Passover

### I. 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 (the more prestigious the guest, the 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, a family would put blood on the doorposts of their dwelling.
  - i. This practice would be used if a king was trying to extend his territory.
  - ii. The king would send messengers through the land; the messengers 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 (עבר): 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. The devil has a counterfeit mark (Rev. 13:16, 14:9; 20:4)
  - b. A mark is a mark: whether we are overwhelmingly impacted and inspired or not as we observe that Passover from year to year, God's mark is still efficacious.
- ##### 3. Second Passover: If the 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 YHWH. 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. 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

### **D. Overview of the Original Story**

1. *God's Five Promises* (Exodus 6:6-9) traditionally, the first four promises correspond to the four cups traditionally drunk at the Passover meal. But actually there are five promises here, and we would be remiss if we didn't give attention to all five promises  
*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. 8I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am YHWH.' "*  
*9So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage. Exodus 6:6-9*
  - 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?
  - e. *I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession*
    - i. personally what *land* has God promised you?
    - ii. personally what are you presently doing in light of these promises?
2. *Themes:* freedom, deliverance, atonement, covenant, the land

### **E. Preparation/Regulations:**

1. *No Foreigner to Eat of It* (Exodus 12:43, 48)
  - a. Only those in covenant with YHWH
  - b. Messianic Believers are grafted in and thus are welcome to partake of a Messianic Passover meal (Colossians 2:11-13)
    - i. Reinforced from the Tanakh (Jeremiah 4:3-4)
    - ii. Israel to become jealous through Gentile observance (Romans 11:13-14)
    - iii. The Passover festival points to Yeshua (John 1:29)
    - iv. Yeshua is knocking at our door; He wants fellowship with us (Revelation 3:20)
2. *Everyone is to Partake within a Messianic Community*
  - a. A lamb for every house; enough for everyone
  - b. Individual salvation is found within the context of family/community
3. It is a permanent ordinance (Exodus 12:14)
4. It starts the seven day festival of Unleavened Bread

## F. Overview of the Gospel Story

1. Yeshua is the Passover Lamb of God (John 1:29)
2. Yeshua's Last Supper: this meal was a Passover meal with His disciples (Luke 22:15-16)
3. Communion: The communion ordinance was *pulled out* of the Passover meal. The third cup in the traditional Passover meal represents the cup of redemption. This is the cup of communion. The afikomen is the hidden matzah that has been found during the Passover meal. This is the bread of communion. The "communion" covenant partaking is the culmination of the Passover meal.

## G. Personal Preparation

1. Prepare Your Heart: for the renewal of the vows for your Bridegroom
2. Suffering Leads to Breakthrough: just as the children of Israel suffered prior to their breakthrough, so too we will suffer before breakthroughs on a micro-level and certainly on the macro-level before our ultimate breakthrough of being with Yeshua forever.
3. The Rewards of God: God promises to reward those who are in covenant with Him and diligently seek Him.
4. Don't Give Up: We are to hold fast and not to give up

## H. Keeping Vigil: Part of the biblical requirement for Passover is to stay up and keep a vigil with YHWH during the night of Passover.

*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 12:42*

## I. How Do I Become Redeemed?

1. Apply God's Truths: 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.*

## J. 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 activity communes with us and brings greater light to the things in our life that are not like Him.
2. We Focus on Him: 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
3. 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

4. We Talk to Him: We need God to be with us and help us in this process; we consistently commune with the Holy Spirit, talk to Him, and ask Him for help.
5. We Read His Word: We pray-read His Word and apply His teachings to our lives.

## II. WHO YESHUA IS

**A. Lesser Messianic Truths Related to the Spring Festivals:** Although I have specific beliefs related to all the items below, the following Messianic Spring Festival “discussions” can be used by the enemy to bring dissension and contention and ultimately steal and obscure our focus on beholding the Lamb:

1. Is it a literal three days and three nights that Yeshua spent in the tomb?
2. Was it a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday crucifixion?
3. How do you reckon the counting of the omer—is it after the weekly Sabbath or the festival Sabbath? And so when is the festival of Firstfruits...on Sunday every year or does it vary?
4. Should we meet corporately to celebrate Yeshua’s resurrection? If it’s not a holy convocation, how should we (or even should we) publicly commemorate this?
5. Was Yeshua’s Last Supper with His disciples a Passover meal or something else?
6. Should we keep the Passover meal biblically “simple” or do we include traditional Jewish elements? Do we include the egg on the seder plate and if so, where did that come from?
7. Should we be diligent to biblically enact the Israelite’s first Passover meal in Egypt? If so, what type of staff should I hold in my hand? Should we eat reclining as Yeshua and His disciples did?
8. Should we serve lamb at the Passover meal? If so, how would one “biblically” cook it?
9. Should we get rid of the excess lamb after the Passover meal? If so, how do you dispose of it? Should it be burned in the fire?
10. Should we have the Passover meal in the homes or in a larger venue?
11. What about keeping a vigil on the night of Passover? If so, how would one do that?
12. Was Yeshua crucified on a cross or a tree?
13. Should you incorporate the Name of God within the Passover meal? If so, how do you “correctly” pronounce His Name? What if you mispronounce it or say it “wrong.”
14. What about the Gentiles? Should they (and can they) be included in the Passover meal? If a male, do they have to be circumcised as the Scriptures seem to indicate? If important, how would one appropriately and discretely “check” the males before the Passover meal to make sure no one is in violation?
15. Do we remove the leaven *before* the Passover meal or *after* it?
16. Should we drink wine or grape juice and do we need to drink every one of the four cups completely each time?
17. Do we partake of “communion” only once a year at Passover or is it ok to partake of this at other times throughout the year?
18. Was Yeshua born at Passover or during one of the fall festivals?

**B. 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. Worship: We naturally worship when we “see” Him.
2. Transformation: 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*

- a. We would be overwhelmed and undone by a focused view of Him. We would all like a more clearly focused vision of Him, but thankfully we don’t need this in order to be transformed

**C. Yeshua:** Yeshua implicitly claimed deity in at least twelve ways.

He claimed three divine rights:

1. The Judge: to judge mankind,
2. The Forgiver: to forgive sins, and
3. The Giver of Eternal Life: 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.

### III. WHAT HE DID: YESHUA'S REDEMPTIVE WORK

#### 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 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) Yeshua is the only means of forgiveness and salvation
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.

