

# Jewish Passover and the Risen Messiah?



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There is a renewed oneness with our Creator and all of His children in the world at this season. Experiencing Passover as a believer in Yeshua/Jesus deepened when I learned the significance between the Exodus account and that of the New Testament.

Understanding the bible from a Hebrew perspective has brought new significance to things often overlooked.

Moses was a descendant of Abraham and part of the tribe of Levi. We are told in Exodus 2:23-25 that the Hebrews cried out to Yahweh that they might be delivered from Egypt, *“During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.”* It was not known at that time how this deliverance would take place, but their despair was so deep that Abba, as a wonderful Father was moved by their tears; He knew their heart was sincere.

At that same time a shepherd named Moses was tending his father-in-law's flocks. Yahweh, represented as a burning bush, called out to him, and Moses answered in Exodus 3:4-6, *““Here I am.” Then He (Yahweh) said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”*

Can you imagine how awestruck

Moses must have been to be in the presence of God; so much so, he hid his face? This is the passage in which God presents Himself as a different name Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey. These are the Hebrew letters pronounced and each one has a significant meaning. If you study Hebrew language you will find their 22 letter alphabet combines together in words to express an underlying meaning as illustrated above.



Research has found that one can easily draw a parallel to Yeshua/Jesus from this meaning the Father gave us. This name is used in instances when He wants to show his closeness/relationship to His people. Maybe you always thought of God the Father that way, but I had not. This is what Moses was experiencing for the first time. God so Holy that Moses must remove his sandals.

In Exodus 4:10-12 God continues, *“Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when*

*you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”* Not only was God bringing Moses and His people out of captivity, but He was telling Moses that he would again return to the mountain to serve Him.

Some people may wonder about the following passage,

*Exodus 4:21-23 “And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”*

Why would Yahweh harden Pharaoh's heart? This question becomes

easy to answer when you consider the plagues which would befall Pharaoh and all of Egypt; each represent a pagan god, or the power that these gods were thought to control. These being represented in the ten plagues: *water into blood, frogs, gnats or lice, flies, diseased livestock, boils on man and beast, thunder and hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the first born.* To truly release the Israelites of the pagan lifestyle they had endured, Yahweh wanted to prove to them His hand was much more mighty than Pharaoh or his gods.

## Why would Yahweh kill the firstborn sons?

In Exodus 1:8-14 we read, *“Now there arose a new king over Egypt,*

**who did not know Joseph.** And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.” This passage proves the incoming Pharaoh had a vendetta against the Hebrews and intentionally made them to suffer. Pharaoh went so far as to attempt to kill the babies, “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live. v16”

This Pharaoh (unlike the one previous who did know Joseph) was very much afraid of the population growth seen among the Hebrews. These Hebrews too, were less than agreeable to serving or worshipping the idols of Egypt. Not unlike Daniel, they would refuse to hail Pharaoh as a god. Maybe because of their conviction and allegiance to Him, Yahweh allowed them to prosper and multiply. This must have been perceived by Pharaoh as a threat and therefore he plotted to enslave them and eventually depopulate them out of existence. Therefore, just as we read in the previous Newsletter #1 with the Book of Esther, those who plot against Yahweh’s people will eventually face the same fate they want to deliver to God’s righteous.

He told Moses that his role in delivering the Hebrews would force him to speak to Pharaoh **with authority**, the authority **only** God can give. Not surprisingly, Moses was struck with fear at the thought. But Yahweh being a kind and loving Father, listened to Moses and rose up a helper in his brother Aaron. God said to Moses, ““See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.” (Exodus 7:1-2) Despite Moses’ inner struggle at actually confronting Pharaoh with Yahweh at his lead— how could he resist? Therefore Moses and his older brother Aaron embarked upon this journey, with no surety of outcome except that their faith in the God of their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, commanded that it be so. These brothers were elderly by all accounts, the bible states in verse 7, “Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.”

It’s probably important here to note that Moses was the **YOUNGER** brother to Aaron. We might naturally believe it the reverse, but the bible clearly indicates that to be untrue. Aaron was rewarded the priesthood subsequently, because of his obedience to Yahweh, but it is Moses who was instructed about the law through his direct communication with God—Torah.

After the first nine plagues one might think Pharaoh would finally relent and let the Hebrews go. Yahweh commanded that the Hebrews be allowed to go **WORSHIP** Him. But that was probably the hardest thing Pharaoh, *who believed himself to be a god*, could do. All the non-Hebrews in the land also believed him to be their god. Pharaoh is a title, much like king, but in a divine sense, he believed he was the portal (if you will) to the divine realms. Yahweh said to Moses, “Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from

here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.” And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.” (Exodus 11:1-3)

By killing the firstborn sons he proved who were His followers, He required the destruction aimed at His people to Pharaoh, and He proved to all of Egypt His might and power was unequalled. Therefore when the death angel would be sent among the dwellers, in Hebrew it is translated to mean *it will go lame* (ΠΟΞ, Strong’s Hebrew #6452) when it sees the blood on the doorpost. As it continues on, there will eventually be no first born survivors in the land, including Pharaoh’s own son. It is often not thought of, but the Hebrews did not depart by themselves, *but all who understood the might of Yahweh and wanted to serve Him followed Moses out of Egypt.*

Exodus 11:4-8 reads, “So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. But





not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out."

With that, all Yahweh's people left Egypt. The encapsulation of this event can be read in Exodus 12:14-20 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. And you shall 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 statute forever. In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

We often explain Passover as a traditional Seder meal in which the Exodus is read in memorial and a specific meal is eaten. Traditionally the Jewish seder plate will consist of a lamb bone (symbolizing the Passover lamb), greens such as parsley (represent spring), salt water (reminiscent of tears), maror

which is horseradish (symbolizing the harshness of Egypt), Charoset/Sweet Mixture of Apples/Honey etc. (symbolizing the sweetness in which they were rescued out of Egypt and the end of harsh slavery) and at times a roasted egg which signifies a hope for the new temple returning to Jerusalem. Additionally matzah is used to express the quick dispatch from Egypt but more importantly the absence of sin for those who fled. For Believers in Yeshua the matzah is also a foreshadow of Yeshua as the Bread of Life, who was striped through his beatings. The last key symbol is wine which is used at various intervals during the Seder supper in which prayers are recited and blessings given. The entire event culminates in what is called the Hallel cup, which is a drink of rejoicing and blessings at the hope of the return of the prophet Elijah.

This discussion could be much more in depth, but it is just a slight overview to understand the connections which have overwhelming significance during this moedim (appointed time).



## **Holy Week in the New Testament**

Flash forward to today and we can decipher the connection between us memorializing Yeshua's/Jesus's death on the cross, with the traditional Passover and Seder meal.

We start the Holy Week with the remembrance that Yeshua/Jesus was brought back to Jerusalem before His death. We know that He rode on a specifically prepared donkey without blemish. At the time, Jews were lined up on the street waving palm branches and proclaiming "Hosanna" as they

would await their Messiah coming as a King.

This was actually foretold in Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. This happened sometime between Saturday sundown of that week and Sunday sundown. How do we know? Because it would not have been allowed to work your donkey on the Sabbath, but the Sabbath in Israel ends at sundown. So it would have occurred on a Sunday, during daylight hours. This matches how Believers in Yeshua/Jesus celebrate Palm Sunday. Jews celebrate it on the 10th of Aviv.

Imagine the amazement of the people when Yeshua/Jesus rode in on His unblemished donkey—precisely at the time they were expecting their King to someday appear? For me this is an amazing affirmation to the connection between the Passover of the Old Testament, and The New Testament.

By tradition, remember the Jews celebrated Passover at this time to commemorate their safe departure from Egypt. But they have to maintain the Feast Day as Abba had commanded to Moses. Remember we referenced Exodus 12:14-20 previously.

## **Becoming Redeemed**

When Yeshua/Jesus rides in on the donkey He is unblemished and without sin. On the night of Aviv 13 He is arrested by the Jews as it is a day of preparation for Passover, but not a Sabbath day in which no work could be done. *Have you ever wondered why it was so important to try Yeshua and kill him and bury him so quickly?* It was to kill Him before the Feast of Unleavened Bread so that the Pharisees and Sanhedrin could maintain their traditions. Certainly the participating of killing Yeshua would leave them unclean and unable to observe Passover.

In Matthew 26 Yeshua/Jesus told His disciples that He was the true Passover lamb. The one that they had celebrated all those years previous and knew that the testimony of the Jews was that God had led them out of Egypt to safety in the promised land; Israel. Yeshua



*Song*

spoke to them, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” (vs 2). Thereby we know that this was said two days before the traditional Seder meal.

We know that in the same chapter verse 6-12 Yeshua tells them that Mary, who anointed Him with oil, **was actually preparing Him for His death.** As foretold her faithfulness would be spoken of eternally, “Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.” v 13.

The Word can become truly alive to Believers when we consider Yeshua in His full context. After all in John 1:1-5 it reads, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

This foretelling of the coming Messiah, Yeshua, was spoken of in Psalms 118, “The sound of rejoicing and victory is heard in the tents of the righteous: “Yahweh’s right hand struck powerfully! Yahweh’s right hand is raised in triumph! Yahweh’s right hand struck powerfully!” I will not die; no, I will live

and proclaim the great deeds of Yah! Yah disciplined me severely, but did not hand me over to death...

*The very rock that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone! This has come from Yahweh, and in our eyes it is amazing. This is the day Yahweh has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad. Please, Yahweh Save us! Please, Yahweh! Rescue us! Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh. We bless you from the house of Yahweh. .*

**Yahweh is God, and he gives us light. Join in the pilgrim festival with branches all the way to the horns of the altar...**

For those of us who Believe into Messiah, we easily understand that Psalm 118 is a prophecy of Yeshua who acts as Yahweh’s right hand, the hand of service. In Acts two Peter spells this out for the followers of Yeshua, “God has raised this Jesus to life, to which we are all witnesses. Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!’”

### **Yeshua the Spotless Passover Lamb**

Next we discuss the persecution of Yeshua by the Pharisees, because they thought Him to be a danger to their existence. The plot to rid themselves of Him was achieved by the betrayal of Yeshua by Judas Iscariot. What we call the Last Supper was actually the meal gathering of Yeshua with His Apostles on the evening before the Passover meal.

Fitting the Holy Week events to the celebrated Passover meal, we know this meal would have taken place

the evening before the traditional Passover meal. This was, and is currently, called *The Day of Preparation*. Yeshua spoke to His disciples and said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” letting them know what was about to happen and triggering Judas to complete his betrayal for thirty pieces of silver. This amounted to 15 ounces of silver; in today’s market that is approximately \$270. You would think that betraying Yeshua is worth more, but apparently we can sell out God for very little.

When Yeshua was later arrested and taken into custody that same evening, He was intensely questioned and observed. To the Pharisees dismay, not even Pilate could find a blemish, or fault in Him. He was truly the spotless Passover lamb. Pilate announced in Matthew 27, “So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

With this he relinquished culpability of matter. We further read, “And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” “ (Matthew 27:35-37).



To further the insult to those who pressured to find him guilty, the Roman soldiers hung a sign stating, “And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” (Matthew 27:37). It is very important to understand the anger that this sign created to His persecutors. If you look at the Hebrew



words spelled out you will see it was a clever acronym to reveal Yeshua's true nature as proclaimed inadvertently by the Roman soldiers. Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey, the name of God used at the time of building a relationship with Moses and the Hebrews before He led them out of Egypt. Although this may not have been known to the Romans, it was certainly recognized by those who spoke Hebrew. That sign above His cross of crucifixion declared Him as Yahweh Himself.

Now it was Torah (or the Law for Yahweh's people) that commanded all work to stop before sundown, on the day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Therefore, Yeshua's death necessitated Him to be killed before sundown to be entombed. To accomplish this the soldiers would have resorted to breaking His legs so that He could not lift His diaphragm to draw a breath. However, before this could occur Yeshua shouted, "When he had received the drink, Jesus (Yeshua) said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. " (John 19).

The fact that no bone was broken, fulfills the command found in Numbers "They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it." ~Numbers 9:12 This was given as instruction as to how to prepare the Passover lamb. But today we are aware of the parallel to "Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs." ~John 19:31-33

Compare the fact that no bones were broken during the crucifixion with what the Jews knew about

thier prophesied Messiah.

## **Yeshua/Jesus in Prophecy**

We read in Psalms 34, "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

The prophecy of old foretells of a coming redeemer who suffers on behalf of those who cry out to God for His righteousness to prevail. When I first understood the parallels between the Old Testament and the New Testament it moved me to tears— but the astounding truth is that it never stops moving me to tears!

Many Jewish people today believe into Yeshua the Messiah, but do this in secret, others are still to enter in to that glorifying relationship. For me, as someone raised on the New Testament, I find that knowing Yeshua was there all along to be very fulfilling—but also allows me to reflect on the significance of Yeshua's sacrifice to redeem each and every one who are His.

In dying Yeshua/Jesus taught that He would be resurrected, "And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again." Mark 8:31 The apostles did not understand and expressed disbelief. But Yeshua continued later to enter into what He offered, a resurrection life, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and

forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

We all know that Yeshua resurrected after dying for our sins on what we term, Resurrection Sunday. But do we understand how His resurrection fulfilled Yeshua's being presented as the First Fruit offering to Abba Father? This will be continued in our next edition. I hope you are beginning to understand the true revelation of Passover when we are taken out of this world and become citizens of His glorious kingdom to come! A Kingdom which has no end...

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