

“Do this in remembrance of ME”

Luke 22:19



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Summary: This sermon is far deeper than the blog of the same title. You will be inspired by and appreciate your Savior, your Beloved Son of God and Brother, more than ever if you soak in the message of this sermon. Do we focus on Christ – or spend most of our attention at Passover time on Israel and ancient Egypt? See how EVERYTHING in the Passover pointed to Yeshua and how He fulfilled all of it – and more than you might have realized before.

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Happy Sabbath everyone, or whenever you are hearing this. This is Philip Shields and welcome everyone, to Light on the Rock.

Passover is almost here. I wrote a blog recently with the same title as this sermon, but I felt this is such an important topic it warranted a closer look and more information than a blog can. A sermon can say more. And of course you all know by now that we do not keep the pagan Easter, but the Biblical Passover. **I do absolutely believe in the life, death and resurrection of Yeshua! But the Bible's way of talking about all that is in the gospels, the Passover and the Wavesheaf Day a few days after Passover.**

Wavesheaf Day is about the most momentous event in this planet's history so far: when God resurrected His perfect son and demolished death's hold on humanity. It's about Christ's resurrection and ascension to his father to be accepted in behalf of the rest of the harvest of human souls. (Leviticus 23:9-11). It's about how the rest of the spiritual harvest could begin. It's momentous, it's exciting, and it's very real.

Yeshua said something very, very crucial at His final Passover.

Luke 22:19

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is **My body** which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of ME.**"

My question is this: Do we do Passover – and the entire Passover week, the Days of Unleavens (or Unleavened Bread) – with a focus on Yeshua (Jesus)? Or, if we talk about any background at all, do we end up focusing on Israel coming out of Egypt and such? Which do we do?

And do we focus so much on the physical types – that we end up missing the point of all those physical types?

TODAY – let me go into some of the things that show just HOW involved Yeshua was in fulfilling all the types. My dream is that by doing so, you’ll feel very inspired to really go do Passover in remembrance of Messiah!

Some of you will immediately think of the scriptures that tell us that when our children ask why we’re celebrating Passover, we are to review how God saved his people and brought them out of Egypt. Let’s read it. But keep in mind to keep the POINT of everything – on Messiah Yeshua, on Christ Jesus.

Exodus 12:24-28

And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. 25 It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.

26 And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of YHVH, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'

So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. 28 Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as YHVH had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

And it was to be expressed in very personal terms, like Paul **in Gal 2:20** who says he died with Christ... and ends with “who loved ME and gave himself for ME”. Make it real to you!

Exodus 13:7-8

Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters.

8 And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what YHVH did for me when I came up from Egypt.'

So yes, Israel was told to tell that story at Passover time. But Christ said very clearly in the New Covenant, “Do this in remembrance of ME”. In other words – “make ME your focus”.

FOCUSING ON THINGS JEWISH – or on OUR SAVIOR?

I’m speaking on this because there’s a growing trend to focus on the Old Testament, on the rituals more than ever, or even on things that smack of Judaism – rather than on what we’re shown and told in the New Covenant times by our Master and Savior. I know some who even like to come to services dressed in ancient Hebrew **garb**, for example.

Some people are changing their names to **Jewish names**. John becomes Yohanan. I have no problem calling “James” of the Bible – Yacov – because that was the name he would have been called by his mama. But when you’re named “James” or “John” or “Richard” in your country today – use that name your parents gave you. Or maybe you have a Chinese, Japanese or Kenyan name. Use that name.

In fact, remember **Paul** the Apostle had a Jewish name – Saul – or more precisely, **Shaul**. But over time, he changed to his Gentile name -- Paul! Now ponder that one. So Shaul went the other way: from Jewish name to Gentile name!

And do we not know the heroes of the book of Daniel by their Gentile names, and does the Bible not use their Gentile names? Of course it does. You all know Shedrach, Meshach and Abednego – but would you know them by their real Jewish names?

Daniel 1:6-7

“Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: **he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.**”

And we call a lady hero by her name Esther – her Gentile name – not Hadassah. (Esther 2)

So I’m not going into Judaism and wanting to be all things Jewish. I want to follow my Messiah – who was indeed a Jew – and follow what HE said. He said, when we keep Passover, “Do this in remembrance of ME”. He didn’t say follow the Jewish rituals as carefully as you can. NO – he said, “Do this in remembrance of ME”.

So what is your Passover and days of unleavens like? Is it focused on Yeshua – or on the rituals of a Jewish Seder? And if you do the Seder, I hope you’ll at least take out the boiled egg, something straight out of Babylon and which had nothing do with the Bible. *And if you’re doing the Seder, at the end of the evening, will people feel like they came to know Christ more – or Jewish ritual more?*

In your Passover – or on the following evening – which many call “The Night to be Much Observed” (Exodus 12), is Messiah even mentioned, or is it just a big dinner? Or if there is any discussion from scripture, do you stop with the story about Israel and by doing so, miss the whole point of the evening?

WHO is the One telling us to do the NEW COVENANT Passover in remembrance of HIM?

We so often speak the name Jesus, or even Yeshua – that I think it bears repeating who this Jesus or Yeshua is. I think we tend to forget just WHO He really is. Have we become too familiar with the name “Jesus” or “Yeshua”?

John 1:1-4 says the **WORD** was in the beginning with God **and WAS GOD**. And all things that we see came into being by the WORD. The Word was and is the Creator!

And then it goes on to say that “**the Word became flesh**” – **John 1:14** – and that is referring to Yeshua (or Jesus).

Note: I know when we quote **Acts 4:8-12** that there is no salvation in any other name than Jesus – we must not forget something: Peter was a Jew, speaking to Jews, no doubt in Hebrew or Aramaic when He said that. And the name our Savior was given at birth was not an Anglicized name from the Greek *Iesous* – but Yeshua! That’s what his mama called him: Salvation. In Hebrew: Yeshua.

Now we must get this: when we speak of Yeshua or Jesus – we are speaking of GOD. I know you know that, but I wonder if we are always so conscious of it. He is God

right now and was God even while He was flesh. Some of you have a hard time accepting that for some reason. Let me just say that *it would have been an enormous sin for Yeshua to have let anyone worship him if he wasn’t God*, or even the Son of God! **Only God can be worshipped without it being sin. Only God.**

But angels worshipped Yeshua. Magi did. Shepherds did. The healed blind man of John 9 did. The grateful leper did. So many worshipped him. And He himself claimed to be greater than Solomon or the prophets or Moses. Of course: he was GOD.

And only God can truly forgive sin – or its consequences. And we find Yeshua forgiving a lot of sin. Of course! He was God, even while in the flesh (Luke 7:48 for example).

So Passover is about the day when GOD – not just the man Jesus or Yeshua – but when GOD washed feet. When God was beaten, scourged and crucified. When God died for us. Then 3 days later, when God the Father raised his dead Son – the most momentous victorious event in all of earth history so far. So when Yeshua speaks, it is God himself speaking to us. He even said he and his father were one and in total unity. So we listen carefully. Whenever Yeshua speaks, remember – that is GOD speaking.

THE NEW COVENANT PASSOVER

I know of some who try to keep their Passover with a meal and try to do it in the same manner as the original Passover as we read in Exodus 12.

But Yeshua, God in the flesh, in the New Testament did not keep His last Passover dinner like they did in Exodus 12. In **Exodus 12:11**, they were commanded to eat it in haste - quickly, with sandals on their feet, with staff in hand, ready to leave! In Yeshua’s Passover, they were relaxed, reclining at dinner Middle-eastern style, and took their time with the dinner. John was leaning on Christ’s chest. And Yeshua took the disciples’ sandals OFF so he could wash their feet.

Assuming Yeshua did do the traditional Seder meal, he went on to institute the NEW COVENANT Passover for us. This included the foot washing, and the bread and the wine. The *way* he initiated it was different from the usual Seder, which didn’t include the foot washing at all.

Foot washing is really about Christ too. Sure, he talked about having the mind of a servant and being willing to do the job of a slave, as they had been talking about who was the greatest among them. So you know the story in John 13. *This is the night GOD washed feet.* The night GOD bent his knees and put himself below everyone. Humility galore!

The first fruit barley unleavened bread was also a symbol of his humility. It was the poor man’s bread. Wealthy people ate wheat bread. But barley was for the humble folks, the lowly – and it was the first of the grains. But back to foot washing.

We focus on the *service* aspect of foot washing and miss the bigger point, in my opinion at least. Christ spoke not just of service (vs. 13-17), which the foot washing certainly includes, but also spoke much about washing us. He told Peter – and all of us – *“If I don’t wash you, you have no part in me” (John 13:8-11).*

When we do the foot washing, let’s remember that we are depicting the washing of that person by the Master, Yeshua the Messiah. You are saying “I see you also as cleansed from ALL your sins, even those ones you think are secret but that I know about; those really horrible ones you did. By washing your feet I am telling you, I’m not judging you. I’m remembering what GOD did for you. He forgave you and washed you, so I forgive also, and I wash also what God has already washed. I hold nothing against you.”

Does that make sense? By the way, even Judas got his feet washed by the Messiah that night.

JUDAH betrays the Messiah

In the meantime, Judas leaves to betray him. I’ve pointed out before but let’s rehearse it – that we all have betrayed Messiah. But most specifically he came to his own and his own received him not – but betrayed him. They did not know who he really was though. Don’t forget that. Paul says had they known he was the Lord of Glory they never would have done what they did, so don’t be too harsh. Peter agrees. (**1 Cor. 2:7-8; Acts 3:17; 13:27**).

But keep this in mind: **“Judas” is the Hellenized or Greek form of the name Judah.** The actual Hebrew name is Yehudah. Judas’ real name was Yehudah of Iscariot. His real name was Judah. Isn’t that appropriate? Could that have been by chance?

No it was prophesied that his own people would be the ones to hurt him (Zechariah 13:6). But in this last Passover, Yeshua pointed to himself as to what the bread and wine pointed to. Notice even Paul says the Savior himself taught him this:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, **“Take, eat; this is My body** which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.”** 25 In the same manner He also **took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood.** This do, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.”** 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

We see again, the emphasis is on Christ and HIS body, HIS blood, HIS death – not the lambs or goats of a ritual meal.

So the unleavened BREAD points to Christ too:

- **Unleavened = not puffed up**, not full of air, it is what you see it to be. Genuine. Sincere. Not hypocritical.
- Look at Matzah. Hold it to the light. You see what? Stripes and holes! Yes, this is Matzah, picturing Yeshua. He was pierced for our transgressions. By those stripes we are healed. If Yeshua was not crucified and killed but just scourged and released, imagine how his back would have looked a year later? The welt scars would be deep.
- The barley to often come to ripen first around Jerusalem is a RED-STRIPED variety. It’s striking: the stalks have RED STRIPES on them! The stripes of Christ, who is the first of the firstfruits of that barley harvest.

- Yeshua is what the MANNA represented. Christ says HE was the bread from heaven (**Exodus 16:4; John 6:32-36**). Just as Israel had to seek their own manna each morning, we must seek the word of God each morning. Today’s Bible study and prayer doesn’t mean we don’t need any tomorrow. Each day they were to pick up their bread of life first thing in the day. *In the context of manna*, Yahweh added that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Deut 8:3). Manna pointed to the Word, who was with God and was God, remember (John 1:1-3).

John 6:32-35

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, **but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**"

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 And Jesus said to them, "**I AM the bread of life. He who comes to Me*** shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

So we need to get our minds off the physical matzah and on to what and who it pictures: Yeshua. “Do this in remembrance of ME”. We eat of the body of GOD in the flesh, Yeshua.

Deleavening: *Some of you spend so much time taking out the PHYSICAL leaven that you have no energy or time to spiritually deleaven. And remember, they deleavened originally in ONE DAY. Go back and read it (**Exodus 12:15**). The command was to put leaven out of your house and so “Pharisee types” sought for every possible crumb – while some gave the bulk of their bread to a GENTILE to hold on to until after the days of UB!*

But it was not necessarily spring cleaning so much as just putting the leaven out. We get so good at focusing on the physical that we forget to “do this in remembrance of ME.” How many of us even *can* get all the leaven out anyway? There can be leaven in the AIR in some cases. So do a good job of throwing out the old leaven – but don’t get focused more on the physical rather than the spiritual, which is Christ.

DO this in remembrance of ME. When we deleaven, we are remembering that we are now – in Christ – SIN FREE, guilt-free, condemnation-free (**Romans 8:1**) and free from the wrath of God that our sins incurred. THAT’S the point of deleavening!

And then we EAT unleavened Bread: we perfectly, totally (7 days) take in Messiah into our lives. But the focus must always be on Christ. This is what Paul taught New Covenant believers. And yes, we still keep Passover and the holydays.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

The CUP OF YESHUA: *Next was the cup of wine that Yeshua passed around. We tend to focus on the red WINE, but scripture tends to focus more on drinking of HIS CUP. That*

means we’re focused on accepting whatever God sends or allows into our lives in Christ. Drinking of the cup meant participating in whatever was in the cup. As Yeshua asked in Gethsemane: “May this CUP pass from me... but not my will but yours be done” (Matthew 26:39-42).

Of course the red wine in the cup pointed to the Blood of Christ. The LIFE is in the blood. That requires a whole sermon by itself. The blood washes us from all sin. It gives us the victory over Satan and sin. It buries our sins in His blood. It means he died for us. I have sermons on this website about following the RED THREAD of history, or the red cord of the Master’s blood that runs throughout history in the Bible.

And now we focus not just on coming out of Egypt – but coming out of SIN. Totally freed. And we don’t just remember them crossing **the Red Sea** – but how we have crossed from death into life (John 5:24). **The Red Sea was great. But crossing the chasm from Death to Eternal life and glory – now that is the greatest miracle**, because of the immense love of the Father and the Son of God for us all.

If we’re going to talk about coming out of Egypt – great – but now focus on **how the death of God’s firstborn broke Satan’s hold on us and broke the power of SIN. He died to sin and so do we** – when we come to be “in him”. And now we are in him and now a part of HIS Plans for us. Sometimes his cup for us is tough. Sometimes we suffer.

Even Yeshua learned obedience by SUFFERING (Hebrews 5:8). We too must have suffering – whether prolonged physical pain, emotional pain, mental anguish, disappointments and so on – to test if we will remain faithful through it all, just as The Son of God had to. You too are a son or child of God. You too have to drink of God’s cup.

So at Passover we drink of God’s (Yeshua’s) cup and say, “Yes, Husband, Master, Shield, Rock, Savior, King, our Lord, our Beloved – whatever you have in store for us in your CUP, we drink with you. Give us the faith to follow through.”

What Yeshua talked about:

And interestingly, the conversation that is recorded for us that night doesn’t mention Egypt or the Exodus (John 13-17; Matthew 26, etc.). But a lot of other topics are discussed by Yeshua, in John 13-17. **Let’s just do a quick review:**

John 13 – we must be **washed** and wash one another, since Christ has already washed us. We must be willing to be a servant to one another instead of always seeking title and power.

John 13:34-35—**the NEW COMMANDMENT**, to love one another in the same way Christ has loved us. BY this all will know you are my disciples by this intense love you have. My point as I go through this is that THESE are the things Yeshua talked about on Passover, not on Egypt.

John 14—Don’t be anxious or troubled (v 1-2). He goes to prepare a place for us and will take us there someday. Vs 4-5

V. 7-11—The Father and Christ are one. So united, they are one.

V 12-14 – we’ll do greater works than Christ himself performed, if we just believe. Ask in Yeshua’s name.

John 14:15 – If you love me, Keep my commandments.

v. 16-18—the promise of the Comforter, the *Parakletos*, the Holy Spirit who will guide us into all truth.

14:25-29—the Gift of Peace in Christ.

John 15:1-8– I AM the True Vine and he explains if we abide in HIM, we will bear MUCH fruit.

He warns of how hated we will be by the World.

John 16 –Warnings of being kicked out of our churches and synagogues because of believing. Sorrow will become Joy. He explains HE overcame the world and will again in us.

John 17 – His majestic High-Priestly prayer where he prays for God to glorify him “with the glory which I had with you before the world was” (YES, he IS God.)

Then he prays for his disciples that they may be ONE and of the same mind. Sanctify them by your truth.

Then he prays for US in the end time. IT’s such a marvelous prayer! That we may be ONE in the Father (that’s how), and not all divided up. (V 20-23)

That’s the gist of what Messiah talked about. “DO this in remembrance of ME”. Is this what your Passovers and Passover Week discussion is all about?

Then he went to the Brook Kidron on the east/SE of the temple mount. I’ve walked in there many times myself. Today it’s a dry riverbed. They went to a garden there.

THE PASSION OF Christ

We know in the Garden that he prayed long, three times, and sweat blood that fell to the ground. When Adam sinned, **the ground was cursed (Genesis 3:17-19)**. Our Lord’s blood even touched the cursed ground. You will start to see step by step how Yeshua fulfilled everything.

The time is coming when the trees will clap for joy, Isaiah 55:12 tells us poetically. The whole creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs until now” (Romans 8:21-22).

Then Yehudah – Judah – betrays Him. Yeshua asks whom guards were seeking – and he said, in the original, simply “I AM”. (Not “I am he”. “he” is in italics; added). I say again, the great I AM is the one we remember on Passover.

The THORNS

He is examined again in an illegal nighttime court, even as they spit on GOD. Even as they slapped, slugged, beat and kicked – GOD in the flesh. A crown of THORNS is JAMMED on the Son of God’s head.

Do you remember the first time thorns are mentioned? **Genesis 3:18-19** —the cursed ground would “bring thorns and thistles, and in the sweat of your face you will eat bread” God told Adam. But even in the cursed thorns God was merciful. Some thorns have very strong medicinal value that Yahweh put in them for us.

Another time thorns or at least a thicket are mentioned was when the RAM that saved Isaac was seen (Genesis 22) caught in the thicket. Caught by the ram’s horns – the *shofar*, basically. The shofar (ram’s horn trumpet) has been ever since a symbol of deliverance.

Yeshua took the curse of the thorns upon HIS head. He sweat blood that dropped to the cursed ground below. He fulfills it all. “Do this in remembrance of ME”.

What PASSOVER DAY 30 AD DID FOR US

Barabbas

Yeshua is proclaimed guilt-free by Pontius Pilate – who offers to release to the crowd either Yeshua (Salvation) or “the son of the Father” (BARABBAS).

Barabbas is the Greek form of the **JEWISH name BAR-ABBA: SON of the Father.**

I have a sermon or blog about Barabbas. You may want to search it and read it. So much is going on now as it gets into high gear. Did you realize that even BAR-ABBA is part of the story!? HE was the one who deserved to die, but because the *true* Bar-Abba died for us all – and for him – HE could someday become a true born-again son of the Father in heaven! You and I are, in a sense, Barabbas too. You see, WE also deserved to die for our sins but the *true* son of God died instead – for ME, and for YOU. And yes, because of Him, I too can now be a true Son of God, son of the Father, as well. Yes, you and I are also Barabbas. **

So the FALSE son-of-the-father is released (Barabbas) and the TRUE Son of the Father is beaten and scourged and has to carry his stake to the crucifixion.

Lamb for the nation

Then, exactly at 9 am on the 14th of Abib, on Passover day, when the Lamb for the Nation was being tied to the altar in the temple, **Yeshua was being nailed to the stake – at 9 a.m.** Precisely at the same time. NO coincidence. HE is what that lamb pointed to. Except the lamb got to be tied with rope, but Yeshua had big old rusty spikes pounded into his flesh and ankles/heels – right where the most nerves are located for maximum pain.

At **noon**, when the sun should shine brightly – there was darkness over the land until 3 pm. That was no mere eclipse. Solar eclipses last only minutes – not 3 hours. It was something else from God! The Roman soldiers were getting nervous and wondering if there was something to this Man—could he be the Son of God?

The Vinegar given to Yeshua

Yeshua said He THIRSTED (John 19:28-30). So they brought some cheap sour wine – really more like vinegar. This also fulfilled something very, very big. In the Old Covenant, God often punished even the children’s children for the sins of the fathers, even to the 3rd-4th generation or sometimes even longer. But now, in Christ, that has been removed. Jeremiah 31 is about the new covenant. And just a couple verses before describing the New Covenant, it says this:

Jeremiah 31:29-30

“In those days they SHALL SAY NO MORE;

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes,

And the children's teeth are set on edge.'

30 But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, HIS teeth shall be set on edge.

When Yeshua sipped the sour grape juice, the vinegar, he was taking on himself the old curse and paving the way for no more penalties to be paid by the children's children. Are you getting it? Christ took care of so many curses – on the ground, the thorns, the paying for great-grandpa's sins, and so much more! Our God-in-the-Flesh Savior, is something Else, isn't he? Let's be sure the Passover is in Remembrance of HIM, as he bore our sins on HIS head.

And yes, by the way, all the sins of the world are put on Christ's head and his alone. HE is our sole Redeemer and Savior. Isaiah 53 is SO clear about that.

Then at 3 pm, the High Priest pushed back the head of the little lamb for the Nation, the lamb without blemish tied to the altar – and with a pull of the sharp knife cut its throat. As he did that, exactly at 3 pm the hour of prayer and offerings, the High Priest would say, “FINISHED. The Lamb for the Nation has been sacrificed.”

But more importantly, not that far away, perfect and holy GOD-(the Word)-MADE-FLESH who was being crucified, had a spear thrust up his side, and out poured blood and water, and he screamed, “ FINISHED!”—no doubt at the very same same moment the little blameless lamb on the altar spewed its blood all over the altar. **John 19:34.**

There was an earthquake, and the heavy curtain veil preventing one from going into the Holy of Holies was torn in two, just as the spear tore open his flesh.

Hebrews 10:19-22

“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is, His flesh**, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, **22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

In the Exodus story, each household took its lamb, killed it, and let the blood spill into the “basin” – the threshold at the door of each home – and they took some hyssop branches and splashed the blood on the top lintel and side posts of the door. This protected everyone inside from the Destroyer. When YHVH inspected each home, He kept the Destroyer from killing anyone inside where there was the blood of the lamb.

Exodus 12:22-28

And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, **dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin.** And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. **23 For YHVH will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.**

24 And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. 25 It will come to pass when you come to the land which YHVH will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. 26 And it shall be, **when your children say to you**, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 that you shall say [notice carefully the wording], **'It is the Passover SACRIFICE OF YHVH, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'**" So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

You see, from the beginning, it was always going to be this way; NOT the sacrifice of the lamb. No – the sacrifice OF YHVH. Part of YHVH was the WORD – who was with God and was God. I want to keep saying this so it really sinks in who this Jesus was on the stake.

Let's get past the elementary level of the physical and remember to whom all of this was pointing.

POWER OF SIN DESTROYED

Understand, at that moment when God the Word – Yeshua – bellowed out “FINISHED!” -- the power of SIN over you was DESTROYED. At that moment, when we come to be “in Christ” – we also died with him on the cross. “I am crucified with Christ”, as Paul said in Gal. 2:20 and Romans 6:2-6. We died with him, we were buried with him, and we were resurrected anew in His resurrection 3 days later. But at that moment at 3 pm on Passover day – we died to sin. I will soon give a whole sermon on that phrase – “being dead to sin” (Romans 6:2,11)

Let me say again: the POWER of sin over you has been destroyed. I did not say you won't or wouldn't be tempted to sin anymore – but the *power* of sin over you is gone, and you are a new creation in Christ.

When His Majesty, God-Made-Flesh, was taken down from the cross and put into Joseph's tomb, there was no more power of sin over you. None – if you have believed in Yeshua, if you have splashed his blood over you and your household, if you have come inside the house of God, covered and sanctified by the blood of GOD-made-flesh – sin has no power!

THIS is the Lamb we need to be speaking about in this season. John the Baptist says in John 1:29 – “Behold the Lamb of GOD who takes away the sins of the world”.

We've been freed from Sin. From Satan. From the ways of this world – all because we have come under the blood of the Lamb of God.

So now when we speak of the Exodus, let's speak of OUR Exodus – not out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea – but a much greater sea: we are crossing from death to life (1 John 3:14).

Now we give a full-throated assent to the fact that all that blood spilled by all those lambs pointed to when God sent His only Son – who was and is and always will be God as God is God – to be my Savior, my Lord, my King, my Beloved, my older brother, my Redeemer, my Master, my wonderful Friend – and my Shepherd. *But most of all He came as my Savior.*

He came and on that day that reeked of human blood, He took away my reproach, my shame, my condemnation and all the wrath that my sins incurred and buried it all in his

blood. He forgave me of all my sins – yes, even my unspeakable ones. He took it all. And yours too. Even your unspeakable ones too. For *me*. And for you. He came and died for ME. And for you. Make it personal, Make it real. Paul said that in Galatians 2:20 – “...who died for ME...”

You know what else? Now - in Christ – He credits, transfers, gifts -- HIS holy righteousness, the righteousness of God himself to us. It’s called the gift of righteousness. A gift is not something you earn, but is a gift. If you earn it, it’s no longer a gift or grace (Romans 11:6). I’ll read it in a second. It’s the gift you almost never hear about! It’s the gift I pray so many of you will quit fighting against – and believe it, accept this gift of God’s own righteousness joyfully and tearfully with gratitude!

Now get this, for it has everything to do with Passover: In the same way that Adam’s sin was transferred to us, even though we didn’t sin Adam’s sin—in that same way Yeshua’s perfect obedience is also imputed or credited to us by faith if we believe, even though it was HIM doing it, not us so much. All of this happened after the resurrection of Messiah and his acceptance by the Father on Wavesheaf Day. Praise you Master, Praise you!

Romans 5:17-19

For if by the one man's offense [Adam] death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to ALL men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

In America we relish “do it yourself” projects. Salvation is not a do it yourself project. You need a Savior – and it ain’t you! This teaching is so hard for die hard believers who want to work out their own righteousness – to accept. Even Philippians 2:12 goes on to say in verse 13, “For it is GOD who works in you....” OUR righteousness has to exceed the Pharisees’. There’s only one way: Accepting the perfect gift of God’s own goodness.

Here’s how Paul says it:

Philippians 3:8-11

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, **NOT having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;** 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Remember the Wavesheaf after the Passover? It was raised – picturing Christ – to be “accepted in your behalf” – as I read earlier in **Leviticus 23:11**. IN Christ, you also were crucified (**Gal. 2:20**). IN Christ, you were also resurrected (**Romans 6:3-6**). IN Christ you were also raised to heaven and seated with Him in the heavenlies. IN Christ you were also accepted as God’s beloved. Too many verses to quote them all that say these things! Read Ephesians 1-2, Col 1,2, 3, and so many others.

Accept this truth. Relish it. Have peace in it. *You are now – in Christ – the righteousness of God by faith, if you accept it and believe it.* All too many don’t have the faith for that or refuse the faith for that. And this gracious gift will result in more and more *obedience*, as you will see. It is Christ living in you, obediently. But that’s why focusing on the Old Covenant 613 rules is not what it’s about – unless you perfectly do all 613 all the time! Perfectly. Forever. Or you can rely on the Passover and His resurrection.

God’s righteousness is received by faith as God’s gift to us. That’s why it’s called “the righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7; Galatians 2:16, 20-21; 2 Peter 1:1; Acts 15:9; Ephesians 2:6-10). Compare what Israel was doing in **Romans 9:30-33** through **Romans 10:1-4** and see if that is what you might be doing.

SO do you see why we must focus on Yeshua (Jesus) at Passover? HE’s the point of the story, brighter focus, and goes WAY BEYOND the story of the Exodus now. HE’s the reason for the Passover season. *We’re crossing over something much bigger than the Red Sea. We’re now crossing over from death to life.* From condemnation to the praises of God. Hallelu YAH! Praise you, our Passover Yeshua!

Paul talked about “Christ our Passover” – **1 Corinthians 5:7**. HE is what it’s all about. Christ our Passover. He freed us from sin and slavery to sin. He walked us out of sin – like the Israelites coming out of Egypt – but now we’ve been freed from slavery to sin! We have died to sin! (More on that later)

And so this year, more than ever, remember – “Do this in remembrance of ME.” Yes, sure, recount what happened on Passover. But this year, our time and focus will be spent recounting Passover day on that place called Golgotha, the place of the Skull. **THAT’S** the big story we’ll be recounting more than any other. Everything else just pointed to the big story!

And then worship Him like you finally are starting to get it: It’s ALL about Him. He’s the good news. He brings grace upon grace, like wave after wave that unlocks the here-to-fore locked gates to eternal life and the kingdom of God. Let the size, the power and awesomeness of this night fill your heart and mind when you come to Passover.

And yes, bow down and worship him. Love him. Seek Him. And bless God the Father for sending such Majesty to purchase you from the clutches of Death- and offer you eternal life and salvation in Christ.

“DO this in remembrance of ME”. Yes Master, we will obey you. This Passover will be in remembrance of YOU. And Heavenly Father, God Most High, our Abba, thank YOU so much for such a wonderful Gift – the gift of your Son.

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