

## Passover – a time to recommit



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Philip Shields

[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

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***Summary: Passover and days of Unleavened Bread – a new season of our JOY. Let's celebrate what our wonderful God our Father did through His Son to forgive our sins by the blood of His Lamb Jesus, and to cleanse us and give us his own righteous Resurrection Life in Messiah. Let's use this new year we're beginning, to recommit to fervently seeking God, to form a stronger lasting bond with Messiah, to be much more zealous, to be overcomers, and to commit to letting Yeshua's life genuinely change us into being His new creation.***

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Are you ready to take the Passover emblems of the footwashing, then the broken unleavened bread and then the tiny vial of red wine? The New MOON of Abib/Nisan has been sighted in Jerusalem the evening of March 30, 2025, and as I record this we're clearly very close still to the start of the new year the way God sees the calendar.

The new moon of God is always the first visible light of the moon, the first time you see the tiny slim crescent of the moon. The visible LIGHT of the moon, was given for our seasons and times (Genesis 1;14).

**And since we're in the NEW YEAR of God's calendar, it's a great time in the Passover season to evaluate where we are with God and his plans. It's a perfect time to recommit to our God.**

**Passover shows the greatest miracle God has ever done: offer his Son to live and die for us, no matter how bad we had been in the past if we repent.** His love applies to even the worst of sinners as he leads them to repentance and a new changing life by His holy Spirit. This is the Passover.

**Genesis 1:14 NKJV**

Then God said, "**Let there be LIGHTS** in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be **for signs and seasons**, and for days and years;"

The Hebrew word for “signs” is “**owth**” – meaning a signal, a beacon, a direction, pointing to something.

**The Hebrew for “seasons” is “moed”** or in the plural “moedim” – which is the word God uses in Lev 23 and other places to designate his divine appointments he makes with us. Look how Holman Bible translates verse 14.

**Genesis 1:14 Holman Translation**

Then God said, “Let there be LIGHTS in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. **They will serve as signs for festivals** and for days and years.”

So the new moon is **not the DARK** of the moon as “new moon” is marked on our western calendars when there is no light. God said the LIGHTS are for the sign of his festivals. The LIGHTS are the sun and moon together telling us when God has his DIVINE appointments. God’s calendar uses sun and moon.

**This year, 2025 – AND the dates on our Roman calendars change from year to year** -- Those of you who follow the rabbinic calendar will know that the eve of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib, the Hebrew calendar, is on Friday April 11 evening this year, and their Passover DAY is April 12 in 2025. The first Holyday of Unleavened Bread for them is April 13, 2025, on Sunday. *If you’re hearing this in future years, remember the dates change every year.*

For those of you who go by **when the visible crescent was sighted** in Jerusalem, it **was sighted on Sunday night, March 30, 2025**, so for you who go by the sighting of the new crescent moon in Jerusalem and around the world – all the dates will all *be one day later than the rabbinic calendar this year.*

So for those people, the Passover **service**, if you follow Jesus’ example, will be kept on **the night time EVE of Passover day**, as that is when Jesus did HIS Last Supper Passover. So in 2025 that would be Saturday night April 12, and everything is pushed one day later when compared to the Jewish Rabbinical calendar. Then Passover DAY becomes April 13, and the first holyday is April 14 on the visible moon observation basis.

**But the MAIN point of THIS sermon today is to remind us of a KEY requirement before Passover: we’re told to examine ourselves**

– **and then go ahead and take the Passover.** And I will be focusing on how the examination of ourselves should lead to a recommitment to God, to our high calling, and to overcoming the sins that still too easily beset us.

As I record this in 2025, we’ve just had **the Hebrew NEW YEAR** begin some days ago now – and it’s a great time for us to recommit to obeying God better this year, to being more ZEALOUS, to overcoming more than we ever have before. So that’s what I’m talking about today: **USE this time before and after Passover to RECOMMIT.**

**Don’t just show up at the Passover service without having first given it much thought. And I’m focusing on a SOLID recommitment happening in my own life.**

**Passover IS the REALITY OF everything fulfilled by Jesus, or Yeshua the Messiah. HE IS what the “shadows” all pointed to.**

**Examples of “shadows”: Abraham almost sacrificed ISAAC in Gen 22, but he was spared having to actually sacrifice him as God provided a RAM, stuck in the thorns of the bushes. But the TRUE REALITY of Abraham was God the Father – who DID go through the Passover SACRIFICE OF HIS Lamb at 3 pm on Passover day, 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib. There was no substitute ram. Jesus was it! He was the reality. The ram was the SHADOW pointing to the reality of Jesus and Passover.**

**Here’s another shadow and reality:**

**John 3:14-15**

**“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”**

**Yeshua was as good as dead from the foundation of the world according to Revelation 13:8. I think the foundation of the world was when Adam and Eve decided to follow the Serpent instead of the GOD they had walked and talked with in the garden, who was JESUS, the Word.**

**So the first prophecy of the Passover crucifixion was spoken to the Serpent by God in Genesis 3:15 after Adam’s sin.**

**Genesis 3:15**

**“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise (crush, smash) your head,**

**And you shall bruise His heel."**

**And GOD DID crush Satan's head – on the hill called GOLGOTHA – which means "Place of the SKULL."**

So this was an EPIC battle – but our Savior performed flawlessly, perfectly, though it was very tough. All of his male followers deserted or denied him or betrayed him except possibly John. Some women followers stood at a distance – and from 12-3 pm it was dark in all the land, then he gasped his last at 3 pm and died.

**And let me clarify this too:**

- **"Abib" is the first month of the Hebrew calendar.**
- **Passover DAY is the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib. Jesus DIED on Passover day.**
- **The holy day, the first day of Unleavened Bread, is the 15<sup>TH</sup> of Abib. Some STILL seem to feel the Passover is on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It is the 14<sup>th</sup> when the Passover lamb was killed. And remember Jesus is called "Christ our Passover, was sacrificed FOR us..." (1 Cor. 5:7).**

**Numbers 28:16-18**

**'On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the Lord. 17 And on the fifteenth day of this month is the feast; unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days. 18 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.'**

**Leviticus 23:4-6**

**'These are the feasts of YHVH, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.**

**5 On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is YHVH's Passover.**

**6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days *you must eat* unleavened bread.'**

**Unleavened bread is bread that has never been leavened before – picturing someone who has never sinned. That cannot be picturing us and can only picture Jesus Christ, who was the only one to be perfect, sinless, "unleavened." *It cannot picture us*, but what we take INTO US – the life of Jesus the Messiah. He said in John 6:53-59 that we must eat of him and his flesh, pictured by the Passover unleavened bread. Be sure to read John 6.**

**Eventually, be AWARE of this, that the Passover and the days of Unleavened Bread together, started to be called “The Passover.”**

**Ezekiel 45:21**

**"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten."**

**Luke 22:1**

**"Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover."**

So just understand it by context. Technically “Passover” is 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib, and Days of Unleavened Bread start after that, beginning with the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib.

**BE READY FOR Passover**

**Let's read Paul's instructions about PRE-Passover preparation.**

But first this: I follow the example of what, when, what time of day, Jesus did his last supper. *He took the bread and wine at NIGHT*, notice, so that's what I do. **He did it on the EVE of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib, and then died for us all on his cross the next day on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.** So his Passover ceremony or service was done on the EVE of Passover day, at NIGHT, after sundown.

(Note: Abib is the first month of the Hebrew calendar, typically mid-March to Mid-April roughly many years.)

Paul is speaking to the Corinthians, **made up largely of Gentiles** as well as a few Jews in the congregation.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-32**

**"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.**"**

(We don't do this in the new covenant in remembrance of the Red Sea or Egypt – but in remembrance of Jesus Christ.)

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.

**Examine Yourself** [Audio has comments)

**27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

**28 But let a man EXAMINE himself, and so LET HIM EAT of the bread and drink of the cup.**

*(PLEASE never conclude after self-examination that you should not take the Passover bread and wine. You either take Jesus' death for you - or you die for your own sins! TAKE the Passover. Jesus is the one who makes us worthy. He alone is perfectly worthy – Revelation 5)*

**29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

**(Lord's body can mean either his own literal body – or the spiritual body of Christ, the CHURCH of God)**

**30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.**

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."

**Examine yourself:** It does not say to examine ourselves and decide we are unworthy and so we miss, we don't take, the Passover. No, no, no – you don't want to miss the Passover unless you're in impossible circumstances and can't do the bread and wine service. In that case, **I have a blog about the Second Passover thirty days later, as taught in the Bible**, for those who must miss the Passover the first time.

**If you decide NOT to take the Passover – you've decided to die for your OWN sins! Read that again. Take the Passover.**

**God wants to show you His mercy on Passover, to remove your sins – while also showing you his JUSTICE: The payment/wages of**

**sin is DEATH (Romans 6:23). So either you and I die for our own sins, or we accept thankfully the death of the son of God FOR you, for me, for all who will accept him.**

### **GRAPE JUICE OR WINE**

Let me say this about **what was in the cup Jesus drank from**: Some of you serve grape juice at Passover. This is not the biggest topic right now, but keep in mind that it would have been **impossible to even FIND grape juice** by Passover time in a time and place when there was no refrigeration or glass bottles!

*Grapes are always harvested in Aug-Sept or even early October – but within ten days, certainly within WEEKS, the natural, unstoppable fermentation of the grapes and their juice is well underway, especially in a culture without any refrigeration.*

So we KNOW that Jesus had red **wine** in his cup for his Last Supper, as it would have been impossible to even find grape juice.

**Wine is “the BLOOD of the grapes,”** and what was in Jesus’ cup represented his red blood. Jesus said what was in his cup on Passover was his blood (Matthew 26:27-28). Wine is called the “blood of the grapes.”

**Deut. 32:14b** “And you drank **wine**, the **blood** of the grapes.”

**So I suggest groups might serve both at Passover:** red wine for those who understand that Passover “fruit of the vine” could have only been red wine in a time without refrigeration. *But also have grape juice for the one or two alcoholics you may have in your congregation.*

*In John 2, Jesus’ first miracle of multiplying water into about 150 gallons of the very best red wine, happened just before Passover (John 2:13). And it was the finest wine that he made.*

**Let’s get back to Passover:**

**Because God is BOTH just and merciful, the justice of God requires the death penalty for anyone who sins** as death is the penalty of sin. But God so LOVED the world – everyone who will accept him – that God offered to let his perfect SON, the SON OF GOD, die FOR anyone who would accept Him as their Savior so they don’t have to die. Yeshua is the only name given under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

**Any Jews** hearing this, please listen carefully: **Judaism is all about how well one performs his “mitzvahs”** – acts of obedience, righteousness and kindness. **Jews don't focus on the need for grace or someone dying for you.** They don't see the need for it. So they depend on their works of righteousness. They feel if your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds, you'll be fine.

But scripture is clear that disobeying God = the death penalty. **Ezekiel 18:4, 20** says “**the soul who sins shall DIE**”. And that's what YHVH told Adam and Eve: “disobey me and eat of that tree of knowledge of good and evil, and you will DIE.” But Jews largely feel that if one's good deeds outweigh his bad deeds, he's probably OK with God. Wrong.

And so Jews **MISS Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 – how the first time the Messiah comes, he was coming to DIE FOR YOU and me.** Read Isaiah 53 again, and this is why Yeshua did not set up God's kingdom when he, the Messiah, came the first time. He had to first come to live a perfect life and then, as the Son of God, die for all humanity who would accept his sacrifice and life.

He did not bring peace to the whole world and rule from Jerusalem, he did not make Israel the leading kingdom of the whole world the first time Messiah came – *and so Jews largely reject Yeshua as Messiah.* Why? Because they believe scripture clearly says those things will be done by Messiah. But they missed that there would be two comings.

**The first coming of Messiah was to die for sinners as the suffering Servant, and be resurrected; the second time He comes will be to rule the world.** I hope all Jews will study Isaiah 53, which is never ever read in synagogue anymore because it looks too much like Yeshua – which it is.

**Isaiah 53:5-6**

***“But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;***

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

**And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed.**

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

**And YHVH has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

And Jews also missed the prophecies of **Psalm 22**, which speaks of his hands and feet being pierced and how he would be crucified.

**Psalms 22:14-18**

**“I am poured out like water, (John 19:34)**

**And all My bones are out of joint;**

My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,

**And My tongue clings to My jaws;**

You have brought Me to the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me;

The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

**They pierced My hands and My feet;**

**17 I can count all My bones.**

They look and stare at Me.

18 **They divide My garments** among them,

**And for My clothing they cast lots.”**

This was our majestic Savior suffering and dying for you and me.

Take this very personally. *Christ's death for us fulfilled the JUSTICE of God by requiring the death of Jesus his Son for us (1 Cor. 5:7; John 1:29). But by not requiring our own death, it also shows the mercy of God.*

**James 2:13 says, “Mercy triumphs OVER Justice”** – so inside the ark of the covenant was the LAW of God, the 10 commandments. But *above* the tablets of stone was the “Mercy Seat,” the throne of God on earth. Note that the Mercy Seat was above the law. Indeed, “mercy triumphs over justice.” What a wonderful God we have.

But James 2:13 also says mercy is shown only to those who show mercy. So be sure you commit to that also – **forgive everyone who have hurt you before Passover comes. Start it in deep prayer to God asking him to bless them (“bless your enemies...”)**.

Realize also that God our Father bought you to be a part of his family **and paid the highest possible price for you: the shed blood of his Son (read Acts 20:28; Revelation 5:8-9). Paul shows us to take it very personally: he says Christ “died for ME” (Gal.2:20).**

**FOR GOD'S NEW YEAR – LET'S RECOMMIT to a life pleasing Him**

In Exodus 12 God made it clear that the real new year from then on was to start with the month of Abib – usually around mid-March on the Roman calendar. God's new year begins with spring, new growth, the greening of the land.

I'm going to use the rest of the time talking about recommitting to God.

**RECOMMIT TO DEEPLY APPRECIATING WHAT God is and has done, shown by Passover.**

**Don't just show up at the Passover service. Be ready.** Be sure you have examined yourself and realize you still sin. NONE of us can keep God's laws perfectly all the time, so we need Jesus.

Jesus said he did not come to destroy the law – but to FULFILL his law (**Matthew 5:17**). **Romans 8:3-4** especially makes it clear that when we look to Yeshua/Jesus – it is because ***He and He alone has perfectly fulfilled the requirements of the Torah, of the law***, and our faith is NOT in how well WE do – but our confidence and faith are in HIM, his perfect life, his perfect performance.

**Romans 8:3-4**

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: **He condemned sin in the flesh,**  
**4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in US** who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

So because of His perfect fulfillment of God's law, and because we are now in Christ, we can be presented faultless, by HIS life – not mine, not yours, but By HIS life. (**Jude 24**). **AND HE NOW IS OUR LIFE**. His life is our life now.

**Colossians 3:1-4**

“ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**  
**3 For YOU died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**  
**4 When Christ who is OUR LIFE** appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory”.

**OUR life now should be the life of the Resurrection Jesus (Phil. 3:8-11). That doesn't mean we're perfectly obeying all the time, but we are covered by Jesus' life.**

So Paul says in **Galatians 2:20** that “I NO LONGER LIVE, but the life I live is by FAITH OF Christ, who gave himself and died for ME” And he goes on in

verse 21 to say, “For if righteousness could come from the law (Torah), then Jesus died in vain.”

So let’s commit to really deeply appreciating Christ and our father for the Passover.

**COMMIT to a life going forward of REALLY SEEKING GOD with all your heart**

How have you been doing with fasting, praying, seeking him FIRST in your life **as Matt 6:33** says – “seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and HIS righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

We’re promised that those who zealously seek him will surely FIND him –even Solomon was told this (**1 Chron: 28:9**); God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (**Hebrews 11:6**).

**Learn to pray many times during the day. Pray two or three times** on your knees and many, many times in just daily short prayers of contact. I’ll give a sermon soon, God willing, on praying effective prayers.

**COMMIT to being more willing to truly receive what God wants to give you.**

God WANTS to give us so much, but we have to receive in faith. I want to develop this topic even more as time goes on. If I want to give you something – I can’t unless you receive it from me. Same thing with receiving from God.

**God even reveals things – but sometimes we’re not ready to believe or receive it.** Here’s an example: Yeshua/Jesus told the people that John the Baptizer was, in a way, like the promised Elijah. But they weren’t ready for that. (There IS an end time Elijah for sure – Mal 4:5-6)

**Matthew 11:13-15**

**“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”**

Malachi 4:5-6 promises that ELIJAH will come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, so John the Baptizer was just a foretaste of that, as Jesus’ first coming was not “the great and dreadful day” of the LORD.

**God also wants to answer our prayers, when done in faith.**

**Matthew 21:20-22**

And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

**21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and DO NOT DOUBT, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.**

**22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, BELIEVING, you will receive."**

If you lack wisdom, just ask God regularly for more and he wants to liberally give you lots of wisdom (James 1:5). But we have to ask and receive.

**So let's COMMIT TO LEARNING HOW TO BETTER TRUST GOD, having more FAITH in God with no doubting this year and forever.**

One sign we are weak in faith: when we **worry**. We all do, sometimes. But worrying is a sign of doubting God's desire or ability to save you.

**George Muller** once said, "*The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith, is the end of anxiety.*" Ponder that one. It's good.

#### **James 1:4-8**

"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

5 If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all LIBERALLY and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**6 But let him ask in FAITH, with NO DOUBTING**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

#### **LET'S COMMIT TO LETTING Christ MAKE US BRAND NEW**

You AND I CANNOT keep the law perfectly. Some keep it better than others, but all of us fail and have earned the death penalty. So we look at ourselves and doubt that we are a new creation like 2 Cor. 5:17 says.

God likes "new." The time is coming when He will make all things brand new. New heavens, new earth. New Creation – which we'll discuss. The 144,000 sing a NEW Song. God loves it when He sees us also becoming new.

#### **Revelation 21:1-5**

"Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.**

**2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

**3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**

**4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."**

**5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make ALL THINGS NEW."** And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."**

All that ultimately matters is that we are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 6:14-15**

**"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

**15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation."**

**COMMIT TO OVERCOMING sins that too easily still beset us.**

**ARE we DIFFERENT now than we were 5 years ago?**

**Are we overcoming? Are we CHANGING? Are we growing?**

Overcoming will happen if we do seek God more, pray more, refuse to let sinful thoughts into our head. Study **2 Cor. 10:3-4**. Learn the power of controlling our thoughts! I must prepare a whole sermon on overcoming!

**Revelation 21:6-8**

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. **7 He who OVERCOMES shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.**

**8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."**

**Read all of Rev. 2 -3** to the seven churches of Revelation. Yeshua promises rewards to many of them who actually overcome! (**Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; Revelation 3:5, 12, 21**) Study those verses yourself carefully.

What we once were – must be in the past. **Read Colossians 3:1-11.**

**Ephesians 4:19-24**

“who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

**22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the NEW MAN which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”**

So let's make this Passover season be a time of being refreshed, renewed, and deeply recommitted to the Way of God and to being one with Yeshua. There are so many more ways we can recommit to God. Commit to watching our condition and staying awake.

Let's come out of this Passover season as a stronger person, a brand new person, someone changing, growing closer to God more than ever before. We can be, if we use the time ahead to really recommit, in Jesus' name.

Closing prayer.