

# The Passover

Because we; today, are so far removed from the circumstances and societal conditions which existed for ancient Isra-El, it is not often easy for us to understand the many reasons for those things which we read of in Scripture, which were commanded for The Chosen People. As a; for instance, many people are appalled when they read that The Almighty One demanded that certain races be killed: man, woman, and child! And indeed, this does sound rather extreme and harsh on the surface, but by reading certain other books; which was once part of the original text; such as Enoch; Jasher; Jubilees; etc. we see that the blood line of certain races had become contaminated through the “fallen angels” having sexual relations with mankind. The offspring of these encounters became known as the Nephilim and Raphanin in Scriptures and were the source of the ancient “mythological” gods of the ancient races, i.e. Greece; Rome; etc. Meaning that those ancient myths were founded on a reality which we today know very little of. They were the “Titans” of old. Most often; they were blood thirsty, wicked, and immoral.

Because The Messiah/ Savior had to be perfect in every way, and the people of Isra-El; from whom He was prophesied to be born, were to live in those same areas, it was necessary to protect that bloodline by removing all of those whose blood contained elements of the demon world; as well as the polluted DNA of incest; homosexuality; and bestiality

The Almighty One; and YHWH/YaHuaH is His Name, is in fact a very loving Eloah/g-d! If He had not ordered the complete destruction of those contaminated races, we could not have had a Savior who was “perfect” in every way; to deliver us from our sins, as prophesied.

Those who question the reasons that YaHuaH commands certain things that we do not understand need to read Rom.9:20-21. With that we will now proceed with the study of The Passover! Read Shemoth/Exodus 11:1-10 and 12:1-39.

To begin with; we need to realize that 'Passover' is the definition or meaning of the Hebrew word: Pesach. The first mention of the Pesach is in Ex.12:12 and it describes explicitly what YaHuaH intended to do. If the people of Isra-El listened to and obeyed the command to kill a lamb, put its blood on the doorway to their homes; as well as roasting and eating it in the prescribed manner, YaHuaH would not kill the firstborn in that home. We should also consider that it was not just the firstborn child, but it was also the firstborn adults as well.. By reading all of Ex. 12 we see that there were very specific instructions for the keeping of the Pesach. The lamb itself had to be in its first year and in perfect shape; no broken bones, sores, blemishes/deformities.

It was to be a picture of our Savior, perfect in all His ways!

It was to be killed at the home. Later; during the times of the Tabernacle and Temple, it was to be killed there in the presence of the priests, (although today; as it was in Egypt, we are in diaspora and thus revert back to the original command to kill it at our homes or wherever we will be keeping the Pesach.) The blood was to be collected and placed on the doorposts and lintel, and it was to be roasted with fire; not raw; boiled, fried, or cut up into pieces but roasted in fire whole; head, feet, and inwards!

It was to be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and it was commanded to be eaten fully clothed and prepared for 'flight'. (This could well indicate that we should also be prepared to flee in the future, during the Passover.) It is also commanded that none were to leave the house where the Passover was eaten until morning!

The Passover lamb was to be killed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after the "new moon" which marked the beginning of the Hebrew year. This is the first new moon after the spring equinox, and is called in Hebrew; Abib, which means 'greening'! The lamb is roasted in late afternoon and eaten while night falls and because Gen.1: shows us that the day starts at sundown; as we are eating the Passover we move into the next day/ the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Abib. This is also the first day of "unleavened bread" or chag HaMatzah; a seven day festival wherein no leavened products are to be consumed or found in the household. As Messianics; this pictures the time of putting leaven/sin, out of our lives as the apostle Paul spoke of in I Cor. 5:6-8. We also read that 'no stranger' or his son is to eat the

Passover lamb. No servant (unless he is of 'the household' and is circumcised) is to eat of the Passover lamb. Only males who have been circumcised are permitted to eat the Passover lamb. Again; Paul puts this into perspective in I Cor.11:27+29. WE must remember that this is YaHauH's command, not man's command. We do not want to be guilty of rebellion!

Lastly; as we read in Ex. 12, we will notice one very important instruction in verses 14 and 17. Verse 14 states that it is to be a "Memorial/Remembrance throughout our generations- it is to be observed as "a festival and an Everlasting Law "

Verse 17 states: "... And you shall guard this day throughout your generations, an Everlasting Law".

As we read what is commonly called "the gospels", each of the four writers show us an example of our Savior; YaHushua, keeping the Passover/Pesach. He even mentions in Lk. 22:18 that He will not drink again of 'the wine' until He drinks it with them in The Kingdom; and what He is talking about here is the keeping of Pesach in the future Kingdom of Yah!

After His death and resurrection we read that the apostles continued to keep the Pesach. So the question we should be asking is: 'Why do those who claim to be followers of The Messiah not follow the example He and His disciples left for us? See: I Cor.5:8; Matt. 26; Mk.14; Lk. 2+22; and Jn.2, 6, 11+12!

I highly recommend reading all of Johns' account from chapter 13 through 21. John is the disciple who "was reclining" against YaHushua (verse 23 of chapter 13). I also recommend reading Luke 22:17-20; and note carefully verse 19, for it is here that we see the fullness of 'The Memorial/Remembrance noted in Ex. 12!

So to conclude and summarize the 'what' of the Passover, it is a Memorial Service, commemorating the Supreme sacrifice given to provide us a Savior! And as we remember the great miracles performed in Moses' time, let us also remember the great miracles YaHushua performed in us through the power of The Ruach HaKodesh/The Set-Apart Spirit of YaHuaH in our own personal lives. The greatest of which is His calling us out of the spiritual Egypt/sin!

Although we have already touched on the: 'Why' we keep Passover, there is more that we can and will add to the fact that it was established as an Everlasting Law! The first and primary reason to keep the Passover is that it fulfills the love of YaHuaH that we are to have; Deut. 6:5 and Matt.22:36-38! We will notice here that it is The Torah command that YaHushua is referring to. YaHushua always taught and kept The Torah, and He commanded us to keep and teach it as well, Matt. 5:17-21!

Many churches teach that The Torah was done away with. Some claim that it was "nailed to the cross", but the truth is that The Torah; The Law, was never done away with. Let us read what the apostle John says to us in I Jn. 3:4 "Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness (breaks The Law) and sin is lawlessness." II Jn.1:5-6 "And now I ask you; brethren, not as though I wrote a new command to you, but that which you have had 'from the beginning'; that we love one another. And this is the love; that we walk according to His Commands. This is the Command, that as you have heard 'from the beginning' you should walk in it!" {You will notice that I set apart the words 'from the beginning' the reason is; that those are the first words written in The Scriptures. The actual Hebrew word is "Bereshith (pronounced 'beresheeth') and there is a whole world of teachings just in that one word.} In other words; everything we learned from The Torah; (The Hebrew name for the first five books of Scriptures) we are to be keeping, as modified by our Savior; Who taught us to be merciful. We are not to be picking and choosing what we will keep and what we will ignore!!!

We will now look at some of the 'overlooked' verses for our time regarding The Torah/Commandments, as these are speaking of and to the end time generations. Rev.12:17 "And the dragon was enraged with 'the woman' and he went to fight with the 'remnant of her seed', those guarding The Commandments of YaHuaH and possessing the witness of YaHushua HaMashiach/The Messiah."

Rev.14:12 "Here is the endurance patience of the set-apart ones, here are those guarding (and keeping) The Commands of YaHuaH, and the belief/faith of YaHushua."

Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are those doing His Commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into The City." Many Christian teachers would have you

believe that our Savior taught some-thing different from The Father, but YaHushua Himself said: John 14:10 “Do you not believe that I am in The Father, and The Father is in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak from Myself, But The Father; Who stays in Me, does the work.”

Jn. 9:4 “It is necessary for Me to work the works of Him Who sent Me, while it is day...”

Part of the problem here is that most Christians so not realize that it was the pre-incarnate YaHushua Who gave the Torah to Moses. How can we know this? Because YaHushua tells us in:

Jn. 6:46 “No one has seen The Father, except He Who is from Elohim; He has seen The Father.”

Now if no-one (human) has seen The Father at any time, who did Moses; Arron; Nadab; Abihu; and the seventy elders of Isra-El see and eat with in Ex.24? Notice verse 10! Here is a ‘key’ to understanding why we are to keep The Torah; because the pre-incarnate YaHushua is YaHuaH! The Name YaHushua means YaHuaH’s Salvation! This is why Mal.3:6, and Heb.13:8 are so important! If YaHushua had taught that we no longer needed to keep His Torah, He would have broken these words written in His word! That alone would have disqualified Him from becoming our Savior!

Turn now to Wayiqra/Lev. 23. Here we see all of YaHuaH’s Set-Apart times/ Moedim/ Feasts outlined. And pay particular attention to Whose Feasts these are! (verse 2) They are not the “Jews” feasts, nor are they the feasts of Isra-El. These are YaHuaH’s Feasts, and times appointed for us to come before His presence. And note that the very first “appointed time” is His Shabbat, the seventh day Sabbath! It is not a day of our choosing, nor of the churches’ choosing; it is His choosing!

With that, we will now move on to: Where do we keep the Passover? The instructions for keeping the Passover are found in several locations throughout The Torah; aka, the first five Books of The Scriptures or The Books of Moses. And these instructions are very specific! Shemoth/Ex. 12:3, We note here that the Passover lamb is “according to the house of his ‘father’, a lamb for each household” The Passover is meant to be a family feast, kept in the home of the male parent, the

father! (Meditate on that symbolism!) In verse 46 we also see that it is to be eaten only in that house, none is to be removed to another house. And we note that not one bone is to be broken. The people of Isra-El were in the land of Egypt as slaves. The fact that the first Passover was held in Egypt is a very important item to remember, as there are some who claim we cannot keep the 'full' Passover outside the land of Isra-El, or that we cannot keep without 'The Temple'. If they kept the Passover the full forty years of wandering the wilderness, then that whole time was outside "the Land". In Bemidbar/Numbers 9:1+2 we see the people keeping the Passover the second year after coming out of Egypt. Finally; in Shemoth/Ex. 12:14 we again read that we are to "observe 'it' as a festival to YaHuaH throughout "your generations, ....an Everlasting Law." No mention of discontinuing if not in The Land.

Who are those that are to keep The Passover?

Shemoth/Ex. 12:3 "Speak to all the congregation of Isra-El..." It was given to all the people of Isra-El.

Shemoth 12:43-45 prohibits anyone who has not entered into YaH's Covenant with Isra-El from partaking in The Passover lamb. And what is that Covenant? To answer that we must turn back to Bereshith/Gen. 17! There we read about the Covenant promises YaHuaH made with Abraham because of his faithful obedience to YaHuaH's Commands.

(See examples in chapters 12 and 15.) Those Covenant promises were passed down to Abraham's son Yitzchak/Isaac; his grandson Ya'akob/Jacob (who was later called Yahshra-El/Isra-El) and from Ya'akob to the twelve tribes he fathered. There is no place in Scriptures which indicate that these Covenant promises were ever revoked. In fact: the prophets; including Yochanan/John, all speak of a "remnant of Yahshra-El" who inherit YaH's Kingdom. But that is a study all its' own!

The fact remains that only those willing to submit to the conditions of YaHuaH's Covenant with Yahshra-El; as finalized at Mt. Sinai and ratified through the shed blood of our Savior and Passover Lamb; YaHushua, (that blood being placed now upon the door to our heart and mind), and witnessed in the flesh by the circumcision of the foreskin and the heart; only they are to eat of the Passover lamb!

The topic of fleshly circumcision is a 'hot' topic among Christians and

even among some Messianics, but the truth is; there is no Scripture revoking the command to circumcise. Many have twisted the teachings of Paul to justify their stance against circumcision; and indeed, against the whole of Torah, but we need to carefully consider the warning Peter gave us in II Peter 3:15-16.. I also recommend reading and meditating on Rom. 2:25! So; how does circumcision profit if one “keeps The Torah”? Because if one keeps The Torah that being is obligated to keep the Passover; and they are able to enter into the Eternal Covenant! So to summarize; all those who are desirous of entering into a Covenant relationship with YaHuaH, and are circumcised (both heart and [for men] flesh) are allowed to eat/partake of the lamb at the Passover meal. This Covenant relationship is both physical and spiritual; and again, rests on obedience to The Torah. Now; while there is no such restriction on the “bread and wine” pictured in Messiahs’ last Passover with His disciples, Paul does give us a warning about eating it “unworthily”, I Cor. 11:27+29!

There are two other important aspects of The Passover that we need to be aware of. The first we will address concerns the importance of the Passover. This is the only festival of YaHuaH’s Feast Days which has an alternate of second observance in case someone had to miss the ‘first’ Passover due to being on a long trip or being ceremonially unclean, (and while The Scriptures do not include it; I dare say, through sickness). We read of this second Passover in Bemidbar/Num.9:6-13. I find this example a possible precedent for a ‘second chance’ for those who were too far away from Torah truth. And notice I said “possible”!

The other very important aspect we must be aware of is found in Debarim/Deut. 16:5-6. As we read here, the Command is that we do not slaughter/kill the lamb within our own gates; but rather, “at the place where YaHuaH chooses to place His Name”. I bring this up because at one time I was challenged by someone claiming this verse applied to us today.

At the time this was written the Tabernacle had been built, and later the Temple would have been that place where YaHuaH had placed His Set-Apart Name; but today, YaH’s people are in Diaspora/dispersion all over the world. So how do we keep His Passover? Remember; the first Passover and where

it was kept! Also; we have these comforting and important words from our Savior Himself: Matt.18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in their midst.” He places His Name; which is The Name of our Father, with us!

Brothers and Sisters in YaHushua; we have been given a very special and blessed calling. We have been blessed with the opportunity and ability to know the True Messiah! Not the false Christ of this world; who did away with The Torah of blessings. See Debarim/Deut.11:26-27 (it is best to read that entire chapter). The True Messiah kept, and teaches His followers to keep, The Torah, Matt.15:17-20! He; Who through His perfect obedience, qualified to become the ‘sacrifice’ that atones for our sins, if we will claim that sacrifice.

He will; upon His return, marry His ‘bride’. Not a church that refuses to obey The Torah; His Commands which He gave on Mt. Sinai, nor a people who refuse to call Him by His Name. Speaking of His Name; are you aware that there was no letter “j” in any language prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century? So how did we ever come to call on “Jesus”? His True Name means YaHuaH’s Salvation; ‘shua’ means saved or salvation in Hebrew, and YaH is the poetic short form of The Father’s Name. I have often heard the ‘lame’ excuse of: “Well I speak English, so I call him by his English name”. In the first place YaHushua’s Name has a meaning there is no meaning to the so called name of ‘jesus’. Aside from that; I ask you, what is the name of the premiere of Russia? Is that “English” or Russian? You see; we call people by their given name, this is done out of courtesy. We do not ‘make up’ names for people! How much more so for The Almighty? His people will know and use His Set-Apart/Kadosh Name and they will be obedient to their “Husband”! No groom wants a wife who is rebellious and disobedient, no matter how much she claims to love Him! Many are being taught a lie; a lie that teaches them to deny The ‘True’ Messiah by denying His Father and the authority of His Law/Torah!

Brothers and Sisters; we have been given the most important commission of sharing the truth to a deceived world. We are called to be a ‘light’ to the world. A light which reveals The Truth; The Way; and The Life, Matt.28:19-20!

As we keep this Feast of Pesach/Passover, let us remember the  
“Greatest Sacrifice” one can give, Yochanan/Jn.15:13, which was  
demonstrated to us by our “Passover Lamb”; YaHushua HaMashiach!

Baruch Haba b'Shem Adon YaHuaH!    Lucus/Luke 13:35