

Brothers and Sisters in Moshiach YaHushua;

We are gathered here tonight to memorialize the Greatest Gift ever given. A Gift not one of us deserves, yet it is freely given to us by our Father; YaHuaH. That Gift is Salvation and is only available through the shed blood of our Savior and Redeemer; YaHushua HaMoshiach.

Lev. 17:11 (RSTNE) “ for the chayim/life of the flesh is in the dahm/blood, and I have given it to you upon the alter to make keporah/atonement for your beings: **for it is the dahm that makes keporah for your being** “

Most people who read that verse fail to see just how prophetic it is. To understand that, one must first recognize that it is the pre-carnate Messiah who is speaking to Moshe/Moses!

We come forward now to the time of the apostles and speaking of Messiah we read:

Eph. 1:7 “**In Whom we have redemption through His blood; the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His unmerited favor**”

Heb.9:22 “**And almost all things are; by Torah, purged with blood. And without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.**” How are we redeemed?

Rev. 1:5 “**And from YaHushua HaMoshiach, Who is the Faithful witness... Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His blood.**”

One of the great beauties of the moedim; YaHuaH's Feasts, is the symbolism they portray. Just as Moshe was given the vision of the Heavenly Tabernacle; when he was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days, after which to pattern the earthly Tabernacle, he was given the Feasts as a pattern for the full plan of redemption YaHuaH has set forth. That plan begins with the start of a 'new' life cycle. Spring is the return of life and in some cases the very beginning of a new life. Passover symbolizes the beginning of a new life as well; a new life in redemption, bought with the blood of The Lamb! We can see this picture in Ex. 12:2-20 as YaHuaH lays out the pattern for keeping The Pesach!

Ex. 12:2 “**This moon/month shall be for you**” the beginning of moons; **it shall be the first moon/month of the year for you.**” (New year=New Life in Messiah).

Ex. 12:3+5 “... in the tenth day of this (first) moon they shall take for themselves; every man, a lamb....**Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.**” **Our Messiah was/is the Unblemished Lamb of Elohim!**

Ex.12:6 “...and the whole assembly...**shall kill it between the evenings**”

“Between the evenings” refers to a time in the mid-afternoon. In Ancient Israel the lengthening of the shadows marked the 'first evening' and the mid-point between the zenith and sunset marked the beginning of the 'second' evening. This is the approx. time that YaHushua was executed, with His death occurring

just before nightfall.

Ex.12:7 **“And they shall take the blood, and strike it on the two doorposts and on the upper doorpost of their houses...”** We must accept the blood of Moshiaich on the doorposts of our hearts. It is this acceptance of His blood sacrifice that cleanses us of our sins!

Ex.12:8-10 **“And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roasted with fire, with matzah and with bitter herbs...it's head with it's legs,with the inside parts...and you shall let nothing remain unti the morning...”**

YaHushua faced His “trial by fire” at the hands of the priesthood as well as by the Roman guards. We need to take that 'internally'; contemplating deeply re: that sacrifice; realizing that He knew exactly what fate lay await for Him. Is.53!

Ex.12:11 **“And this is how you shall eat it; with your loins dressed, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in a great hurry; IT IS YAHUAH's PESACH!!!**

We are to “eat The Word”; ingest it! Ready to go out on The “Great Commission” given to us in Mt. 28:19-20!!! And 'in a hurry'; WITH URGENCY!

Ex.12:14 **“And this day shall be to you for a memorial, and you shall guard it as a moed to YaHuaH throughout your generations...by a right ruling la-olam-va-ed/FOREVER!”**

It is obvious by this last verse that we are expected to keep this **memorial** throughout **all time**. A '**memorial**' is **something which stirs up a remembrance**. And as we read of YaHushua's last Pesach before His execution in we see that He now institutes another symbol for His flesh.

Luke 22:19 **“And He took the matzah, and said the blessing, and He broke it and gave it to them saying:This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.”**

The memorial no longer rests on the Pesach lamb to represent our Master Yahushua; He has now designated the matzah/unleavened bread to be that representation. This; however, does not negate the command in Ex. 12 regarding the Pesach lamb. As we have seen in our earlier reading, every household was to take a male lamb of the first year and slaughter it in keeping the Passover. It was not just a command while they were in Egypt, for we see Josiah re-instituting the Pesach in II Chron.35!

In Matt. 16:6-11 we see our Master referring to the 'leaven' of the Pharisees. He is equating leaven with sin/iniquity. So as the “unleavened bread” is without leaven, He too was without sin/leaven!

So we see that the symbolism found in the Pesach has much for us to learn from and holds much value as a teaching instrument!

This concludes the teaching portion of the Pesach and now leads me in my personal sharing of observations and will end with a subject which has bothered me for many years.

For the past 13 years I have been keeping Passover in accordance with Torah, as best as understood and was able. I have hosted Passover based on the outline found in Ex. 12 for 12 of those years; again, as best as I understood and was able. Last year; because I grew lax and overly confident in someone else, we ended up slaughtering a female lamb. As a zechanim/elder; and as the host, I should have discovered this in my inspection of the lamb. But I had put my trust in the farmer I purchased the lamb from to fulfill my request from him. Thus I failed in my duty to fulfill Torah.

In a few short weeks I will be 72 years of age. Well past the term Torah required the priests to serve in the slaughterings and offerings. I no longer have the stamina nor the strength required to slaughter; skin; and prepare a lamb. I had hoped that by the time I reached this time in my life I would have mentored someone to take over this position; at least this portion of the Passover. But such has not been the case. Because of this fact, this year's Passover was done without any lamb. The Torah is very explicit concerning what exactly is required of the lamb and I will not try to substitute for it. As pointed out in the Pesach lesson; our Master did re-institute the unleavened bread as the substitute, so I have no problem with this. (Luke 22:19). I have also held much regret in the past that so much of the lamb went to waste. To kill a lamb for the benefit of one or two people just does not set right with me. It is after all; innocent blood.

So this year we gathered for a supper; went through the verses mentioned in the lesson; and partook of the emblems of matzah and wine which YaHushua est. at His last Pesach with His talmidim.

All that we have done over the years has; in reality, been a practice. We do not have the Zadok priesthood to teach us the right way to keep Pesach. What we do have is the Ruach HaKodesh of YaHuaH to lead us. But who is to say that any of us are in complete compliance? Who can say that they have all things in perfect understanding? We read in.....

Mal. 4:5+6 **“Behold, I will send you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of YaHuaH, and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their Father, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse through utter destruction.”** Just as ancient Israel had to set themselves apart for three days before YaHuaH could meet with them at Mt. Sinai, we will have to be prepared and made ready to meet Master YaHushua when He returns. Certain principles need to be 'restored'. One of the principles that we will need to learn was the subject which the 12 disciples discussed among themselves and YaHushua had to clarify for them as we see in Mark 9:35. In verse 34 of chapter 9 we see that the disciples were arguing among themselves as to who should be the greatest; who should become the 'leader' after YaHushua was killed, as per His discussion in verse 31. YaHushua's reply: Mark 9:35 **“...If any man desires to be first, the same shall be last of all, AND SERVANT OF ALL”**

When I first started hosting and 'teaching' others about keeping the moedim and Torah principles, it was not with the intent or the desire to be a leader! It was to facilitate others coming to understand Torah principles. In the 50 plus years that I have been learning and practicing Torah I have never looked upon myself as a leader. My service has been solely to show others the joy I have taken in serving YaHuaH. It was simply putting into practice what the Ruach HaKodesh had shown me in...

Mark 12:29-31 **“And YaHushua answered him, 'The first mitzvah/command is; Shema Israel; The Master YaHuaH is our Eloah/Mighty One, The Master YaHuaH is echad/one. And you shall love the Master YaHuaH your Eloah with all your heart; and with all your being; and with all your strength: This is the first and greatest Command, and the second is like it, namely this; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. T here is no other Command greater than these.”**

Ultimately we are called to be “servants” of YaHuaH. Our service to YaHuaH is given to us in the “Great Commission”...

Matt. 28:19-20 **“Go therefore, and make talmidim of all nations, doing mikvah/immersion in My Name; Teaching them to shomer/guard all things which I have commanded you...”**

Master YaHushua gave us the perfect example of a “servant leader”. Even though He is “The Master” and “The Son of Elohim” He humbled Himself and washed the feet of His talmidim...

John 13:3-17 (only verses 14-16 quoted here) **“If I then, your Rabbi and Master, have washed your feet; you also should wash one anothers' feet For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. Amein, amein; I say to you, the eved/servant is not greater than his Master; neither is He that is sent greater than He that sent Him”.**

Our Master and Redeemer came as the 'suffering servant' in His first advent as human form, not only to teach, and heal; but above all; to pay the penalty due us for our sins; our Torahlessness!

Should we not also serve in whatever capacity we are able, to follow YaHushua's example?

This concluded our Pesach discussion, so now I will breach the subject which has been on my mind for some time.

I have heard several differing takes on this matter, but have never seen any defining word which can be backed up with Scripture; which for me, is the final word!

In all four of the Besorah's we read of YaHushua keeping the Pesach the evening prior to the Yahudim. Yes; I have heard many proclaim that this was a talmid's

Pesach, a teaching Pesach as it were, but where in Scripture is there a precedent for that claim? I have not found it.

If it is indeed a teaching service; should we not be keeping it as “The Remembrance”? And following up the next evening with the Pesach.?

I would appreciate any thoughts others may have.