



The Chosen People

This spring, won't you help your Jewish friends find ...

Messiah In The Passover

"... do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:24

In this issue:

- ☐ How elements of the Passover point to the true Messiah
- ☐ Sam Nadler on leading Jewish friends to the Messiah at Passover
- ☐ Beth El Shaddai — Chosen People's latest outreach to L.A



Finding Messiah: The Metaphor of the Meal

The Passover is a fascinating and stirring picture, not only of God's work in delivering His chosen people out of Egyptian bondage, but of His continuing work in delivering all people, everywhere, from the enslavement of sin.

Because the living imagery of the Passover celebration is so poignant, pointed, and powerful, this meal offers a marvelous opportunity — perhaps the best of any Jewish festival — to introduce lost Jewish people both to the sweet fellowship of believers, and to many beautiful illustrations of what great things God has done to set His people free.



Candles — “Arise, shine; for your light has come!” the prophet Isaiah wrote, foretelling the glory of Israel in the coming day of the Messiah. Today, as we light the Passover candles, we remember that Yeshua (Jesus) said, “I am the Light of the world (John 9:5).”

Unleavened bread — The Jews hurrying to leave Egypt hadn't time to wait for their bread to rise; consequently, they ate unleavened bread as they fled that nation. In the New Testament, leaven is frequently used as a metaphor for sin (Galatians 5:9), and so the unleavened bread reminds us that Yeshua, the Messiah, came as “the Bread of Life (John 6:35).”

Pitcher and basin — As the father washes his hands in the ceremonial cleansing at the beginning of the Passover meal, we are reminded that it was at this same juncture that Yeshua took the basin to wash the feet of His disciples (John 13) ... a dramatic underscoring of Messiah's role as the Suffering Servant sent by God to “cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).”



Bitter herbs — These herbs remind us of the bitterness of life for the Jews in Egyptian slavery ... and the ultimate bitterness of life for all those who live in sin without the Messiah.

Salt water — The dipping of parsley in salt water reminds us of the tears of the chosen people during their Egyptian bondage, and of the Red Sea, parted so that the Jews could leave Egypt. It also helps us to remember the Messiah foretold by Isaiah, "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (53:3)," who made it possible for all men to pass from death unto life.

Lamb — The shank bone of a lamb is a reminder of the lamb that was served at Passover. The lamb's blood that was sprinkled over every doorpost, so that the angel of death might pass over and leave the family unharmed. Yeshua, the Messiah, was proclaimed as "the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)" ... and it is through His blood that all men now find salvation and eternal life.



Reclining seats — The Passover is frequently eaten in a reclining position, because, traditionally, only free men enjoyed the luxury of eating in this position. Thus, we are reminded not only of the freedom found by our forefathers during the Passover, but of the freedom found in the Messiah, Yeshua, Who said, "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28)."



Matzoh — The Matzoh Tash (Matzoh Napkin) contains three pieces of matzoh. The middle piece of Matzoh is broken, removed and hidden. Once found, it is blessed, broken into small pieces, and distributed to each person at the table. For believers in Messiah, this is a beautiful symbol of the Three — Jehovah the Father, Yeshua the Son, and the Holy Spirit — and of the sacrifice made by the Son, Who came as our Messiah. "This is My body," He said, as He broke the Matzoh, "broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me (1 Corinthians 11:24)."

Sweets — The bitter suffering of our forefathers was sweetened by their hope in God ... a hope that found fulfillment in deliverance and in "a land flowing with milk and honey." Yeshua, the long hoped-for Messiah, was the sweet fulfillment of an even greater promise, and said: "I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10)."

Just as the Matzoh is made available to everyone at the Passover table, so the sacrifice and salvation made by Yeshua on the cross is made available to every one who believes in Him. This Passover, please make a special effort to reach out to your lost Jewish friends, and to make available to them this good news of the true Messiah, come to deliver them from the slavery of sin.





“Behold, the Lamb!”

by Sam Nadler

God's first direction to Moses and Aaron with regard to the Passover had to do not with lambs and leaven, bread and blood ... but with the calendar.

“This month shall be your beginning of months,” He said. “It shall be the first month of the year to you (Exodus 12:2).” God's command was not just for redemption and deliverance ... it was for a new beginning. And, though the Hebrew calendar drifted from that directive during the Babylonian captivity (so that today Jews celebrate the new year, Rosh Hashanah, in the fall), the pattern is clear throughout the writings of the Old Covenant — every other holy day is dated in relation to Passover. In any description of the festivals, Passover is mentioned first.

That is a stark indication of the significance God Himself attaches to this particular celebration ... clearly, He has defined Passover — the point of redemption — the new birth — as the focal point and starting point of His relationship with His chosen people, even as we look ahead to the Jewish people's final salvation as a nation (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 53; Romans 11:26).

That's why it's so crucial that we see the beautiful

parallels between the events of Passover — God's ultimate physical deliverance of His chosen people — and the life of Yeshua, the Messiah ... Who came to accomplish God's ultimate spiritual deliverance of all people.

Everything in the first Passover hinged on the lamb ... on each family's willingness to prepare the lamb, and participate in the shedding of its blood, and on God's commitment to protect those who took refuge in that lamb's sacrifice.

It was near the time of the Passover preparations that John the Baptist — the one gifted by God to prepare the way for the coming of His people's Messiah — pointed to Yeshua, standing on the banks of the Jordan, and proclaimed: “Behold! The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)!”

The Passover was at hand; preparing the lamb was on everyone's mind. And this prophet pointed to Yeshua and said, in effect: “That's Him! That's the One Passover is all about!”

Indeed, throughout the New Covenant writings, Yeshua is referred to not only as the Messiah, but as the embodiment of all that the Passover represents. Paul, a

Jewish rabbi who came to believe in Yeshua as the Messiah, wrote: "Indeed, Christ ("Messiah" in Greek), our Passover, was sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7)."

The keys to our own saving relationship with the Messiah, then, are found in essential elements of the Passover story.

First, we must make preparations. At the time of the first Passover, the Jews prepared for the coming event by preparing a lamb — perfect and unblemished. We must also prepare our hearts for the perfect sacrifice of Yeshua ... by recognizing Him as the perfect Son of God, unblemished by sin — the only one worthy to die for the sins of His people.

Second, we must participate in the sacrifice. We must trust in the power of the Lamb to save us. The Jews did this by spreading the lamb's blood on their doorposts. This was an outward testimony of the inward participation as they had nourished themselves with the lamb before their exodus from Egypt. So, too, when we are freed from the bondage of sin by the blood of the Lamb, our lives become an outward testimony to the world of the inward working of the Messiah.

Finally, we must believe in the protection of the Lamb. The Jews spent Passover night in their homes, believing God would protect them and, through what He was doing, bring them out of bondage. We, too, must believe that, whatever the circumstances around us, God is working to deliver those who believe in Him from the slavery of sin. Nothing, but nothing, Paul wrote, "shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39)."

Don't pass over the Passover. And don't let pass any opportunity to use these days and elements to help others find redemption — and a new beginning — in the Messiah.



NEWS BRIEFS

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA — TWO CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES EVANGELISTIC CRUSADES IN THIS CITY (LED BY CPM'S SOUTH AMERICA DIRECTOR, ROBERTO PASSO) DREW A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE. FOUR JEWISH PEOPLE ACCEPTED YESHUA AS THE MESSIAH ... AND 168 GENTILE MADE THE SAME DECISION. THESE SPECIAL OUTREACHES ARE IN ADDITION TO THE ONGOING CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY IN BUENOS AIRES.

KFAR SABA, ISRAEL — CPM'S BEIT SAR SHALOM CONGREGATION HAS SEEN SIX JEWISH PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS OF FAITH RECENTLY: HELENA, NADIA, LUBA, ROMAN, SOPHIA AND BORIS — ALL OF WHOM NEED PRAYER AS THEY GROW IN THEIR NEWFOUND FAITH. THEY RECENTLY HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED.

"HEARING THE WORD OF GOD FEELS SO GOOD INSIDE," BORIS SAYS. "WHILE MY HEAD DOES NOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING, MY HEART DOES!"

TORONTO, CANADA — OVER 80 JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE VIDEO, "JESUS," DISTRIBUTED BY CPM'S BETH SAR SHALOM CONGREGATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST. CPM MISSIONARIES AND CONGREGATION MEMBERS HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME TO FOLLOW UP ON THE VIDEO DISTRIBUTION WITH SURVEYS EXPLORING VIEWERS' RESPONSES TO WHAT THEY'VE SEEN.

Beth El Shaddai: The Start Of Something Big

When sharing gets tough, the tough go shopping — or at least to the mall.



That, at least, was the decision a Chosen People Ministry outreach, Beth El Shaddai fellowship in Lomita, California, hit upon during the busy holiday season. Volunteers from the fellowship (which only formed in early October) distributed some 9,000 pieces of literature at a local mall in one day — as well as some 2,000 complimentary shopping bags, 48 New Testaments and 14 Bibles. In all, 54 people (one-third of them Jewish) stopped to listen to the gospel message ... and six accepted the Messiah.



Not bad for a five-month old fellowship ... but then the people of Beth El Shaddai have already established a remarkable reputation for evangelism. Chosen People missionary Don Meecha says the core group "is phenomenal in inviting unsaved Jewish people ... they go out of their way to invite friends and neighbors, and even people they are just acquaintances with."

The outgrowth of a three-year weekly Bible study in a substantially Jewish Los Angeles area, Beth El Shaddai hit the ground running in October when months of evangelism training and spiritual and organizational planning resulted in what Meecha describes as "a fantastic crowd" for the fellowship's first evening service.

Doorhangers, mass mailings, and a sprinkling of radio commercials continue to draw many inquiries and visitors to the fellowship's monthly meetings and weekly home Bible studies. Core group members and leaders hope to build even further on that interest in the months ahead, as the fellowship becomes a full-fledged congregation and begins meeting weekly for worship.

Chosen People Ministries is paying particularly close attention to developments with the Beth El Shaddai fellowship, because it is the first congregation being developed according to CPM's comprehensive new guide to congregation planting, and because Don Meecha is a new missionary, still raising his support for full-time ministry. If the effort continues to produce such dramatic results, Beth El Shaddai will be an even greater encouragement to other new fellowships and workers in the U.S.

In the meantime, this fellowship's cooking right along.

People

For 88 years, Rose Eisler has lived the life of a devout Jew. Raised in an exceptionally kosher Baltimore home, she grew up washing three sets of dishes — the meat plates, the dairy plates, and the Passover plates — and keeping everything about them separate.

A few years ago, Rose moved to Coral Springs, Florida ... and last year, visited Chosen People Ministries' Messianic Fellowship in that city. She carried along her father-in-law's Bible. Over 100 years old, it contained only the Old Covenant.

The Old Covenant was enough. As Missionary Winn Crenshaw read from the prophet Isaiah ... the veil was lifted for Rose. She accepted the Messiah.

"It's so plain to see that He is the Messiah through the Scriptures," she says ... and now she's looking forward to celebrating Passover again — with a difference.

This time, she knows the Lamb.



"Carol" wasn't sure what to think about the Son of David congregation. A middle-aged Jewish woman, she'd been visiting a variety of different churches for the last few years, never quite finding one she could be comfortable in.

The hesitancy on her face this morning was clear ... until the congregation began to sing. The liturgy brought a smile to her face. The music soon had her clapping and bouncing up and down in her seat.

"I don't know about this Jesus stuff," she told Missionary Scott Brown afterward, "but I really feel at home here."

Carol kept coming "home," week after week. Finally, at the close of a simple gospel message, she leapt to her feet from the front row of the congregation. "I just want everyone to know that I believe," she said. "I believe!"

Her fellow believers flowed down to embrace her. Some people, they know, are worth waiting for.



Messiah In The Passover Broadcast To Air Nationwide

Passover season is our principal opportunity to reach a major segment of the American public with the good news of the Messiah as seen in the Passover celebration.

"Messiah In The Passover" — a video retelling of the events and traditions of Passover from an evangelistic perspective — will be nationally syndicated this year, reaching a potential viewing audience of 25 million.

This is, of course, a remarkable chance to reach Jewish people across the country who might never venture into a local congregation or even pick up a tract or book on the gospel. Please be in special prayer for the staff of Chosen People Ministries as they attempt to maximize the impact of this tremendous outreach ...

... and for all those watching during this Passover season, that their hearts might be opened to the simple, saving truth of the Messiah.



What Is Your Age Of Accountability?

"As your years, so shall your wisdom be," the Scriptures tell us, and that's as much true of financial wisdom as of every other kind. Whatever your age in years, there are specific things you can and should be doing to insure the financial security of your family, not only now, but after you're gone.

If you're in your 20s and 30s, you should be:

- Making a will
- Buying disability income insurance
- Buying life insurance
- Tithing

In your 40s and 50s, you should be:

- Reviewing and updating your will
- Considering a revocable living trust
- Considering transferring your life insurance to a trust

If you're 60 or older, you should be:

- Reviewing and updating your will
- Reducing your taxable estate by making tax-free gifts
- Increasing your income through a charitable gift annuity or other planned giving program

For more information on these and other planned giving opportunities, use the reply form enclosed with this newsletter or call Chosen People Ministries' own David Gage at 1-800-776-3927.



**It's the perfect gift
for the Passover
season — and it's
yours this month
for any gift of \$35
or more to Chosen
People Ministries.**

**Treat Your
Jewish Friends
To A Meal That
Will Change Their
Lives Forever ...**

“Messiah In The Passover”

A video retelling of the events and traditions of the Passover from an evangelistic perspective, this film illumines every aspect of the celebration — in terms not only of its historical resonance, but its spiritual significance in understanding the Messiah.

If you've been looking for a clear, effective way to communicate the underlying truths of the gospel in Jewish terms ... this is it.

The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

For more information or to receive The Chosen People newsletter by including your gift of \$25 or more, write to Chosen People Ministries 1300 Cross Beam Charlotte, NC 28217
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