

The Chosen People



Volume VII, Issue 3 March 2001

Passover: A Call to Purity

**PULL-OUT
PASSOVER
LESSON**
(see page 31)

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Dear friends,

Shalom from New York City. Passover is just around the corner!

Jewish people everywhere are thinking about menus and invitation lists. In a world where family members seem to scatter to the four winds, the Passover Seder is a much-anticipated time of reunion and celebration.

It is also a wonderful time for reflection. When we look at our loved ones around the Seder table, we sadly notice who is missing. We marvel at how quickly the children have grown. We take note of who has gotten married and who has not. Time marches on and at Passover we are reminded of it.

The thoughts of many Jewish people around the world turn toward the Passover themes of redemption, salvation and freedom from bondage. As a Messianic Jewish believer, my thoughts also turn to Jesus during Passover. I see Yeshua in a whole new light. His death and resurrection take



on greater meaning against the background of the Exodus from Egypt. Let me explain.

The Lost Lessons of Passover

One of the important parts of celebrating Passover is eating *matzah*—unleavened bread. Zhava has some thoughts for us about eating matzah, along with some recommended ways to fulfill this duty!

Although matzah is an important part of Passover, the unleavened bread also has great symbolic value in other parts of Scripture and Jewish thought. Leaven is a picture of the subtlety of sin (Mark 8:14-16). As leaven spreads throughout the dough that it invades, so sin invades and corrupts the life that it touches.

The Festival of Unleavened Bread is a reminder to those who have been redeemed to live pure lives in submission to the Word of God. I think this is one of the lost lessons of Passover.

Most believers in Jesus know that the Lord's Supper was first of all a Passover Seder. During that Seder, Jesus revealed Himself as the promised Redeemer, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He also instructed His disciples in every age as to the way they should live.

It was during the Last Seder that Yeshua taught His disciples a lesson that is so often ignored. Even as the Savior of the world was willing to wash the dirty feet of those who followed Him (John 13:14-16), we should be willing to serve both Him and others in purity and humility.

Everyday Purity

I love the Passover season. It reminds me of the purity of my Messiah Jesus and of His call upon each of us to live a pure life. As the Apostle Paul described,

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. 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 (1 Corinthians 5:7-8).

Paul is not merely suggesting that we partake of the Lord's Supper with pure hearts. He says that we should live each day in the same godly way we keep the Feast!

Yes, Jesus is the Lamb of God. He is the Redeemer. And He is the One who lived a perfect life—a pure, unleavened life—because He was God in the flesh. He is the example of the kind of life that His redeemed people should seek to live.

May the Lord give you strength this Passover to put away the leaven in life and live in purity so that the power of the Gospel might be unleashed through you...to the Jew first and also to the Gentile (Romans 1:16).

Have a happy and blessed Passover/Resurrection season.

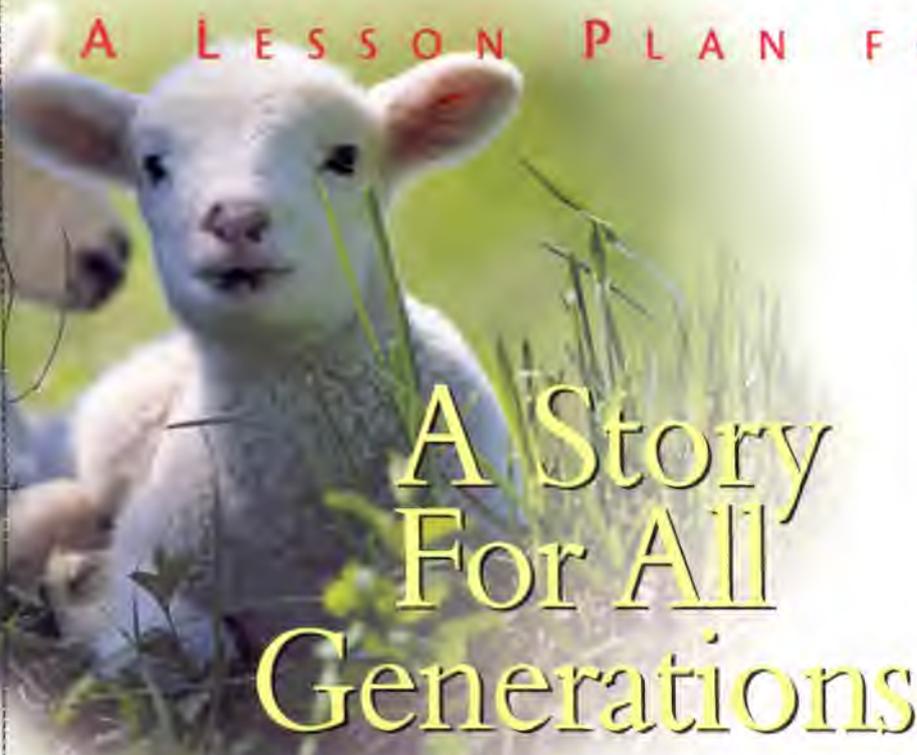
Yours in Him,

Mitch
Mitch



Mitch Glaser
President

A Call to Purity: Messiah in the Passover



A Story For All Generations

...God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations'" (Exodus 3:15).

Bible teachers have long known the value of telling stories. Children especially respond to the drama of the mighty events of the Scriptures as they unfold the story of God's people. The scope of Bible history, and the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah, comprise "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

For many centuries, the story of Passover has been one of the primary means through which the next generation of Jewish children is ushered into the glorious tale of God's purpose for Israel. Observant Jewish parents view the celebration of Passover as a sacred duty, for if only one generation of Jewish parents fails to guide its children in the discovery and affirmation of their Jewish identity, then it would be lost from memory.

Christian educators have also discovered that the Feast of Passover is a wonderful teaching tool. Its variety of tastes and colors brings home a message that will not be forgotten. For this purpose, we have designed the following lesson plan geared specifically for Sunday School teachers, homeschoolers and home Bible study groups. The lesson can be split into several weeks, if desired.

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

To tell the story of Passover with emphasis on Jesus' fulfillment of God's promise to His people.

I. Israel in Egypt

- Touch upon the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50), stressing God's faithfulness and Joseph's obedience.
- You may want to teach a bit about Egyptian civilization, emphasizing the difference between Egypt's belief in the deity of the pharaohs and Israel's faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

II. The Story of Moses

Exodus 1-6 contains the account of Moses' birth and his calling as Israel's deliverer. Give particular attention to:

- Israel's plight under Pharaoh
- God's protection of the infant Moses
- Moses' calling from God at the burning bush

III. Moses and Pharaoh – "Let my people go!"

- Tell the story of Moses and Aaron's confrontation with Pharaoh and his court. Don't forget the plagues!
- Talk about the Passover in Exodus 12—how God used the blood of the lamb to protect the children of Israel from the wrath of God's just judgement.

IV. The Exodus

Exodus 12-14 describes how God delivered the children of Israel from Pharaoh and his armies.

- Talk about how the children of Israel made their preparations to leave Egypt, particularly the unleavened bread
- Point out how God parted the Red Sea for them to escape.

V. The New Testament

Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22 all describe the Last Supper/Seder and how Jesus and the disciples prepared for and celebrated the Passover on the last night of Jesus' earthly ministry.

- Use the elements of the Passover meal listed on the other side to illustrate this.



Activities:

The story of the Exodus and its relationship to the ministry of Jesus can be wonderfully illustrated using the elements of the Passover. This hands-on activity is most effective when the teacher explains the meaning of each of the elements and then allows the students to partake of them together. They are easy to obtain and to prepare:

- 1) **Matzah** – the unleavened bread. This is a symbol of the affliction suffered by the children of Israel in Egypt. They had to depart from Egypt so quickly that there was no time to wait for their bread to rise (Exodus 12:33-34). Supermarkets where there are Jewish communities usually stock matzah—otherwise it can be ordered.
- 2) **Grape juice** – this is the symbol for the blood of the Passover lamb.
- 3) **The shankbone of a lamb** – reminds us of the sacrifice for sin.
- 4) **Parsley sprigs** – used to illustrate the hyssop that the children of Israel used to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintels of their homes during the plague of the slaying of the firstborn (Exodus 11:4-7, 12:21-24, 12:29-30).
- 5) **Salt water** – the parsley sprigs are dipped into bowls of salt water, which symbolize the tears the Israelites shed when they were slaves. The salt water also represents the water of the Red Sea.
- 6) **Horseradish** – the horseradish is eaten with the matzah. It is also symbolic of the bitterness of slavery.
- 7) **Charoseth** – this is a tasty mixture of ground apples, nuts and raisins that is also eaten with matzah. It represents the mortar the children of Israel used to make the bricks when they toiled as Pharaoh's builders.



The Passover is a wonderful teaching opportunity. It makes a living connection between God's faithfulness to the Jewish people and the salvation He offers through the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah. Have fun with it!

Things to Emphasize:

- God's compassion for the children of Israel in their unhappy condition as slaves. Use this to illustrate God's love for people and His anger toward wickedness and cruelty.
- The ministries of Moses and Jesus—draw the connection between Moses, who delivered the children of Israel from the physical bondage of slavery, and Jesus, who saves us from the bondage of our sins. As Moses led the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt into the Promised Land of Israel, Jesus leads us from the world of darkness to the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus' use of the unleavened bread and the cup at the Last Supper—how He took the already existing elements of the Passover (the bread of affliction and the blood of the Passover lamb), expanded their meaning and applied them to Himself.
- Talk about the Jewish people and their need to know Jesus as their Messiah. Explore ways to share Jesus with Jewish friends and neighbors and encourage your listeners to pray for and support missionaries who are sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people.



Visit our web site, www.chosenpeople.com, for more Passover resources.

I come from a long line of Orthodox rabbis. My paternal grandfather, a rabbi, came to this country from Austria. The tradition has been carried on to this day by two of my uncles—one in Oak Park, Michigan, and another in Chicago.

As strictly observant as we were, my parents were divorced—an almost unheard of event in our rigidly defined community. Yet the Lord used this family tragedy to open doors. You see, my father had done everything possible to guard us from ever hearing about Jesus. With my dad gone, my mother moved her five children from the suburbs to the city and went to work. A new world opened to us.

I made friends with a boy who invited me to attend the Vacation Bible School at his church. He wanted to win the trophy for bringing the most visitors. Since he was my buddy, I decided to go. Although I had never been in a church before and I did not understand much of what was going on, I enjoyed it.

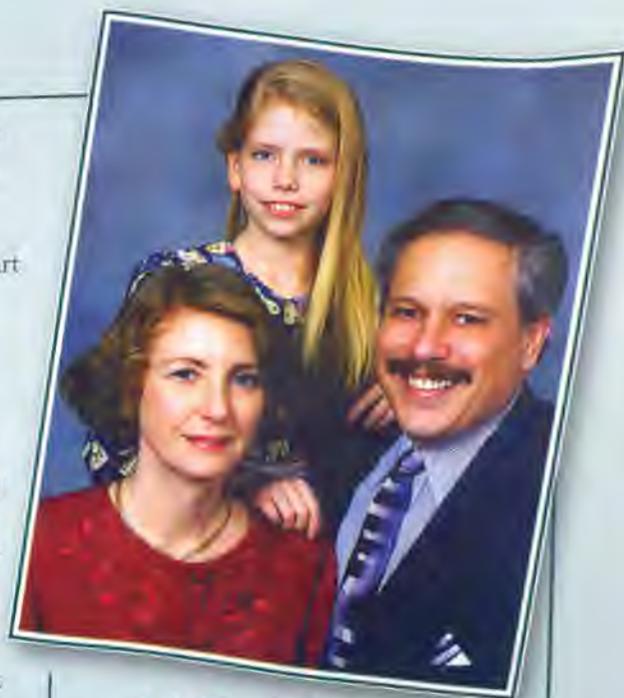
Later that summer, the youth director at that church somehow convinced my mother to allow my older sisters to attend their youth camp. I can still hear my mother telling them they could go, but they must not listen to a thing they were told.

Well, the first thing out of my oldest sister's mouth when she got home was that she had trusted Jesus as her Savior. Mom decided to allow us to go to church. However, she would have no part of it herself.

The following Sunday night, my friend's brother took me to visit the pastor. He told the pastor I wanted to become a "Hebrew Christian." The pastor prayed, but I had no idea what they were talking about. It was not until I was a teenager that the Lord began to convince me of my need to accept Jesus as my Messiah. I wrestled with this decision for an entire year. Finally on March 9, 1969, I stopped fighting and accepted Him as my Messiah and Savior.

The Lord has worked wonders in my family. I have to smile when I think that because my friend wanted to win a trophy, my four sisters, my mother, my mother's parents (while in their 80s) and I have all come to faith in Jesus the Messiah.

Following my salvation, the Lord called me to preach. I have served Him in full-time ministry for almost 22 years, first as a pastor and now as National Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries, where I have the joy of preaching in almost 100 churches a year. It is a blessing and a privilege to convey the



Al Reichman: Rabbinic Roots to Messiah's Servant

burden of my heart to them—the need of reaching the Jewish people of the world with the Gospel of the Messiah.

Some Thoughts about Matzah

by Zhava Glaser

Cardboard. Yum.

Not two words you usually think of together? Especially not if you grew up in a Jewish home, celebrating Passover. If you did, then surely you know why matzah is called by our forefathers, "the bread of affliction."

Flat, tasteless, matzah—we have to eat it for a whole week at Passover. No

bagels, no *biahs*...not even a slice of Wonder Bread! What a recipe for disaster! But our people have always found a way to cope in difficult times. Thus it is that over the last few millennia, countless different ways have developed of—shall we say—enhancing matzah to make it somewhat left of palatable.

Take matzah and butter, for example. One of life's little pleasures...especially if it's egg and onion matzah.

Our kids have come up with even better ways to cope. Take, for instance, our daughter Miriam's "Famous Cheese-on-Matzah." She insists she invented it. Ever since Miriam was three, she has been cooking up this delicacy—her specialty—for any guests that bless our home on Passover. To make it, you take a slice of cheese, plop it on half a matzah,

and toast it in the toaster oven. Voila!

Mitch, though, lives on his father's recipe for *matzah brei*. Just soak a whole bunch of matzah in water till it's very floppy, and fry it up with onions, egg, onions, garlic, onions, a little salt, and onions. How he dares to put ketchup on it before he eats it is anybody's guess.

Now I have discovered perhaps the best way to cope with the Passover Matzah Blahs: just stop by Zabar's (or zabars.com if you don't live in New York City) and pick up a box of twice-dipped, ultra-dark-chocolate-covered matzah. There's nothing like it. The super-intense, bittersweet chocolate coating bursts in your mouth and so overpowers you with endorphins that you hardly notice the cardboard that lurks within.

Almost makes you look forward to next Passover!

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



Amos 7-9

THE PLAGUES AND PROMISES OF AMOS THE PROPHET

We all know the old adage, "There's bad news and there's good news..." In chapters 7-9 of the book that bears his name,

Amos the prophet delivers a goodly dose of both. The bad news takes the form of a five-fold vision of judgment from the Lord. The good news is Amos' vision of Israel's future golden age, revealed through five magnificent promises of restoration.

FIVE PLAGUES OF JUDGMENT (7:1-9:10)

1) *The vision of the locust plague* (7:1-3) occurs after the "latter rains" of April (4:7). There would not be another growth of grass until the "early rains" of October. Meanwhile, farmers were at the mercy of locusts. God heard Amos' prayer (7:2) and the plague was averted.

2) *The vision of the fire* (7:4-6) refers to drought, when the fierce, burning sun withers all growth and the pools of precious water dry up.

Again, the prophet prays and God responds in mercy.

3) *The vision of the plumb line* (7:7-9) reveals the Lord beside a stone wall built with a plumb line, an ancient measuring tool in construction. After measuring His people, God found them so warped by sin that judgment would be forthcoming (9:8, 9).

4) *The vision of the summer fruit basket* (8:1-14) illustrates how Israel was ripe for judgment, even as the basket of fruit was ripe for eating. Israel was a nation nearing the end of her existence, ripe for the judgment of God.

5) *The vision of God at the altar* (9:1-10) reveals the Lord as Judge. The Lord Himself speaks, "Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake . . ." (9:1). Judgment will no longer be put off.

These five visions show the Lord destroying the idol worship that had polluted Israel. There is no possible escape from the just judgment of the Lord (9:2).

THE FIVE PROMISES OF ISRAEL'S RESTORATION (9:11-15)

1) In Amos 9:11, the "tabernacle of David" refers to the degraded condition of the Davidic monarchy. Through David's greater Son (Messiah), the kingdom of David will be restored.

2) In the first part of Amos 9:12, Edom, the land of Esau, stands for all Israel's enemies. They will be overcome in the future day when Messiah returns (Isaiah 2:1-4).

3) The future revival among the Gentiles (9:12b) will come when the message of salvation sounds forth from Israel. James quotes this verse in Acts 15:16-17 to confirm the reality of Gentile conversions.

4) The reversal of the earth's curse (9:13), "...the days are coming...when the plowman shall overtake the reaper," is a vivid picture of the abundance of God's blessing. Scarcely will the farmer finish plowing when the seed planted will be ripe for harvest.

5) In 9:14, Amos promises that Israel will be restored from her centuries-long dispersion. She will joyfully rebuild her cities and inhabit them.

All these five promises for Israel will be fulfilled in Messianic times. What must we do in the meantime? What men and women of faith have always done—wait, pray, trust and obey. ✨

Salvation Comes to Two Sisters

The Messianic congregation led by Chosen People Ministries' staff member Larry Feldman continues to be an instrument of salvation in the lives of Jewish visitors. Not long ago, an older Jewish woman brought her daughter to a service for the first time. Afterwards, the daughter said she loved the service and the preaching, and she prayed and asked Yeshua into her heart.

The next week, this new believer brought her sister to the service. The sister had the same response! What a blessing to see a mother and her two daughters, now all believers, worshipping the Lord together.

Two Letters from Paul

Chosen People Ministries' outreach in Buenos Aires continues to bring fruit for the Kingdom. James* is a Jewish man who grudgingly began to attend services to placate his believing wife. The first time he came, he refused to listen to anything about the Messiah.

Bit by bit, as he made some friends, he became open to their testimonies about new life in Yeshua. Finally, after one service, he raised his hand and told the Bible teacher that he believed Yeshua was the Messiah and wanted to accept Him.

How did it happen? He recently shared, "I received two letters from someone named Paul who made me change my mind." The letters turned out to be 1 and 2 Corinthians!

Berlin Congregation Still Growing

Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation in Berlin is continuing to meet the needs of a growing population of Jewish seekers who are attending its meetings. At a recent service, the facility was so full that when someone tried to count the adults, he lost track at about 170! There were more than 30 Jewish seekers who came for the first time, some of them from the Orthodox Jewish community. The congregation's members shared their testimonies and invited people to return. One man received the Lord that day and then three more of the new visitors became believers the next time they came.

From Excommunication to Messiah

Not long ago, an older Jewish woman began attending Chosen People Ministries' congregation in Montreal after having spent 35 years as a Jehovah's Witness. However, after she started reading the Scriptures for herself and began asking questions, she was excommunicated from the group.

After three months of fellowship with Messianic believers, she gave her heart to the Lord. Now she has been bringing another Jewish woman, also with the Jehovah's Witnesses, to the services with her. Her youngest child has accepted the Lord, and members of the congregation are visiting her other four children.

Prayer Corner

Although the strife in Israel seems to have moved off of the front page of our news reports, life in Israel is still tense. The director of our work there, Michael Z., writes, "Keep us in your prayers. We need courage and spiritual drive to continue our work. Pray for our congregation and for my dream to establish a Messianic Center in Israel."

Also, our worker in Ariel in Samaria, Henry N., asks prayer for Libah,* a close friend of the family, whose health is poor. Henry shares, "She is really starting to listen to our testimony about the Messiah. Please pray that we will be able to find the right words and the right way to lead her to faith, and that God will bring the peace that only He can bring to her heart."

*names have been changed

See Israel through Jewish Eyes

For a full-color brochure of the itinerary, call

1-800-459-9402

Journey to Israel and retrace the footsteps of Jesus the Messiah. Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People Ministries' Israel guide and teacher, will open your eyes to the wonders of the Promised Land. Dr. Alpert's in-depth teaching brings Biblical events alive in the very location where they took place. Trips are every March and November.

Let Us Help You Put It All Together

You can purchase any or all of these resources to help you enjoy a more meaningful Passover season.

Psalm Enchanted Evening Video

by Marty Goetz

An enchanted evening is just what you will have when you watch *Psalm Enchanted Evening*. The multi-talented Marty Goetz (composer, pianist, vocalist) performs twelve original compositions accompanied by a symphony orchestra. This 90-minute video will provide many enchanted evenings for years to come.

#8018

price **\$19.95***

Messiah in the Passover Kit

This kit will help churches, classes, or families have a Passover celebration of their own. Guaranteed to make your Passover celebration an unforgettable experience. Includes the *Messiah in the Passover* video, *How to Prepare for a Passover Dinner*, *Messianic Passover Haggadah*, a poster, and bulletin inserts.

#5001

Price **\$19.95***



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A short-term missions tour to Israel for people aged 18 to 35, who want to experience deeper authenticity in their relationship with God. This trip includes service and creative outreach ministry together with an extensive teaching tour to various Biblical sites. Call 773-338-5959.

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The Chosen People Newsletter

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will.
"I will bless those who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)

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