

The Sacrifice of The Passover

“²⁵When you come into the land which Adonai will give you as He has promised, you are to keep this ceremony. ²⁶Now when it happens that your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷You are to say, ‘It is the sacrifice of Adonai’s Passover, because He passed over the houses of Bnei-Yisrael in Egypt, when He struck down the Egyptians, but spared our households.’” So the people bowed their heads and worshipped... This same night is a night of vigil for Adonai, for all Bnei-Yisrael throughout their generations” (Ex. 12:25-27, 42).

In last week’s message I wrote: “If we do not do and act as the **People of Covenant** that we are supposed to be then our children (**our future generations**) will bear the consequences. The same warning applies to America. Failure to realign with the Almighty will result (as a minimum) in the spiritual death of our children.” Obstinacy and willfulness of parents result in a great price paid by their children. Millions upon millions of innocent unborn children pay with their life for our country’s and the world’s promiscuity (yesterday was the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, January 22, 1973). Pharaoh had been prophetically warned that his failure to obey *Adonai* and his stubbornness would result in the death of his own firstborn son.: *“²²You are to say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what Adonai says: ‘Israel is My son, My firstborn. ²³So I have said to you, Let My son go, that he may serve Me, but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will slay your son, your firstborn’” (Ex. 4:22-23). Our God is just! He warns Pharaoh (and Egypt) of the impending danger to their children and gives opportunity for repentance. Will our firstborn son be required of us? Pharaoh refused and exactly what God had promised would happen did happen (the Tenth Plague).*

Delivered from the plague of death by the blood of the **Passover Lamb**, the Children of Israel greeted the dawn of their redemption with a newly acquired faith born of experience. The night before, they were timid slaves cowering behind locked doors. Now they threw open their doors and windows to the morning sun and rejoiced in their deliverance. Awed by the power of the **Passover Lamb** that had protected them from the death angel, they were ready to follow Moses into the unknown future.

That morning, the Egyptians, fearful of the Lord’s further wrath, begged *Bnei-Yisrael* to leave the country immediately. There was no time to prepare food. They bound up their unleavened dough, still in the kneading bowls, and strapped it to their backs. With this meager supply of food, they set out from Egypt with their wives, their little ones, their aged, their flocks, and all they possessed. Nothing was left behind, and their beasts of burden were weighed down with the riches pressed upon them by their frightened Egyptian neighbors.

Four hundred and thirty years earlier, seventy people had come into the land of the pharaohs with Jacob *“⁴¹ So it happened at the end of 430 years, to the very day, that all the armies of Adonai went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² It was a night of watching for Adonai to bring them out of the land of Egypt. This same night is a night of vigil for Adonai, for all Bnei-Yisrael throughout their generations (Ex. 12:41-42).* Please note the terminology that *this day all the armies of Adonai went out*. The Bible records that six hundred thousand men left Egypt. Their mothers, wives, and children surely swelled their numbers to almost two million. This newly formed nation would wander in the desert for forty years. A whole generation would grow old and die before they entered Canaan, the land that flowed with the milk of goats and the honey of figs. But they relied on God's promise that freedom was at hand armed with His instructions on what to do in remembering this event in the future (*Ex. 12:14-27*).

I can’t help to draw a parallel with where we are in America today. The Lord has promised in His Word that if we do certain things (e.g., *1 Chr. 7:14, Deut. 32*), even after thoroughly departing from His Will and incurring His righteous judgments, we shall be delivered. The Body of Messiah has done some these things and we are convinced that America shall be saved from its deserved sentence. If only we would also rely on God’s promise that freedom from the enemy’s grasp is also at hand for us. If we would grab a hold of the shed Blood of Messiah, Adonai’s Passover Lamb, and turn from our wicked ways I believe we would also experience a national Passover.

The word *observed* or *keep vigil* used in Exodus 12:42 (*Hu HaLaila Hazeh L'Adonai Shimurim*) comes from the Hebrew root *shamar*, and it translates as “*keep watch/guard*.” Even as the Lord kept guard over the blood-protected homes of the children of Israel on that first Passover, we, in turn, are to keep guarding each annual Passover night of remembrance. It is to be a memorial forever. He commanded the annual memorial of the Passover observance so that our Jewish people might reflect regularly upon all He has done on our people’s behalf. In all our coming and going we are to remember the Lord, we are to rehearse and retell what He has done for us, we are to *relive* the events of the great redemption He has done for our forefathers and for us at *Golgotha*.

The Lord also gave specific details of how we are to celebrate the anniversary of our people’s redemption:

1. ⁴⁷ *All the congregation of Israel must keep it (the Passover) (Exodus 12:47)*
2. No one who was uncircumcised or outside the covenant could partake of it (*Exodus 12:43-45*).
3. They must eat the Passover in one house, that is, a lamb for a household. The household could be more than one family, as long as they came together under one roof (*Exodus 12:46*).
4. They must eat the Passover sacrifice in one night, not leaving any for the morning (*Ex. 34:25*).
5. They must put away all leaven from their houses for seven days (*Exodus 13:6-7*).
6. They must offer the blood of the sacrifice without leaven (*Exodus 34:25*).
7. They must not break any bones of the Passover Lamb (*Exodus 12:46*).
8. They must sacrifice the Passover only at the place appointed by God (*Deut. 16:5-6*).
9. All males must appear before the Lord at Passover time (*Ex. 23:17, 34:23*)

Only those who are part of the redeemed community could participate in the Passover festival. If Gentile visitors or servants wanted to share in the memorial, they first had to become Jews, that is, undergo circumcision, which would make them part of the covenant. The fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham, that in his seed (the *Messiah*) all the nations of the earth would be blessed, means that they who have undergone circumcision of the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-33) are eligible to celebrate the new memorial because they belong to the redeemed community of Messiah. This is why Paul writing to the Ephesians said: “¹² *At that time you were separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* ¹³ *But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah...* ¹⁹ *So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household” (Ephesians 2:12-13, 19).*

Now there is an even greater redemption to commemorate: forgiveness of sin and new life through *Messiah Yeshua*, God’s perfect Lamb. We agree with Scripture that this is a night much to be observed.

What began as a commemoration of the historic deliverance of God’s people from Egyptian bondage became a type of the Messianic deliverance of God’s people from the bondage of sin and even serves today as a prophetic reassurance of the future fulfillment of the Messianic ingathering of all the nations to celebrate the marriage of the Lamb. {God’s Festivals in Scripture and History, Samuele Bacchiocchi pp. 128}

Let us agree with the Apostle Paul in *1 Corinthians 5:7-8* and when we keep the *Passover*: “⁷ *Get rid of the old hametz, so you may be a new batch, just as you are unleavened—for Messiah, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.* ⁸ *Therefore let us celebrate the feast not with old hametz, the hametz of malice and wickedness, but with unleavened bread—the matzah of sincerity and truth.”*

There is a Passover Sacrifice experience for America thanks to the Blood of the Sacrifice Lamb but only if we are willing to rehearse Adonai’s Passover requirements. Among them we must become a Redeemed Community. We must put away all sin and undergo a national circumcision of the heart. America does not currently live or act as a Redeemed Community. We must strive to change that narrative. *Shabbat Shalom!*