

Why We Do This

“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)

We should take note that *Adonai* often asked His people to process His Words which included the phrase *for you* followed by non-rhetorically being asked *what does it mean to you?* So, it is for us today. In today’s *Torah Portion (Parashat Bo)* He asked: *‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ (Ex. 12:26)*; and commanded: *“This month (moon) shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you” (Ex 12:1-2)*. Does the response (or the attitude of the responder) matter? Of course, it does! *Adonai* is *always* concerned about *the heart* of the matter. Whether is keeping the calendar (which is of utmost importance) or doing a Seder at home or in the congregation. We are asked in Scripture to *Remember and Do Not Forget* but also, we are asked to internalize His Word so we can give (even to our own children) an answer. In my message *Remember and Do Not Forget, August 8, 2020*, I wrote: *‘The Father told His children to be careful to remember and do not forget, e.g., “Remember how Adonai your God (Elohim) led you all the way in the desert...” In fact, He told them specifically to “remember” five times (Deut. 7:18, 8:2, 8:18, 9:7, and 9:27) and “do not forget” four other times (Deut. 8:11, 8:14, 8:19, 9:7). Doesn’t it seem to you like Adonai wants His children to keep something fresh in their minds? In essence He said: (1) “Remember from Where You Have Come,” (2) “Remember Your Inheritance,” (3) “Remember The Way (HaDerech),” (4) “Remember Me (The Lord!),” and (5) “Remember What I Have Said – My Word.”’*

In every generation the obstinacy and willfulness of parents (husbands) result in a great price paid by their family (wife & children). America is no exception where millions upon millions of innocent unborn children paid their life for their parent’s promiscuity. I am a member of the generation that took off the bras, accepted all forms of contraceptives, legalized abortion, hailed the Beatles and the Rolling Stones (disregarding their immoral behavior), smoked pot and ate hashish in brownies. If our children are at risk, we might bear some responsibility. Will our firstborn be required of us? For pharaoh and the people of Egypt in *Parashat Bo* stubbornness resulted in the death of the firstborn of all of Egypt: *“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!” (Exodus 4:22-23)*. Our God is just! He warned even Pharaoh (and Egypt) of the impending danger to their children and gave opportunity for repentance. Pharaoh and Egypt refused and exactly what God had promised would happen did happen (See *Exodus 12:28-36*).

This type of stubbornness and willfulness is precisely the *iniquity* that *Adonai* stated will be passed to our descendants down to the third and fourth generations: *“⁶Then Adonai passed before him, and proclaimed, “Adonai, Adonai, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, ⁷showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, but bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, to the third and fourth generation” (Ex. 34:6-7)*. We have also been warned. Have you repented of any past willfulness (e.g., willfulness with your parents in your younger days) and asked *Yeshua* to stop the visitation of iniquity (a form of death) on your children and your children’s children? If you notice this iniquity rearing up in your own life and maybe your parents are no longer available nor are they willing to ask *Adonai* for forgiveness, then I believe you can also ask *Yeshua* to heal your inherited iniquities and in doing so you can stop the cycle not only for you but for any of your future generations. *Adonai* said that He will show mercy to a thousand generations!

If we resolve the self-will (iniquity) issue, we will be ready to *Bo (come or go)* at His bidding. When we do this, our days will also be greeted with new trust born out of experience. Our hearts will rejoice in such deliverance, and we will be more than ready to follow our *Deliverer, Yeshua*. We will then experience so much more of the abundant life He came to give us.

Why are we to do what we do, whether keeping *Shabbat*, doing *Passover Seders*, keeping His calendar, worshipping Him, observing His Feasts, or loving one another? It should be as simple as saying *In my heart of hearts, I want to love Adonai my God with all my heart, all my soul, all my strength...* (*Veahavta, Deut. 6:5-9*) Even as *Adonai* kept guard over the blood-protected homes of the children of Israel on that first Passover and *Yeshua* kept His vigil in *John 17*, we, in turn, are to keep His Word (e.g., guarding the annual Passover night of remembrance). His Word is to be a *memorial forever*. *Adonai* is *forever* and everything about Him is *forever*, so should our commitment be. Clearly, He commanded the annual memorial of the Passover observance so that we as His People might reflect regularly upon all He has done on our behalf. In all our comings and goings, we are to remember *Adonai*, 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 us and for our forefathers. *Yeshua* is worthy to be remembered in everything we do!

The verse in *Exodus 12* stated: *"this month/year is for you."* We have been given our very own personal gift of time. Something new can happen during this season: a new discovery, a new release, a new learning, a new opportunity for relationships, a renewed sense of ourselves and our understanding of time. Let this season's designation be *for you, and for me* and for us in KS and for all Believers around the world. Why do we do this? We do it because it is deep in our hearts to do *anything concerning Adonai*. *Shabbat Shalom!*