

It's Messiah Lord, It Is He!

“(v)♪ On the road to Emmaus, the glory that is his; The disciples could never see. Then He broke the bread, then He shared the wine; It is the Lord, it is He! (c) Messiah our Lord and our King! O what a gift, what a wonderful gift; Who can tell the wonders of the Lord? Let us open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts; It's Messiah Lord, it is He!” ♪

In the late 60's there was a Christian Song in the Folk Songs Genre that even then, while I was an unbeliever, had a profound impact in me. It is called the *Canticle of the Gift* and was written by Patricia Uhl Howard at the University of Toronto in 1966. Let me play two verses from the album *Hallelujah Jesus is King (1971)* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVWmNw_hwp0 from 0:42 to 2:24). Evidently, there were many more verses and one of the most impactful verses and one that I remember vividly is *On the Road to Emmaus...* What gift is above everything other gift we might ever experience? It is our salvation (*Yeshua*, in Hebrew) which is: *“being born again to a living hope from imperishable seed” (1 Peter 1:3, 23).*

Yesterday was Aviv 9 when I was meditating on today's message. Since this year Passover (Aviv 14) is on a Wednesday (like it was on CE 30) it is useful to consider events recorded in Scripture that took place from Aviv 9 to Aviv 14. On the day of *Aviv 9 Yeshua* came to Bethany where *“Miriam took a pound of very expensive oil of pure nard and anointed Yeshua's feet, and she wiped His feet dry with her hair. Now the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil” (John 12:3).* Then *Yeshua* said: *“Leave her alone! She set it aside for the day of My burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me” (John 12:7).* Should we not give Him also our most precious and expensive gift? Our time? The next day (*like today Saturday/Shabbat Aviv 10*) *Yeshua* made his entry into Jerusalem where a *“huge crowd that had come up for the feast”* took palm branches and greeted Him shouting: *“Hoshia-na! Baruch ha-ba b'shem Adonai! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (See Ps. 118:25-26) The King of Israel!” (John 12:13)* Even Gentiles were caught up in the moment desiring to see Him: *“²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast. ²¹These came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in the Galilee. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we want to see Yeshua’” (John 12:20).* And then the Father speaks: *“²⁷Now My soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour? But it was for this reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify Your name!’ Then a voice came out of heaven, saying: I have glorified it, and again I will glorify it!” (John 12:27-28).* We should call this day *Palm Shabbat!* The Father always speaks on Shabbat!

We in *Kol Simcha* who have come on *this hour on this Aviv 10*, should also want to exclaim on this *Shabbat*: *“²⁸Father, glorify Your name”* in our congregation! Are we ready to *open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts because it is Messiah Lord, it is He!* We say we are ready, and we set out to do so, but how easily are we drawn away by the events, schedule, and living life in our day. Shabbat is not a service but instead it is a weekly High Holiday that lasts from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday. When it comes to His Spring High Holidays, I know that it is time to pause, take inventory and *“...Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's” (Mark 12:17).* We want to give *Adonai* what is rightfully His due during the *Pesach* and *Shavuot* Seasons.

We want to consecrate ourselves for *Pesach* – the festival of *our* freedom. Shouldn't we be ready to observe the historical aspects of our Spring High Holiday Season and profoundly celebrate the renewal it brings us individually and collectively? It all begins on our *Memorial Yeshua's Seder* celebration next Tuesday April 1, 2023, at 7pm. In the nearly two-thousand-year-old *Passover Haggadah* one finds the following major sections: (1) Greetings & *Lighting the Festival Lights*; (2) *The First Cup* {*Urchatz, Karpas, Break the middle Matzah, The Passover Story(Magid), 4 Questions, The Answer, Dayenu*}; (3) *The Second Cup* {*Bless Matzah, Bitter herbs, Korech*}; (4) the *Seder Meal* {*Barekh and Afikoman*}; (5) *The Third Cup* {*Redeem the hidden Afikoman with 30 pieces of silver, Blessings, Communion*}; (6) *The Fourth Cup* {*cup of Elijah and Hallel*}; and (7) *Conclusion*. We will not do the Seder meal choosing instead to focus on the other aspects of *Yeshua's Seder* as described in the Gospels. In *Kol Simcha* we do

foot washing? ¹³*You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master’—and rightly you say, for I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example—you should do for each other what I have done for you” (John 13:13-15). Reading the *Haggadah* (Jewish text that sets forth the order of the Passover Seder) in the Seder is a fulfillment of the *mitzvah* to the Children of Israel to *tell your children* the story of the Exodus when *Adonai* freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt (Ex. 12:25-27) *“with a strong hand and an outstretched arm.”* This is a once-a-year celebration and the prescribed time to take the *Meal of Messiah (Communion)*: *“¹⁹And when He had taken matzah and offered the bracha, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body, given for you. Do this in memory of Me.’ ²⁰In the same way, He took the cup after the meal, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you’” (Luke 22:19-20).**

The same mindset will be true for the first and last days of the Feast of *Matzot* (Unleavened Bread) on Thursday April 6, 2023, and Wednesday April 12, 2023. This is a time to bless *Adonai* and thank Him with our entire being for our freedom in Him. This is *for us* a great *Mitzvah!* The days of His Passion and Resurrection are to be *forever* treasured.

Something awesome took place in *“Golgotha (that is to say, Place of a Skull, see Matt. 27:33b)”* when *Yeshua* expired. When we understand the details of this crucial moment, we will become equipped with the greatest weapon in spiritual warfare against principalities and powers that control the forces of darkness in this world and in our lives. All of the forces of the evil one went there to witness Satan’s triumph foreshadowed by the *darkness that fell over the whole land* from noon to three in the afternoon of Wednesday Nisan 14: *“Then the fifth angel trumpeted, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the bottomless pit was given to him. ²He opened the pit, and smoke rose from the pit like the smoke of a gigantic furnace. The sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit.” (Rev. 9:1-2).* *Messiah Yeshua* made a *public spectacle of them*: *“¹⁴He wiped out the handwritten record of debts with the decrees against us, which was hostile to us. He took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵After disarming the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross” (Col. 2:14-15).* *Yeshua* disarmed the principalities and powers and Satan and his army we publicly defeated. The centurion saw this happen and *began glorifying God* saying *Messiah is Just!* When the hostile crowd saw this happen, they turned back (*made t’shuvah*) and *beat their breasts* (what Jews do only at *Yom Kippur*). His *acquaintances & the women who were following* (and his disciples) *did not see this happen* (they were *standing at a distance watching*) and left instead doing neither of these things. They left defeated and fearful.

This event also fulfills His prophecy in John 8:28: *“²⁸ So Yeshua said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am. I do nothing by Myself, but speak just what the Father has taught Me.”* Indeed, at the cross, at the moment of His death, He triumphed over evil once and for all time. You and I realize this and proclaim Him as the divine Son of God. However, notice that those present (even those responsible for His death) will *KNOW THAT I AM WHO I SAY I AM*. The Scripture quoted above states unequivocally that *Yeshua*: *“wiped out the handwritten record of debts with the decrees against us, which was hostile to us. He took it away by nailing it to the cross”*. Therefore, *“What then shall we say in view of these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Ro. 8:31)*

Many people preach that when *Yeshua* died Satan celebrated his victory for three days and three nights until the Resurrection on the first day of the week. They emphasize the triumph of the Lord at *Resurrection Sunday*. But note that Scripture definitively states that: ***Yeshua triumphed over them at the cross! – and so did we!*** ♪ *Messiah our Lord and our King! O what a gift, what a wonderful gift; Who can tell the wonders of the Lord? Let us open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts; It’s Messiah Lord, it is He!* ♪ *Shabbat Shalom v’Chag Sameach Pesach!*