



April 2000

Nisan 5760

"Who `stole' the Afikomen?"

Shalom in the Lamb!

Passover: Now and Forever

Passover, the oldest continuously celebrated religious festival in the world, is also the most beloved holiday for Messianic Jews, and for many born-again Christian believers as well. Passover is a feast dear to the heart of God because it is the Feast associated with the loving sacrifice of His Son, Yeshua, the Lamb of God. It is the feast of freedom, liberation, deliverance, joy, and a foreshadow of the glorious Marriage Supper of the Lamb to come.



The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob instituted the Passover at the Exodus from Egypt. The answers to the Why, When and How of Passover are given by God in the Book of Exodus, *Sh'mot* in Hebrew.

Why?: *"So this day [Passover] shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance." (Exodus 12:14)*

When?: *"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening." (Exodus 12:18)*

How?: Read Exodus 12:1-20 and be blessed!

Passover is an eternal celebration. As believers, we now celebrate both the physical deliverance of our ancestors from Egypt, and our personal spiritual deliverance from the bondage of sin. But one day, in the Heavenly Kingdom, we will also celebrate the liberation from our frail, earthen vessels and from a fallen world which is not our home. With the Lamb as the Light we will experience the unspeakable joy of being in the presence of our loving Lord forever.

Passover: Forever New

Each year as we prepare to celebrate Passover we read and re-read the story of the Exodus, and marvel at the new insights we gain on an old story. The Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) leads us into new truths, and refreshes old ones. We'd like to share our gleanings with you this month to enhance your personal celebration of Passover.

Exodus 2:24-25 Notice God's reaction to the groaning of His people in bondage as their cry came up to Him: 1) **God heard** their groaning, 2) **God remembered** His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, 3) **God looked upon** the children of Israel and 4) **God acknowledged** them. Trust God in your life

wearing scarlet robes, stood in two rows, one holding silver basins and the other gold. When an Israelite slaughtered his lamb, the closest priest caught its blood in his basin, then passed it to the priest next to him and so on until it reached the altar, where the blood was poured at the base. The empty basin was returned the same way to the first priest. While this took place, the Levites sang Hallel, praising God. Then the lambs were roasted and eaten, together with matzah and bitter herbs as the Exodus story was told.

This year we learned that the "Four questions" asked in the Passover Seder by the youngest child have remained the same since the seder was instituted _ **except** for question number four. The fourth question used to refer to the **paschal (lamb) sacrifice**. It was discontinued, along with the sacrifice, after the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E.

So, today, in traditional Jewish homes no one asks about the lamb. We really should ask: "Where is the **lamb** that the Holy Scriptures speak about?"

Some believe that the **matzah** became a symbol of the paschal offering after 70 C.E. Others believe that even at the time of Yeshua the matzah was identified with the lamb sacrificed at the first Passover. The Israelites carried that identity even further and made a connection between the matzah and the manna that their ancestors had eaten in the wilderness. They believed that the Messiah would come at Passover, and that manna would once more fall down from heaven. Yeshua, of course, identified Himself as bread that comes down from heaven. When Yeshua said to His disciples, "This matzah is me," He clearly meant: "I am your Passover sacrifice."

When we consider the **middle matzah**, the afikomen, that is broken, wrapped in a burial cloth, buried and then resurrected during the course of the seder, we can clearly see Yeshua, our Passover, broken for us, buried and raised from the dead!

New Passover Television Program

This Passover our new half-hour Passover TV program will air all over the United States. Many hours went into the production of this program, and tremendous spiritual warfare surrounded it. We are sure that the Lord plans to use it in a mighty way! The program was taped in our home and includes a candlelight search for leaven, a full seder dinner, the Lash family and eight guests, and teaching from the kitchen breakfast area (a first!) all in 1/2 hour!! We believe that this program is our best one yet, a **must** for your family library. Order a copy for yourself or for someone who needs to hear about the Lamb in a Jewish way.

Passover Banquet 2000

Passover will be very special this year as we gather together with mishpochah from near and far to honor the Lamb at a deluxe traditionally Jewish kosher style Passover Seder dinner at the lovely Sheraton hotel in Hollywood, Florida. We will be hosting the seder, and Neil will be teaching along with Rabbi Yosef Koelner of Temple Aron Hakodesh in Ft. Lauderdale. We will praise, worship, dance, break bread together, receive new insights into Passover, and be immersed in the presence and the love of our God. Come join us for a celebration to be remembered. Seating is limited, so please call Rona at (954)741-7634 for details as soon as possible. (Colorado friends, Rona may have some special air and hotel rates for you!)



"...And you shall tell your son..."

Exodus 13:8

*Love in
Yeshua,
our Passover
Mei & Jamie*