

The Chosen People




Volume XVIII, Issue 3 April 2012

UNDERSTANDING PASSOVER

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

Personalizing Passover • Passover FAQ • Honey Cake Recipe
Bible Study: Sitting and Serving at the Feet of the King



PERSONALIZING PASSOVER

Shalom in the name of the One who conquered sin and death!

The Los Angeles Isaiah 53 Campaign

Thank you so much for your prayers and generous financial support for our Isaiah 53 campaign in Los Angeles! As I mentioned previously, the greater Los Angeles area is home to almost one million Jewish people, and is the second-largest Jewish community in the United States.

Our evangelistic television commercials (broadcast by the thousands for the next few months) and public advertising on billboards, buses, Google, Facebook, and more, continue to spread the word about our website, www.Isaiah53.com. On the website, Jewish and Gentile seekers are able to find out more about Isaiah 53—the great chapter of the Hebrew Scriptures that predicted the death and

resurrection of Jesus the Messiah—and they can watch video testimonies of Jewish people who came to know the Lord through reading Isaiah 53.

There is also a very special new addition to our website—a 30-minute evangelistic documentary entitled *The Mysterious Prophecy of Isaiah 53*, produced by the wonderful folks at Day of Discovery (RBC Ministries). Hundreds of seekers have already watched the video. I hope that you will **tell all of your Jewish friends** about the website and invite them to watch this riveting documentary! Every person who views the video and wants more information will receive a copy of our free evangelistic book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*.

Your prayers for the follow-up with these precious contacts are important to us. Our staff members are calling, writing and visiting those who have responded and who want to learn

more about our beloved Messiah Jesus. So please don't stop praying for the campaign—it will continue in Los Angeles for the next two months!

Israel, the Church and the Middle East Crisis Conference

This long-awaited conference, held on the campus of Biola University in La Mirada, California, was a great success! The speakers included Joel C. Rosenberg, Dr. Walter Kaiser, myself, and leading professors from the Talbot School of Theology and Biola University, as well as testimonies by an Israeli believer and by an Iranian former Muslim who has a dynamic media ministry to the Islamic world. The fellowship, teaching, and music were outstanding!

The DVDs, audio downloads, and more from the conference will be available soon—I will tell you how to

get these wonderful materials in a future issue of the newsletter.

I hope that through this conference, many believers will have a better understanding of the Middle East crisis through the lens of Scripture and will be able to share the Gospel more effectively with Jews and Muslims.

Some Final Thoughts on the Passover/Easter Season

Although Passover and Easter have “passed over,” I wanted to take a moment and share a few thoughts about these great holidays—especially Passover!

As you know, Passover is a reminder of the Exodus, when God delivered the Jewish people by His powerful hand from Egyptian bondage.

According to Moses, this festival was to be a teaching tool for Jewish children so that generations to come would remember what God did in delivering His people from Egyptian bondage.

And it shall be, when your children say to you, “What do you mean by this service?” that you shall say, “It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households” (Ex. 12:26-27).

Passover in the Jewish Home

Passover is still the most popular Jewish holiday. The high point of Passover in every Jewish home is an event known as the *Seder*. The *Seder* is observed at the dining room table and is one of the year’s most wonderful times of family gathering. During the Passover *Seder*, we read through a special Jewish prayer book called the *Haggadah*. This is a Hebrew word, which simply means, “the telling.”

The purpose of *telling* the Passover story is to remind the Jewish family—especially the children—of our deliverance from Egypt. It takes about three or four hours to complete a full Passover *Seder*, and along the way we

read the biblical narrative, tell traditional stories, taste symbolic elements at the table, and eat what can only be described as the “best meal of the Jewish year”—something like a Jewish Thanksgiving, but without the turkey!

The evening is planned to help those around the table feel as if they had really been there in Egypt; all the symbolic items on the *Seder* table are designed to evoke the feeling of having been personally delivered during the Exodus.

I hope that one day you can join a Jewish friend for a Passover *Seder*, as it would be an experience you’d never forget! You might even have the opportunity to attend a Chosen People Ministries Passover *Seder* and better understand the sacrifice of Jesus our Messiah—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

To learn more about Passover, visit www.chosenpeople.com/passover for lots of additional material about the holiday as well as a video of me presenting “Messiah in the Passover”—watch it and see for yourself how Jesus fulfills this great festival!

The Spotless Lamb

There is one poignant moment during the Passover *Seder* when the leader of the celebration—usually the father or grandfather—raises the shank bone of a lamb and retells the biblical account from Exodus chapter 12. In this chapter, God told His chosen people to take a spotless, unblemished lamb from the flock and watch it for three days to make sure it was perfect. The Israelite family was then to slay the lamb and smear its blood on the doorposts and lintel of the home. As the Lord said through Moses,

For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. Now the blood shall be a sign for

you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt (Ex. 12:12-13).

I agree with what so many rabbis have said: *you cannot understand salvation or redemption without understanding Passover*. Actually, Jewish tradition recognizes that Passover is prophetic in character—pointing not only to redemption past, but also to redemption future. It is understood that the Passover “begs” for fulfillment, for something greater. Even the last words spoken during the Passover *Seder* emphasize this hope, as Jewish families sing together, “Next year in Jerusalem!”

As a Jewish believer in Jesus, I understand that Passover is fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah wrote about the Servant/Savior to come:

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth (Is. 53:7).

This was also the testimony of the one whom Jesus called, “the greatest of all Jewish prophets,” His cousin, John the Baptist, who declared Jesus to be both the Savior of the world and the fulfillment of the Passover:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn. 1:29).

I pray that you will continue to live with the joy of knowing that your sins are forgiven and that the Savior of the world was raised from the dead. His sacrifice was accepted and He has conquered death once and for all!

Yours in the Lamb,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



WHY IS PASSOVER CALLED PASSOVER?

The Feast of Passover is called ... in Hebrew, which means “he passed over.” It refers to the tenth, most terrible plague the Lord visited upon the Egyptians—the slaying of the firstborn. In order that the plague would not kill their firstborn sons, the Israelites were instructed to take blood from the lamb that was slaughtered for their Passover meal and put it on their doorposts. Then, the Angel of Death passed over the homes of the obedient Israelite families, sparing their firstborn.

WHAT IS A PASSOVER SEDER?

A Passover Seder is the ceremony commemorating the Israelites’ liberation from slavery in Egypt and journey to the Promised Land. A Seder consists of special foods, songs, and stories. Children ask questions and learn about the plagues, the Passover meal in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea and the wilderness wandering. Seder is a Hebrew word that means “order”—there is an order to the ceremony, and each element of the Passover reminds us of the Exodus from Egypt.



WHY DOES THE DATE OF PASSOVER CHANGE AND WHY IS IT NOT ALWAYS AROUND THE TIME OF EASTER?

Passover falls according to the Hebrew calendar: *“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month [of Nisan] at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening”* (Exodus 12:18). The date of Passover is set according to the Hebrew lunar calendar. On the Christian (solar) calendar, the date of Passover moves from year to year—although Jewish people might say that it is the Christian calendar that is doing the moving!

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO EAT MATZAH FOR A WEEK?

During the time of the Exodus, the children of Israel did not have time to let the dough for their bread rise, so they ate unleavened bread, called *matzah*. Every year, Jewish people around the world eat matzah at Passover as a way to remember the Exodus from Egypt. All food items containing leaven and yeast (referring to grain products that have either already been fermented or can cause fermentation) must be removed from the Jewish home.

Today, matzah is easy to find in almost any grocery store, or else you might be able to place a special order. Since it can get rather boring to eat, it now comes flavored with salt, no

PASSOVER FAQ



salt, sour cream and onion, whole wheat, and can even be purchased chocolate-covered. You can eat it with peanut butter (but you'll need a glass of water to wash it down!), cream cheese, jam, sliced turkey or cheese as a sandwich—although a matzah sandwich is quite

fragile and difficult to carry to work or school. Matzah can even be drenched with syrup or honey and prepared like French toast.

Matzah is known as the “bread of affliction,” because it commemorates the suffering the children of Israel experienced during their four hundred years of bondage in Egypt.

Jesus identified Himself with the bread of affliction before He offered Himself as the sinless sacrifice for our forgiveness.



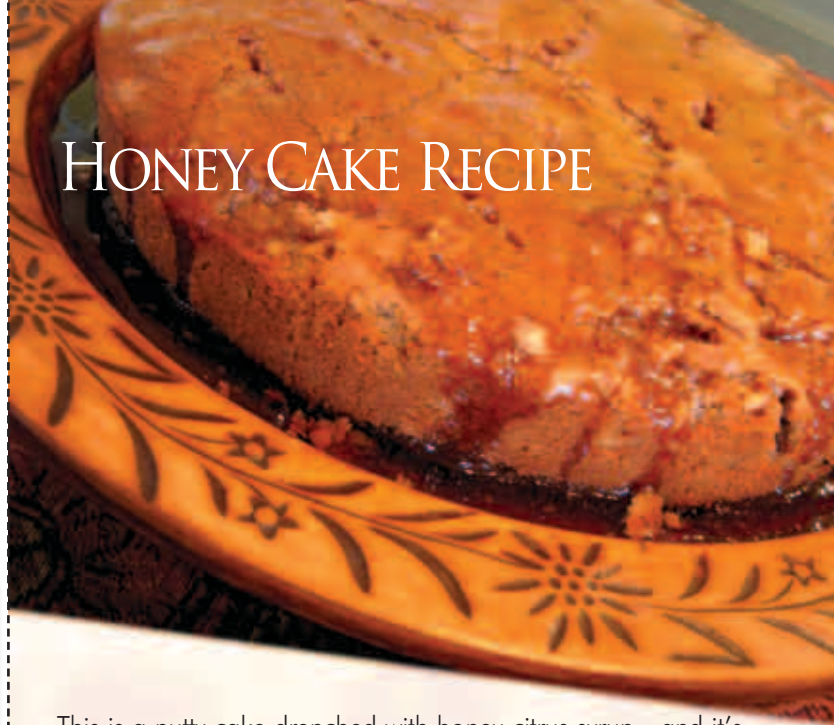
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IS LAMB EATEN AT PASSOVER?

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, the sacrifice of the Passover lamb was one of the most sacred occasions in the cycle of Israel's holy days. Today, Ashkenazi Jews, or Jewish people of European descent, do not eat lamb at Passover. The most commonly served dishes are chicken or brisket. However, Sephardic Jews (descendants of the Jews who were driven out of Spain in 1492 and who settled in the Ottoman Empire), do eat lamb at Passover in memory of the Passover lamb.



HONEY CAKE RECIPE



This is a nutty cake drenched with honey-citrus syrup—and it's perfect for Passover! It needs no rising agents, such as flour, since leavening agents are forbidden at Passover. Instead, the recipe calls for *matzah* meal (finely crushed *matzah*). Its Middle Eastern flavor will have you asking for seconds!

Cake

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 teaspoon finely minced orange zest
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup matzah cake meal
- 1/2 cup finely chopped hazelnuts or almonds
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts

Syrup

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2/3 cup granulated sugar | 1/4 cup honey |
| 1/3 cup orange juice | 1/4 cup water |
| 1 tablespoon lemon juice | 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon |

Cake

In a mixing bowl, beat the granulated white and brown sugars with the oil and eggs until the mixture is thick and pale yellow. Stir in the remaining ingredients and pour the batter into a 7-inch round cake pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes at 350° F, or until the top is light brown and set. Cool for at least 20 minutes.

Syrup

Combine the ingredients in a medium saucepan. Heat to dissolve the sugar and simmer for five to ten minutes, until the mixture becomes syrupy. Cool well. Then pour the cooled syrup over the cooled cake, poking holes in the cake with a fork to allow the syrup to penetrate. Allow it to stand for two to four hours in the refrigerator before serving. Enjoy!

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

SITTING AND SERVING AT THE FEET OF THE KING MATTHEW 26:6-13; LUKE 10:38-42; JOHN 11:28-32

Shortly before Passover, Simon the Leper held a feast. At least seventeen people attended, including the twelve apostles, Mary, Martha, Lazarus and Jesus. Mary is identified by John as the sister of Martha and Lazarus. In the three Gospel accounts, she is seen at the feet of Jesus.

To understand why Jesus declared, *“Wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her”* (Mt. 26:13), we must examine the corresponding Gospel accounts of this godly woman.

AT THE FEET OF JESUS, MARY LISTENED TO HIS WORD (Lk. 10:38-42)

On a different occasion, Jesus visited Martha’s house at Bethany. Martha’s home was a shelter and sweet resting place for Jesus. Martha’s hospitality as she prepared the meal is noteworthy, but Mary found her place at the feet of Jesus, carefully listening to His words. However, when Martha criticized her sister for leaving her to do all the work, the Lord’s words were proverbial.

He said, *“One thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part...”* (Lk. 10:42).

AT THE FEET OF JESUS, MARY EXPRESSED HER SORROWS (Jn. 11:28-32)

John’s Gospel records Mary meeting Jesus shortly after the death of Lazarus, her brother. Weeping and confessing her faith in Him, Mary said, *“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died”* (Jn. 11:32).

The mighty response of Jesus was to raise Lazarus from the dead, declaring, *“Lazarus, come forth”* (Jn. 11:43). One day, the Savior will turn to the graves of all believers and say, *“Come forth”* (1 Cor. 15:51, 52).

This text shows that Jesus, the King, is sympathetic to the sorrows of all believers who, like Mary, fall at His feet to share their heartaches with Him.

AT THE FEET OF JESUS, MARY SERVED THE SAVIOR, ANOINTING HIM WITH COSTLY OINTMENT (Jn. 12:1; Mt. 26:6-13)

Both John’s Gospel and Matthew’s account describe

Mary at the feet of Jesus a third time. On this occasion, she brought a costly ointment and served and honored the Savior by anointing His head and feet.

The disciples of Jesus expressed indignation at Mary, describing her act of worship as a “waste” (Mt. 26:8, 9). The response of Jesus to His own disciples is that *“...she has done a good work for Me...she did it for My burial”* (Mt. 26:10, 12).

It was on this occasion that Jesus declared that wherever the Gospel is preached in the entire world, Mary’s name would be mentioned for her service to the Savior (Mt. 26:13).

CONCLUSION

There is a marvelous retreat for every believer—at the “mercy seat” of God (Heb. 10:19-22) at the very feet of the King of Kings.

Like Mary, who chose the “better part,” the best place to listen, commune and serve the King of Kings is still at the feet of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

NEWS BRIEFS

“HE WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES...”

Several months ago, staff member Peter Shirokov ministered to a Russian Jewish family by leading a funeral service and a memorial. Those present heard testimonies of faith and many doors were opened. Peter followed up, and had several chances to share his faith with the widow, who has battled fears, depression, and insomnia. He also spent time with her believing children, teaching them how best to minister to her. Recently, Peter found out that this woman prayed with her children to trust Jesus—and her disposition changed almost immediately! Peter requests prayer as he continues to interact with other family members from that funeral.

LEARNING TO LOVE THE LORD WITH HEART AND MIND

New York City-based worker Mark Surey met with Ben,* a Jewish doctor, along with his secretary (who had been witnessing to him for many years) and her pastor. Ben, a brand-new believer, confessed that although he knew that Jesus was the Messiah with his mind, he did not “feel any different.” Thankfully, Ben hit it off with the pastor, so Mark suggested he attend the congregation for six weeks to experience the worship and fellowship there. He agreed and immediately wrote the dates on the next six weeks in his date book! Please pray that this precious new believer finds assurance of the faith which he already accepts intellectually.

LOST CREDIT CARD LEADS TO DIVINE APPOINTMENT

Lisa Cohen, who serves Chosen People Ministries alongside her husband Michael in California, unknowingly dropped her credit card in front of a shop. Several days later, there was a message on the answering machine that someone had found it. The finder was an elderly Orthodox Jewish man who invited Lisa for tea with him and his daughter. Together, they talked about the providence of God, the truth of the Scriptures and prayer. This man attends the synagogue right next to the Messianic congregation the Cohens attend, and when Lisa informed him that her middle son was preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, the man asked if he could come! Please pray for him to meet his Messiah.

MESSIAH’S LOVE OPENS HOMES AND HEARTS

Maxim K., serving in the Holy Land, is thankful that the Lord has provided new furniture for the Messianic Center in Sderot, a small town near the border with Gaza. Maxim is preparing the Center to house ten volunteers, and is expecting a team from Germany that will help with the distribution of food packages. The Sderot Messianic Center is helping 240 families in the city, several of which are Holocaust survivors. The volunteer team will help repair their apartments and provide other practical assistance, and will visit and pray with them. Maxim writes, “I have high hopes that this ministry will help people open their hearts and see Jesus, our Lord and Savior.”

A SURPRISING WITNESS

Four years ago, a Jewish man and his believing wife attended one of staff member Robert Pristoop’s Passover Seders. At the time, he was furious at Robert for stating that the Passover was a foreshadowing of our Messiah Jesus. Recently, Robert ran into this man’s wife while speaking at her church. She told him that now when her husband leads the Seder, he repeats what Robert said about how the Passover represents Jesus. Her husband, who is not yet a believer, has been sharing the truth of the Passover with his Jewish family and friends for the past four years! Please pray that people’s hearts and minds will be transformed by what they hear at the Seder.

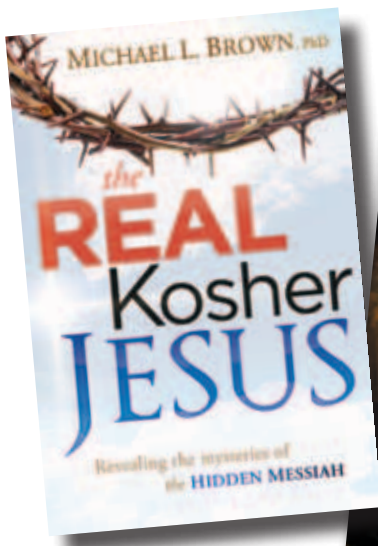
FORSAKING FAMILY TO FOLLOW THE SAVIOR

Igor Swiderski in Chicago is rejoicing about the baptism of Aaron,* a middle-aged Jewish man who had come to faith after attending Messianic services. Sadly, as is the case for many Jewish people, his decision to receive the Lord came with a deep personal cost—his relatives were very upset and threatened to cut him off from the family if he went through with his baptism. As Igor relates, “It was very touching when Aaron told his story to the congregation just before being baptized. Please pray that he will continue growing in his faith and that his relatives will also find a saving relationship with the Messiah of Israel.”



**names have been changed*

MESSIANIC RESOURCES



The Real Kosher Jesus

This new book by Messianic Jewish apologist Dr. Michael Brown comes in response to a recent book by a prominent Orthodox rabbi that emphasized Jesus' Jewishness, yet portrayed Him as a revolutionary rather than as the Messiah. *The Real Kosher Jesus* takes you on a journey to discover the true story of Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish Messiah who brought salvation for the world.

3146 \$18.99^{us}

The Gospel According to Isaiah 53

Equip yourself to present the redemptive work of the Messiah to Jewish people. Exploring issues of atonement and redemption, respected scholars show how Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's "suffering servant"—and offer suggestions on how to share the Good News with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Edited by Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser.

3138 \$27.95^{us}

For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S. Or for even more resources visit us online at www.chosenpeople.com/store.

Please write today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at giving@chosenpeople.com.

Why I Support Jewish Missions

My mother gave to the American Board of Missions to the Jews (now Chosen People Ministries) when I was just a little girl. I remember when I was just a little child, my mother would teach me about the Jewish people and about their "Jewish Jesus." I grew up with this knowledge and love for the lost sheep of the House of Israel, all the while knowing how Jewish Jesus really was! I want to see Jewish people come to know their Messiah. I have been giving to Jewish missions since I was young, and will continue to give to Jewish evangelism as long as I live and am able!

— Mrs. Charlotte H.

Help us bring Shalom/Messiah to the Jewish people of Brooklyn and New York City

Come for some or all of the time!

Contact us at opportunities@chosenpeople.com. Register online at chosenpeople.com/shalombrooklyn



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Saturday August 4 - Sunday August 19



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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