



BO – COME

Exodus 10:1 to 13:16

Jeremiah 46:13-28

Luke 2:22-24

John 19:31-37

Plagues: Part Two

In Hebraic understanding, everything that has happened and is yet to happen will always be explained from the beginning. According to Isaiah 46:10, God/*Elohim* said, *“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come”* (NIV). The Exodus is not only a historical event; it also heralds a prophetic picture of the Messiah’s return, including redemption for His people. It also reveals the pattern of how to come back and walk in His ways. Scripture says that the people who know Moses will know the Messiah (John 5:46-47). It is they who will look forward to His return and not fear His coming. God’s/*Elohim* people will be encouraged in the end times because they will have studied the beginning and consequently understand the end. Our future is held in the beginning. The book of Revelation is a reflection of the book of Exodus. The story of the Exodus is an important lesson for God’s/*Elohim* people to study today as it holds the revelations for tomorrow. How we prepare for the Messiah’s return is modeled in the words given Moses. Egypt is a type of the world system and all that holds God’s/*Elohim* people in bondage. May we be people today who leave Egypt to worship the King of kings and the Lord of lords – *Melech-HaMelechim va Adon-Adonim*.

🦁 **Ecclesiastes 1:9** “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”

The Eighth Plague - Locusts

Exodus 10:1-20

God/*Elohim* told Moses that if Pharaoh did not respond favorably to *“Let My people go that they may worship Me,”* he was to warn Pharaoh of the impending plague. Pharaoh’s officials also warned him saying, *“How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD/Yahweh their God/Elohim. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?”* (Exodus 10:7).

Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron who would be joining them if he consented. Moses answered, “*We will go with our young and old, with our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds.*” Hearing this, Pharaoh flatly refused! “*No! Only the men may leave.*” It was Pharaoh’s own words that invited the next plague, a plague of locusts that surpassed anything they had ever seen in Egypt or ever would see again. The previous plague of hail had completely decimated the cooler climate crops of flax and barley, but now the warmer crops of wheat and spelt were totally lost along with what green was left on the trees and plants from the previous plagues.


The locust was an attack on the Egyptian god *Anubis*, the god of the fields, *Isis*, the protector god against locust, and *Seth*, the guardian god of crops. When the locusts had ravished the fields and crops, Pharaoh summoned Moses once again. He asked God/*Elohim* for help, to forgive his sin and take away the plague of locusts. Moses did so, but Pharaoh’s heart remained hard.



Locust look much like a grasshopper except in behavior. If the vegetation conditions are right, the locust will swarm and multiply, and with that comes a ferocious appetite. Depending on the wind, locust can travel 62 to 124 miles a day and fly 6500 feet above sea level posing problems for pilots. A single swarm contains 40 to 80 million locusts per mile. The insect weighs less than one tenth of an ounce (two grams) but eat their weight in food each day. In a day, one ton of locusts, a small part of a swarm, consume enough food for 2,500 people. The locust can live between three to six months, and there is a tenfold increase in locust numbers from one generation to the next. The species *Desert Locust* has threatened agricultural production in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East for centuries. They are potentially the most dangerous of the desert pests with the ability to reproduce two to five generations per year. Plagues of locust occurred in 1926-1934, 1940-1963, 1967-1969, and 1987-1989. A significant upsurge in 2003-05 cost an estimated \$400 million to fight, in addition to the crop losses valued at approximately \$2.5 billion.

- In 1954, locusts migrated from northwest Africa to the British Isles.
- In 1988, they moved from West Africa to the Caribbean, covering some 3,100 miles (5,000 kilometers) in the period of about ten days.
- In 2010, Australian locust swarmed over 500,000 square kilometers (190,000 square miles) roughly the size of Spain.
- In 2015, locust annihilated 800,000 hectares of corn and other crops in Russia causing a state of emergency in that region
- In 2016 Argentina fought their biggest plague of locusts in 60 years. It was reported to be four miles wide and two miles high.

Manmade Crop Plagues

As mentioned in the last study, many farmers put their hopes in a chemical company that boasted having the ability to increase production and profits, as well as protect their fields from weeds and insects like locust that could destroy their crops. The farmers are now seeing that by partnering with companies like *Monsanto*, they opened themselves up to unforeseeable devastating plagues that are killing their soil, creating toxic foods, and crippling the nation's economy. 

The Ninth Plague - Darkness

Exodus 10:21-29

The ninth plague came without warning. God/*Elohim* instructed Moses to stretch out his hand toward the sky, and a thick darkness came over all Egypt. “*They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days.*” Darkness represented the complete removal of God's/*Elohim* presence from the Egyptians. However, the light of His presence (His faithfulness) remained over the Children of Israel in Goshen (Exodus 10:22).

The darkness stifled life. Without light, life ceased. Scripture said that no one could move thus life came to a standstill for three days. Without the life support of light, even the air around them seemed motionless, not enough to sustain a fire. This plague was so terrible they could actually *feel* the darkness.

The plague of darkness was an attack on the Egyptian god *Ra* or *Amon-Re*, the sun god. Darkness was considered a creation of *Seth*, evil principle destroyer of *Osiris*. It seemed *Ra*, the sun god, was dead, and *Seth* had killed him. *Ra* was believed to be the physical father of all Pharaohs, and Pharaoh to be the king of all gods.

The Dust Bowl Of America

The Dirty Thirties

In the 1930's, the Southern Plains of America were plunged into a darkness that lasted almost a decade. It was one of the worst man-made ecological disasters in world history. The plains spread from New Mexico all the way up into Canada. It once boasted one of the richest grasslands in America. It supported vast herds of buffalo, somewhere numbering between 30 to 60 million and was home to the tribes of the Plains Indian.



The Plains were not noted for agriculture. Very few trees grew due to the harsh climate, extremes of temperature, high winds, low rainfall (only 20 inches), and extended periods of drought. Grass, called *buffalo grass*, was well suited to this harsh environment. It grew low to the ground (2-5”) and spread out from six to twelve feet. Its thin roots grew to

depths of up to five feet forming a dense sod. This design God/*Elohim* created to protect the land but it was also hardy enough to support man and beast *if respected*.

Due to greed and the heedless action of thousands of farmers (who were encouraged by their government's get rich schemes), a series of tragedies resulted that nearly swept away the breadbasket of America. With man's initiative and hunger for growth, the Southern Plains of America were eyed as a viable possibility for economic progress. With the ever expanding population and the US government's willingness to support settlements, the Indian lands were regularly infringed upon, and clashes occurred. With gold discovered in the Montana Territories, the quickest access happened to be through Sioux prime hunting grounds. The government reasoned that as long as the Indian still had a food source in that region, their presence and strength was considered an obstacle. In the late 1860's and 1870's Army officers drafted a plan against the Indians of the Great Plains suggesting that if the bison were extinct, the Indians in the Great Plains would have to surrender to a reservation system. They wrote in their annual report, "*Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone.*"



How was the government to dispose of tens of millions of buffalo? An advertisement went out to hide hunters and white sports hunters. All previous treaties made with the Indians were ignored. It was like a gold rush. In the 1860's a long-range repeater rifle could kill 100-150 buffalo a day. With the massive slaughter, the hides were stripped leaving miles and miles of abandoned naked buffalo carcasses to rot on the plains. The stench was everywhere.

Besides the slaughter of the buffalo, thousands of the Plains Indians became ill and diseased from lack of food. Many starved to death. It was reported that their numbers dropped nearly 50%, from 500,000 to 250,000. With no life support, the Plains Indians had no choice but to surrender or starve to death. Government agencies forced the devastated Native Americans into government-controlled reservations that they said was "*for their own protection.*"

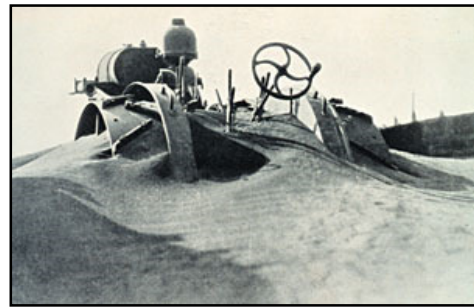
After this cruel liquidation, the sensitive Plains territory fell prey to mismanagement, first by cattlemen wanting to get rich quick. In a short time, the slow growing buffalo grass was overgrazed. The winters proved too severe for the cattle, and as soon as the beef boom started, it was over.

Corrupt government officials still wanting a profit from this land then had to decide what to do with it. They reasoned that if the ground could not even sustain cattle they would falsely advertise the Plains as an excellent agricultural opportunity and sell it to unsuspecting homesteaders. That way they would be long gone before the farmer discovered the land could not support crop farming. These unscrupulous government promoters promised that *rain would follow the plow* and in 1889, the Oklahoma Land

Rush was underway. Soon man began to settle the land, plowing under the hardy buffalo grass, that had taken centuries to mature, and plant fields of wheat. Once man misused the vast plains by tilling and over farming, it was just a matter of time before disaster fell.



World War 1 created a demand for wheat that made the farmers wealthy. There were many good years of rain, which gave the impression that the climate had changed. That opened up more and more land for cultivation, and soon thousands of farmers had planted thousands of acres. These were good years for them. In the late 1930's, when the Depression hit, wheat prices dropped, but instead of cutting back, the farmers reasoned they should expand. They continued to plow under the sensitive sod exposing the soil to plant thousands of more acres of wheat that grew in the same field year after year (no crop rotation). When the drought hit, there was nothing left to hold the soil and soon all they had perished.



The people who lived through these devastating times described unimaginable pictures of crushing poverty as they watched massive dust storms consume their farms and everything they had. Many died of pneumonia brought on by the dust. Animals died where they stood, and daylight turned to night as the black clouds consumed the sky. Often, these dense clouds were so thick that the sun was blocked out for weeks on end. No one could breathe or move. The windstorms were like sandblasts against the skin. Sand dunes formed encasing anything left outside. The dust storms were so intense; they just continued consuming state after state, as there was no natural landscape or trees to stop them. Acres of land were affected even as far up as the Canadian Prairies. In the state of New York, at times, the dust was so thick that the ship captains could not see the Statue of Liberty to navigate into New York harbor. They watched as thousands of farmer's fields were blown right into the ocean. Many lost everything and left the region. The few farmers who stayed became ravaged. The storms continued for seven years. In the eighth year, there was a break in the climate and farmers began to practice better farming habits as they started their lives all over again. It was at a cost that would not be recovered. As they began replanting, a locust plague devoured the first new crops leaving nothing behind.

Ironically a few years later it was discovered that the Southern Plains was also host to a vast aquifer, an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock. With the use of water wells, the groundwater could be extracted. Today, the Ogallala Aquifer is part of the High Plains Aquifer System. It is one of the world's largest aquifers covering an area of approximately 174,000 miles. Today, management of these water levels is being implemented to try and preserve a future supply.

Forgiveness

If we do not observe God's/*Elohim* principles, we open ourselves up to compromise that allows the enemy access to erode our lives. The story on the Dust Bowl is only a small percentage of violations made universally by mankind. God/*Elohim* teaches us how we are to live and how to observe His ways. The trail of destruction that stretched across the years in this story was a travesty that was preventable. God/*Elohim* lays out simple and efficient ways to live by and ways to manage the land to keep it healthy and viable, able to supply the needs of generations to come. It all depends on whether man chooses to obey His ways or not.

One place repair could begin is by extending forgiveness to the heads of the Plains Indians and their people. The healing of the land and our nation begins when repentance is spoken where the violation was first initiated.

✠ **Deuteronomy 28:58-59** “If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law/*Torah* that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, *THE LORD/Yahweh YOUR GOD/Elohim*, then the LORD/*Yahweh* will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues - great and prolonged plagues - and serious and prolonged sicknesses.”

If believers in Yeshua bow down to idols of self, pagan worship or choose to transgress against God/*Elohim*, they are serving two masters and will walk in darkness, far from fellowship with Yeshua, the Light of the world.

✠ **Psalms 82:5** “They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable.”

✠ **Proverbs 2:10-22** “When wisdom [*Yeshua*] enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness [*light*] to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God/*Elohim*. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life - So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the

land [*light*], and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it [*darkness*].”

✿ **Ephesians 5:8-11** “For you [*believers*] were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And [*believers,*] have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

✿ **1 John 1:6-7** “If we [*believer*] say that we have fellowship with Him [*Yeshua*], and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we [*believer*] walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* His Son cleanses us from all sin.

✿ **John 8:12** “Then Jesus/*Yeshua* spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”

The Solar Sun God

The early church father, Constantine, saw himself as the sun god. To glorify himself, he changed God’s/*Elohim* biblical calendar from a *lunar* to a *solar* calendar so the people would pay homage to him. This solar calendar was designed to take the people’s focus off God/*Elohim*. Without God’s/*Elohim* lunar calendar directing and guiding the people, they soon lost their heritage and identity as *Israel* and assimilated into the newly introduced Hellenized pagan practices. Without God’s/*Elohim* heavenly blueprint, believers began to see God’s/*Elohim* celebrations as strange and foreign.

✿ **Hosea 8:12** “I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing.”

The first glimpse of the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* each month establishes God’s/*Elohim* lunar calendar, beginning with the first month (Nisan) in the springtime. The first New Moon appoints all of God’s/*Elohim* appointments, celebrations, times, seasons, and Feast Days for the whole year. Without the sighting of the New Moon, the Bride will have no knowledge of her Bridegroom’s ways or reference as to when her wedding day is.

To control the people, Constantine tried to obliterate any remembrance of God’s/*Elohim* celebrations by dominating God’s people and plunging them into spiritual darkness. To accomplish this Constantine established counterfeit celebrations on his *solar* calendar. His plan led God’s/*Elohim* people astray, as many began worshipping Babylonian celebrations like Christmas and Easter. Constantine also named the days of the week after Babylonian gods to have his people pay homage to the gods he worshiped. Thus, the people readily accepted his days of the week: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, etc. not realizing they were names of pagan gods.

As the redeemed and betrothed people of God/*Elohim*, many are coming out of the darkness and into His Light. They are learning how to walk in His lifestyle and restore truth (light) by His Covenant. Yeshua *is* the Light of the World - our Kinsman Redeemer – who has made a highway of holiness through the wilderness for His redeemed Bride. The revival of God's/*Elohim* principles causes His people to restore His *lunar* calendar, observe His dietary instructions, and His Feasts Days, including the seventh day Sabbath and the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* at the beginning of each month. God's/*Elohim* people are choosing to put away strange foreign gods and foreign celebrations to embrace His Kingdom (light) (Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16:26, 29-30; 20:8-11; Leviticus 23).

✠ **Colossians 2:16-17** “Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Messiah,” (*the goal of our salvation*).

The Tenth Plague - Death Of The *Egyptian* Firstborn Exodus 11:1-10

The death of the firstborn was the last and final plague on Egypt. It was a direct attack on Pharaoh, the god-king. As Pharaoh was considered to be a god, so was his firstborn son who would succeed him on the throne. In fact, in the Egyptian culture, the firstborn of people and animals, in general, were often worshiped. Pharaoh considered himself an incarnation of the Egyptian sun god *Ra* and *Osiris* as the giver of life. Pharaoh's son was seen as a god when he died, so it was as if the god of Egypt had died.

Moses delivered to Pharaoh God's/*Elohim* final warning of the coming judgment then left his presence to prepare the Israelites. As Pharaoh's firstborn went through judgment, God's/*Elohim* firstborn, Israel, was about to walk into their redemption. However, certain guidelines were to be followed to bring them through this night of deliverance. They were commanded to remember these each year at this same time *throughout all generations*, even in our generation today. Why? The Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread are God's/*Elohim* deliverance feasts. They are prophetic appointments that hold revelations of redemption for all God's/*Elohim* firstborn - *eternally* through the only One who can redeem us - Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach*, the Lamb of God/*Elohim* (Isaiah 53:7-8; John 1:36).

✠ **Exodus 13:8-10** “And you [*Israel, my firstborn son*] shall tell your *son* in that day, saying, ‘This is done because of what the LORD/*Yahweh* did for me when I came up from Egypt.’ It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's/*Yahweh* law [*His Gospel, His Truth, the Torah, His Redemption, His teaching and instruction*] may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD/*Yahweh* has brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this ordinance [*Passover*] in its season from year to year [*forever*].”

Guidelines For Passover And The Feast Of Unleavened Bread Exodus 12:1-28, 43-49

Redemption always leads God's/*Elohim* people away from darkness (the realm of death – *olam hazeh*) and toward His eternal light (the realm of life – *olam haba*). Those who are waiting for His hand of deliverance will receive it in His perfect timing. The Israelites came out of Egypt at the exact time God/*Elohim* promised Abraham on the night he acknowledged the Covenant (Genesis 15:13).

Firstly, in preparation for Passover on the tenth day of that first Scriptural month, the Israelites were to take a male lamb, one-year-old, into their homes for four days. Just as a pet can have a place in your heart, bringing a lamb into your home would certainly have a similar effect. You could not help but become very attached to this innocent lamb and its personality. A relationship and bonding would develop between you, as this lamb would, in essence, become part of the family. It would be very hard to give this animal up, knowing that your hand must offer it up for death as a covering for your sins to restore your relationship with your Heavenly Father.

🌿 **Exodus 12:6** “Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when “ALL” the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight [*the ninth hour*].”

The word *house* was about the tabernacle/altar in our hearts. John the Baptist said of Yeshua, “Behold! The Lamb of God/*Elohim* who takes away the sin of the world!” Yeshua came to Jerusalem on the *tenth of the first month*. He went to His *Father's house* (the Temple) and was examined for four days, fulfilling Scripture that the lambs were to come into the *house* on the tenth of the month for examination.

🌿 **Luke 18:31-33** “Then He [*Yeshua*] took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles [*Nations*] and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge *Him* and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.’”

The question of *what people group* killed Yeshua was subtly designed to promote anti-Semitism throughout the centuries. It was not *a certain* people who killed Yeshua, as we are *all* guilty of His death. John 3:16 states that Yeshua *chose* to lay down His life for us.

🌿 **1 John 3:16** “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* laid down his [*own*] life for us. (NIV)

Yeshua died as a result of our sinfulness. He took *our* dishonor upon Himself and died *our* death. He is our Passover Lamb. He is our redemption. No other sacrifice is needed for our sins. It is finished. Yeshua, from the House of Judah and the throne of David, became the Kinsman-Redeemer for the Whole House of Israel. He died to restore the Kingdom authority Adam lost in the Garden and to make His people legal on the earth

once again in representing His Gospel (Kingdom power and authority) to the Nations (Acts 1:6).

🔱 **Exodus 12:7; 22-23** “They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. And you shall take a bunch of *hyssop*, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the LORD/*Yahweh* will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD/*Yahweh* will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.”

🔱 **John 10:7-9** “Yeshua said, ‘I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.’”

The Israelites were commanded to use a branch from the hyssop plant like a brush to apply the blood specifically to the doorposts and lintels at the entrance of their homes. This represents a prophetic picture of Yeshua’s crucifixion where His blood was sprinkled for the redemption of our sins.

🔱 **John 19:29-30** “Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus/*Yeshua* had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

The *two doorposts* can be representative of an altar. Also, the *Two Houses* of Israel: the House of Judah and the House of Israel. The *lintel* joins the two doorposts, like Yeshua, the Lamb of God/*Elohim*, is the mediator or ladder between heaven and earth. End times unity during the Messianic Era is seen here in the restoration of all twelve tribes. The *gate* at the entrance of their homes can also reflect the future *twelve gates*, unified in one heart with Yeshua, which leads into the New Jerusalem. The *house* represents His Tabernacle and covering when His people walk in obedience to the principles of His Kingdom.

When we choose to walk in His ways (by obeying His commandments) our action reveals we are in agreement with His atonement. That choice *forbids* the enemy from having any authority or legal cause over our lives (Ezekiel 37:15-28; Ephesians 2:14-22; Ezekiel 48:31; Revelation 21:12-13).

Not One Bone Broken

🔱 **Exodus 12:46** “In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.”

Not one bone of the Passover lamb was broken speaks prophetically of Yeshua’s body, in that not one bone in His body was broken upon His death. He was the perfect, unflawed

offering. The unbroken lamb is also prophetic of the twelve tribes of Israel who make up the *whole* body of Yeshua. In the end days, at His return, not one *tribe* will be missing, broken, separated or splintered off from the main body. All twelve tribes stay complete in Yeshua. His death is for the *restoration* of all twelve tribes of Israel and those who sojourn with them. Thus, upon His death, Yeshua's body was whole and intact (Acts 1:6).

🌿 **John 19:32-33** “The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus/*Yeshua*, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus/*Yeshua* and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.”

The angel of death spared those who had *the sign* of the blood of the lamb upon their doorways. “*The blood is a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt*” (Exodus 12:12-13).

Eat The Lamb

🌿 **Exodus 12:8-11** “That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD'S/*Yahweh's* Passover.”

The Missing Feast


The Passover is a prophetic picture revealing end-times truth. We are to celebrate *the remembrance of this night throughout all generations*. Early church rulers removed the observance of God's/*Elohim* Passover in 325 CE when the Council of Nicea met under Constantine's leadership. At that time, they chose to replace God's/*Elohim* set-apart day with a celebration of their paganized feast commonly known as *Easter*. Easter honors the pagan Spring Equinox and is an extension of the *Feast of Saturnalia*, from where we also get *Christmas*. Today more and more people are returning to embrace the prophetic words of Moses and the truth held in Yeshua's Gospel. One of the first ways they are responding is by restoring God's/*Elohim* true Passover.

Tradition

Passover was not only the night the angel of death passed over the firstborn Israelites but also the night they were told to hold a memorial meal. This meal was to include roasted lamb with bitter herbs – like onions and horseradish – along with unleavened bread. Today many celebrate Passover using a *Seder* plate to display these items. Through the generations, folklore has added other elements to Judah's Seder such as an egg and a shank bone. When asked why, they respond, “*It is tradition!*”

After the destruction of the temple, during the time of exile in Babylon, the rabbis changed God's/*Elohim* commandment to *eat roasted lamb* with a shank bone from the lower part of the lamb's leg and displayed this bone on their *Seder* plate to *symbolizes* the lamb. Today, this tradition in many Jewish homes continues where no one is served lamb at Passover but turkey, meat or fish instead. Their reasoning is that the commandment of sacrificing a lamb represents an offering, which only applies if there is a temple. Although early rabbinic authorities diminished the representation of the Messiah at Passover by *replacing the lamb*, God's/*Elohim* commandment of eating roast lamb came as the Israelites were about to leave Egypt, long ***before*** a tabernacle, temple or rabbinic authority ever existed. Scripture also speaks of God's/*Elohim* temple now being in those who have received Him and walk in His redemptive plan (Deuteronomy 30:14; Romans 10:8).

The Lamb of God, *Yeshua*, is always with His people, whether a physical temple is present or not. Without the lamb at Passover, the revelation of the Savior (salvation and redemption) is lost to people who are still looking for their Messiah. Therefore, the commandment to *eat the lamb* still applies to all who worship the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Passover always (both *before* and *after* *Yeshua's* physical walk on earth), points to Him, the Lamb, *Yeshua HaMashiach*, who was slain from the *foundation* of the world for the propitiation of our sins (Revelation 13:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

 **John 6:53** “Then Jesus/*Yeshua* said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.’”

It was also during the Babylonian exile that the egg became a modern addition to the traditional celebrations of Passover and Easter in Christian and Jewish homes. For the House of Judah, when searching the Scriptures, no mention of a commandment for a roasted egg at Passover could be found. When asked why? They say it is a symbol of *life*. Scripture, specifically the *Shema*, says there is only *One symbol for life*. The presence of an egg represents a Babylonian influence in connection with the belief in the pagan goddess of fertility. Today, with a renewed understanding of God's/*Elohim* Word, many people are replacing man's non-scriptural traditions with Scriptural truth in their celebration of Passover (Deuteronomy 6:4-25).

The early Church fathers eliminated the Passover celebration altogether, leaving the people without a vision or heart for their *Hebraic* Messiah. The removal of Passover also left them without an identity as part of Israel or the knowledge of their Hebrew inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. *Yeshua* never taught Easter or the celebration of it. The Babylonians had celebrated Easter hundreds of years ***before*** *Yeshua* was born. *Three hundred and twenty-five years after Yeshua died*, the early church fathers imposed this Babylonian feast (by the threat of death) on the people. Easter is the celebration of *Ishtar*, the Babylonian goddess of fertility, which is held at the spring equinox. Eggs symbolize her fertility and followers dipped eggs from the blood of human

sacrifices to decorate in her honor. The tradition of decorating eggs today originates from this homage.



Truth or Traditions: Should Christians Celebrate Christmas and Easter?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEeBzIoQVS0>

(We do not necessarily endorse Mr. Stanley's teachings but felt this video could be a general guide for those not familiar with truth versus traditions).

God's/Elohim people are not to *replace* the Lamb or *assimilate* Him into pagan idolatry. They are called to worship and bless Him by remembering that the Passover is a prophetic celebration designed to unfold future events and blessings for the redemption of the firstborn – *those who believe in The Lamb of God/Elohim.*

✠ **Ephesians 4:29-30** “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God/Elohim, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

At Passover, we are to have:

- Bitter herbs:** These herbs represent how we have been delivered from the bitterness of slavery and bondage.
- Matzo:** This unleavened flat bread represents God's/Elohim pure Word, which points the way to our redemption and deliverance.
- Roasted lamb:** Represents the love of Yeshua HaMashiach, the Savior of the World, who took our sin and died our death that He might establish relationship once again in the hearts of His people for the sole purpose of living with Him in His Kingdom - Eternity.

The Blood On The Doorposts

The Israelites obeyed God's/Elohim command and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintels of their homes, then ate the roasted lamb with bitter herbs and bread without yeast at His appointed time. While the Israelites were safe in their homes, the angel of death passed through the land. Loud wails of mourning and weeping were heard as the Egyptian firstborn died. True to God's/Elohim word, Pharaoh gave Moses and Aaron permission to leave. The Egyptians also handed over articles of gold, silver, and clothing to the Israelites, who plundered Egypt as they left (Exodus 12:33-36).

About the angel of death who passed over the Israelites' homes, we note that the law of sin and death had no hold over God's/Elohim people when they came into agreement and acted upon His Word.

Unleavened Bread

In their haste to leave Egypt, the Israelites carried unleavened bread in *covered* kneading troughs on their shoulders (Exodus 12:34). This *bread* became their life source, a prophetic picture of Yeshua's death, burial, and resurrection.

✠ **Exodus 12:34** “So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.”

When the Children of Israel obeyed, the realm of death had no hold over them, as they did not walk in an *earthly* realm but a *heavenly* covering. Yeshua, the Lamb of God/*Elohim*, the Light of the world, and the Bread of Life, redeemed the Israelites from years of bitter enslavement that night. In effect, they had taken Yeshua into their lives and partaken *in Him*, and when they left Egypt, they took with them the very symbol of the Messiah and His Government on their shoulders. Thus they left Egypt under the power and authority of His Government (Exodus 28:12; Isaiah 9:6-7).

At the time of Yeshua’s birth, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Swaddling clothes were made from worn priestly garments and also used as wicks to light the menorahs in the temple. Yeshua is our High Priest and the Light of the world. All power and authority – His Kingdom Government - rests on His shoulders. The gift of His Kingdom is to all who choose to partake in the Lamb of God/*Elohim* (Luke 1:26-2:20; Matthew 28:18).

✠ **John 6:33-35** “For the bread of God/*Elohim* is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” And Jesus/*Yeshua* said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

Yeast represents sin. At Passover, all the people were commanded to remove ALL yeast from their homes *for seven days*. The bread they carried on their shoulders represented Yeshua, the spotless Lamb of God/*Elohim* who took away the sins of the world (1 Corinthians 5:7).

✠ **Exodus 12:15** “Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.”

✠ **1 Peter 1:18-19** “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ/*Messiah*, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

The Israelites were commanded to eat unleavened bread (bread made with no yeast) for seven days. God/*Elohim* repeats this over and over again in Scripture. The Passover is a night to remember, a memorial. The eating of the unleavened bread was not only for this Passover night but also lasted seven more days. These seven days are a separate feast called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day and the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread are both *High Holy Sabbaths* before God/*Elohim* (Exodus 12:15-20).

✠ **Leviticus 23:5-6** “On the *fourteenth* day of the first month at twilight is the LORD’S *Passover*. And on the *fifteenth* day of the same month is the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* to the LORD/*Yahweh*; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.”

🌿 **Exodus 12:16** “On the *first day* [of the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*] there shall be a holy convocation, and on the *seventh day* there shall be a holy convocation [*Sabbath*] for you” (Leviticus 23:5-8).

Sabbaths carry the anointing to bless and sanctify (Genesis 2:3). God/*Elohim* is eager to impart this consecration to *Israel* His Bride especially on this night. So important was this to Him that He warned His people saying,

🌿 **Exodus 12:15** “For whoever eats *leavened* [*puffy*] bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.”

The seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread represents a consecration period for God’s/*Elohim* people. The Israelites had come from a very unclean place called the realm of death (world system – *olam hazeh*) and needed to be redeemed from the realm of death to the realm of life (*olam haba*). Obedience to the command not to eat leavened (puffy) bread for those seven days brought a cleansing. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is an *eternal* observance for all Israel and her future generations – ours included. This perpetual Feast is also the prophetic preparation of the end time’s redemption of the Bride of Yeshua. These Feast Day observances are set in Sabbaths; appointments made with the King for His people to attend. They are not for salvation purposes but the pursuit of holiness and sanctification.

🌿 **Ephesians 5:26-27** Yeshua gave Himself up for His Bride “to make her holy, having cleansed her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant *ekklesia* (assembly), without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

The commandment to celebrate Passover and Unleavened Bread is still active today as the Scripture says,

🌿 **Exodus 12:17** “Therefore you shall observe this day *throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.*”

Yeshua’s blood *redeems* the Bride, but it is up to the Bride to prepare herself according to the instructions given her.

🌿 **Revelation 19:7** “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, *and His wife has made herself ready.*”

The Passover and seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread are the first steps in the preparation of the Bride for her wedding. Of God’s/*Elohim* feasts/*moedim*, the spring Feasts are the prophetic actions that bring the Bride into a betrothal relationship with her Bridegroom. It is for this reason that His people continue to observe His Feasts each year, as they are dress rehearsals fitting and clothing the Bride with the *imperishable*.

✠ **1 Corinthians 15:53** says, “For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Seven days represents a cleansing or consecration ceremony. As a royal priesthood of Yeshua, we pray His people desire to participate with passion each year the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 8:33; 1 Peter 1:9-16; 1 Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:5-6).

The Exodus Exodus 12:37- 42, 51

After the Israelites plundered Egypt, approximately six hundred thousand men on foot, beside women and children, journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. They had spent 400 years in Egypt. Faithful to His Word, God/*Elohim* escorted all twelve tribes in their full divisions and kept vigil over them as they journeyed (Galatians 3:17).

✠ **Genesis 15:13-14** “Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.’”

Who May Eat The Passover? Exodus 12:43-49

God/*Elohim* pauses the story to give vital instruction. Here He lists who may eat the Passover meal with Him and who may not, as He alone knows the heart of man.

- The first category lists people *who may not eat* the Passover dinner/*seder*. They are a foreigner, a temporary resident or a hired worker. Individuals who do not desire to serve or have a personal relationship with the God/*Elohim* Israel.
- The second category lists people *who may eat* the Passover. They are all slaves, aliens, and native-born who wish to serve and sojourn in the ways of God/*Elohim*. They are those with *circumcised hearts* who have put aside their pagan gods and desires to embrace and follow after the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They have entered into a Covenant relationship with Him *by faith*.

Circumcision

There has been considerable debate among many believers today whether or not to allow a *physically uncircumcised believer* to the Passover meal/*seder*. Yeshua’s disciple, Paul/*Rabbi Saul*, settled any and all arguments for us. Of the great Messianic leaders traveling with Paul at the time, **Timothy** was *physically circumcised* and **Titus**, Paul’s fellow worker, was *not physically circumcised* (Galatians 2:3). Both Timothy and Titus had circumcised hearts, and both were in *Covenant* with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Each year both men joined other believers to celebrate and eat the

Passover meal together. If Titus were alive today, would he be welcome at your Passover table?

The story of Hezekiah, in 2 Chronicles 30:1-31:1 also sets the example for us to follow when considering Passover guests. The King of Judah, Hezekiah, sent invitations to the Southern Kingdom (the House of Judah) and to the Northern Kingdom (House of Israel) inviting all twelve tribes to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. Since many priests (*Kohath* Levites) had not consecrated themselves, the Levites (*Gershon* and *Merari* Levites) had to kill the Passover lambs on their behalf. Many people, who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, desired to honor the commandment but had not purified themselves (they were uncircumcised), yet they ate the Passover, as they were part of the Covenant of the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore, King Hezekiah prayed on their behalf...

🏰 **2 Chronicles 30:18-20** “For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun [*the Northern Kingdom, House of Israel*], had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, ‘*May the good LORD/Yahweh provide atonement for everyone who prepares his heart to seek God/Elohim, the LORD/Yahweh God/Elohim of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.*’ And the LORD/Yahweh listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.”

The two stories above are based on the fact that Abraham is the father of the uncircumcised and the father of the circumcised. How does this work? Abraham was uncircumcised when he first received the Covenant/Gospel of Yeshua (Genesis 15 and 17; Galatians 3:8-9, 29). It was not until *thirteen years after* Abraham received the Covenant that he was introduced to the sign of that Covenant, which was *physical circumcision*. Circumcision is not the actual Covenant itself; it is *the sign* of the Covenant given to Abraham. When people receive salvation today, they enter the Abrahamic Covenant *uncircumcised just like Abraham*. It is for this reason that *Timothy* and *Titus* could sit at the same table with other believers and enjoy the Passover meal together.

🏰 **Romans 5:8** “But God/*Elohim* demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners [*uncircumcised*], Christ/*Messiah* died for us.”

🏰 **Romans 4:11-12** “That he [*Abraham*] might be the father of all those who believe [*in the Covenant/Gospel of Yeshua*], though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised” (Galatians 3:7-8, 29; Hebrews 2:2:10-3:6; Romans 4:9-18).

Consecration Of The Firstborn

✠ **Exodus 4:22-23** “Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: *Israel* is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.’”

Observing the Passover (and the Feast of Unleavened Bread) is for the consecration of the firstborn son *Israel*. It is *a sign* to all who are grafted into Israel. This also includes believers, as they are part of Israel through Yeshua, the *Holy One of Israel* (*Isaiah 43:15*). Like *Israel*, we are called His firstborn, and as firstborn we are to keep the Passover each year at its appointed time and preserve its *sign* upon our hand and keep its *memorial* between our eyes (*Hebrews 12:22-24*).

✠ **Exodus 13:8-10** “And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘This is done because of what the LORD/*Yahweh* did for me when I came up from Egypt. It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD’s/*Yahweh*’s law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD/*Yahweh* has brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.’”

✠ **Exodus 13:12-13** “You shall set apart to the LORD/*Yahweh* all that open the womb, every firstborn that comes from an animal; the males shall be the LORD’s/*Yahweh*’s. But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.’”

✠ **Exodus 12:14-16** “So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, ‘By strength of hand the LORD/*Yahweh* brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD/*Yahweh* killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD/*Yahweh* all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem. It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD/*Yahweh* brought us out of Egypt.’”

The story of the Exodus is for the redemption of the firstborn. The Exodus, led by Moses, is a type and shadow of our Exodus today. Their deliverance speaks of our deliverance. The Deliverer and Redeemer, Yeshua, has gone before us and prepared the way. We know *the way*, as He imparted it to Moses to share with His people. The way is called *the Gospel* – which leads to the Highway of Holiness (*Isaiah 35:4-10*; *John 5:46-47*).

✠ **John 14:4** “And where I go you know, and the way you know” (*Deuteronomy 30:11-14*).

Yeshua is returning for His firstborn, His Bride in waiting, the one who faithfully upholds His word at His appointed seasons and times. The full redemption of His Bride not only results in a wedding but also ushers in the *millennial* Kingdom. When His people choose to enter His Feast Days, they clothe themselves with the imperishable and with immortality. The gold plate on the High Priest's forehead is part of the priestly garment, which read "*Holy unto the LORD/Yahweh.*" That *sign* also distinguishes the Bride in the end days. The firstborn are not only preparing to walk as a Bride but also as a royal priesthood thus their pursuit will be known to all, as they are the ones arrayed in the rich priestly garments (Exodus 28:36; 1 Corinthians 9:25; 15: 53-54; Revelation 20:4).

✠ **1 Peter 2:9-10** "But you [*believer*] *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God/*Elohim*, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy (Exodus 19:5-6).

✠ **Romans 8:28-31** "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God/*Elohim*, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God/*Elohim* is for us, who can be against us?"

✠ **1 Corinthians 15:53** "For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

✠ **1 Peter 1:22-23** "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God/*Elohim.*"

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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