

The Chosen People



Volume X, Issue 2 March 2004

Passover

and the *Passion*

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Passover

and the *Passion*

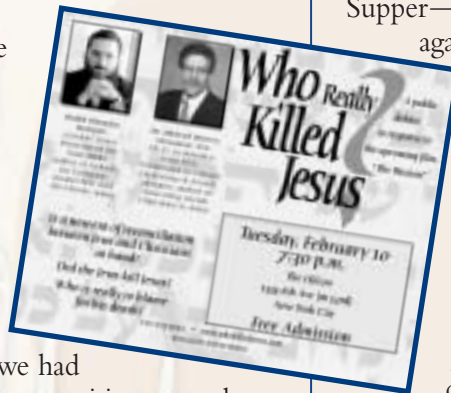
Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from New York City! Thanks for your prayers and support—especially as we conducted an intensive evangelistic campaign during the last few weeks. Our teams spent many hours speaking to people about the movie *The Passion of Christ*, released last month in many cities.

We prepared a special brochure and set up tables for prayer and conversation outside theaters. We were able to speak with countless Jewish people about the reasons why Jesus died. So many Jewish people—so many questions about Jesus... it was a moving experience for our staff.

The debate we sponsored in New York City was attended by hundreds. An ad in *The New York Times* attracted many people, and we had some wonderful opportunities to speak out in the public media about the real meaning of Messiah's death.

We are thankful to the Lord for these past few weeks of ministry and the prospect of continuing our conversations in the months ahead with those who have not yet become believers. Thank you for your financial support and for your prayers—we could not have met the challenges of this tremendous evangelistic opportunity without you!



Passover and the Last Week of Jesus' Earthly Life

God's agenda for the Messiah's last week is outlined in both Old and New Testaments. His last week was a direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Therefore, not one event during the last week of Jesus' life took God by surprise. In fact, the most significant events were predicted and were necessary if Jesus were to prove He was the one, true Messiah of Israel.

This pure and spotless Lamb of God died on Passover—the day the Passover lamb was sacrificed in the Temple, immediately across the hill from Golgotha!

Everything He did was in fulfillment of prophecy so that no one, neither Jew nor Gentile, could have any doubt that He was the Savior of the world.

Your Prayers Needed Now!

During the next few weeks, Chosen People staff will be speaking in hundreds of churches presenting "Messiah in the Passover." We will demonstrate—through the Passover, as fulfilled in the Last Supper—that Jesus is the Messiah. Once again, we will meet many Jewish

people who do not know the Lord. Perhaps there will be even greater interest in knowing more about Jesus because of the events of the last few weeks. We hope and pray that many Jewish people will recognize that He is the promised Messiah and that He died and rose—for them!

Thanks for your love and faithful support. Again, we could not be out there sharing His love without your help. We appreciate you!

Happy Passover and remember... He is Risen!

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



Does your family keep heirlooms? No matter if you're rich or poor, the chances are that somewhere, hidden in an attic or a drawer, there is an object from another generation that has somehow passed into your family's possession. It could be a photograph. It could be a book. It could be a candlestick. From time to time, you might look at it and say, "If only it could talk. What a story it could tell!"

The Passover Seder plate is a little like that—for the story it tells is the story of the Jewish people. And the Seder plate is a silent witness of the finished work of Jesus the Messiah.

Passover in History

The Seder plate occupies center stage at the Passover meal. It has the *Karpas* (parsley), the *Maror* (bitter herbs), the *Charoseth* (apples, nuts, spices), the *Z'roah* (lamb shankbone) and the *Beitzah* (egg). But a look at Scripture shows us that Passover started out a bit more simply.

The first Passover, in Exodus 12, mentions three essentials: the Passover lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread (Exodus 12:8). So where did the rest of the elements on the Seder plate come from—and when did they get there?

The answer lies with the forces of history and the God-given ability of the Jewish people to keep their heritage alive, even as they reshaped traditions as need dictated.

The historical event that most greatly altered the celebration of the Passover was the destruction of the Temple in 586 BC. Why? Because from that day until the time of rebuilding under Ezra and Nehemiah, the sacrifice of the lamb could not be offered in Jerusalem.

This meant that the central event of the Passover—the sacrifice—was taken away. What had been an actual event

must now be preserved as a memory, complete with the illustrations embodied in the elements of the Seder that had not been there before.

Passover in Jewish Sacred Literature

The earliest mention of the Passover Seder as we know it today comes in the Mishnah, the written version of the Jewish Oral Law, which was compiled by Judah Ha Nasi (the Prince) in the second century. In the tractate *Pesachim*, we meet familiar elements of today's Passover, such as the four cups, the greens for dipping, the *charoseth*, the Four Questions, the sayings of Rabbi Gamaliel and the well-known prayers and psalms that are recited and sung to this very day. However, although these things were written down in the second century, they are in fact far older—possibly by hundreds of years.



The great Jewish sage, Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides) codified much Jewish practice in the 11th century, and Joseph Karo, another towering scholar in the Jewish faith, authored the *Shulchan Aruch* ("Prepared Table"), which was printed in 1565. It is the basis for the order of the traditional Passover celebration today.

The Seder Plate in Art

As with many other Jewish festivals and observances, the artistic impulse plays an important and edifying role in the ritual articles associated with the Passover. However, prior to the Renaissance there are no examples of the beautifully fashioned Seder plates we find today.

The first we hear of something resembling the Seder plate is a basket called a *Ke'arah* in 1000 AD. However, starting in the 16th century in Spain and Italy, we find beautiful Seder plates



The Story of the Seder Plate



made of such materials as wood, porcelain and copper.

The Passover Egg – Sacrifice and Resurrection

One of the most intriguing elements of the Seder plate is the *Beitzah* (egg). Although no one knows how it came to be placed on the Seder plate, the egg became to Israel another symbol of sacrifice in place of the slaughtered lamb. Yet, while the emphasis on sacrifice has always called us to remember the shedding of blood for atonement, the symbol of the egg calls us to consider the newness of life made possible by the sacrifice.

Curiously enough, this interpretation found its way into the Church from almost its earliest days. Easter eggs were at one time called *Pasche* eggs, which hearkened back to the original connection between the Passover and Messiah's resurrection.

Messiah and the Passover Plate

The Seder plate has all of the elements of Messiah's life: suffering, sacrifice and resurrection. It tells the story not only of the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt into the freedom of the Promised Land, but also of our exodus from the bondage of sin unto everlasting life.

In Messiah, we find gloriously fulfilled the things toward which the Seder plate has pointed all along. In Him, the Passover celebration becomes a banquet at which the King of Creation is praised and worshiped and joy is heaped upon joy forever.

How to Host a Passover Seder

One of the most moving moments in the life of Jesus occurs at the very end of His earthly ministry. It is known as the Last Supper—the final gathering of Jesus and the disciples to celebrate Passover on the last night of His earthly life.

Although many believers have been aware of the Jewish Passover, many have not experienced the full impact of the relationship between this joyful, ancient celebration and one of the oldest and most important observances of Christianity, the Lord's Supper.

The more we learn of the Passover, the more we understand the ministry of Messiah.

And the great thing is that you don't have to go to the dusty volumes of history to discover this precious knowledge. The Passover is still a living Jewish tradition—and you can celebrate it! Hosting a Passover meal in your home is a wonderful way to renew your appreciation for God's promises and their fulfillment in Messiah.

Passover is also a time in Jewish tradition to extend hospitality to others, and a "Messianic" Passover dinner is a fine opportunity to share the Gospel with your seeking friends and neighbors.

The Seder Plate – Passover at a Glance

Seder is the Hebrew word for "order" or "procedure." It is the liturgy of Passover—a living tradition that links the present with the past. Like the other feasts of Israel, Passover is an exciting blend of elements designed to make the story of the Exodus from Egypt as riveting as possible.

The Seder plate holds the place of honor at the Passover table. Seder plates are some of the finest and most beautiful examples of Jewish art. Families pass them down from generation to generation, and some of them are breathtaking examples of

artistry. The elements found on the Seder plate all have their parts to play, and all of them are easy to obtain and prepare.

These are the elements of the Seder plate:

The Karpas – parsley, which symbolizes the hyssop used to place the blood of the sacrificed lamb on the doorposts and lintels on the Israelite homes during the tenth and most terrible plague God visited upon Egypt—the slaying of the first-born.

The Maror – bitter herbs, traditionally horseradish, which remind us of the bitterness of our slavery under Pharaoh. There are usually two kinds of bitter herbs, perhaps ground horseradish and a whole horseradish root, on the Seder plate, because this element is mentioned in the plural as "herbs" in Exodus 12:8 and Numbers 9:11.

The Charoseth – a tasty combination of apples, nuts, spices (often cinnamon) and a little wine or grape juice. When mixed, it is meant to have a consistency that reminds us of the mortar that the children of Israel used to make the bricks as they labored for Pharaoh. Charoseth is easy to make in a food processor or blender.

The Z'roah – (lamb shankbone) a symbol of the sacrifice, which can no longer be made because the Temple no longer stands.

The Beitzah – a brown, roasted (or hardboiled) egg. It too represents sacrifice—as a symbol of the daily Temple sacrifice, or the life that sacrifice brings to us through reconciliation with God.

There are just a few other elements that make the Passover table complete:



The Matzah – three cakes of unleavened bread are wrapped separately in a special, three-part pouch called a Matzah Tash.

Salt water – which reminds us of the tears of suffering that our ancestors shed in bondage. The parsley is dipped into the salt water at the appropriate moment.

A laver or bowl of water for the ritual handwashing.

Red wine or grape juice – enough for the Four Cups of Passover.

The Seder – An Order of Worship and Table Fellowship

The Passover Seder is structured around Four Cups of Wine (grape juice is fine) that represent the four “I wills” of Exodus 6:6-7. We shall meet each of them along the way. One essential tool for the Passover celebration is the *Haggadah*. The *Haggadah* is a book that outlines the order of the evening. Like the Seder plate, *Haggadahs* come from all parts of the world, and some of them are centuries old. *Haggadah* means “telling the story.” A *Haggadah* may be simple or ornate, but its purpose is to guide us through the order of the Passover service.

The Passover unfolds in this manner:

✧ *Candle lighting and prayers*

✧ *Drink the First Cup* – The Cup of Sanctification (the first “I will”) “*I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians*” (Exodus 6:6).

✧ *Hands are washed* – representing the purity required to enter the Lord’s presence in His Holy Temple.

✧ *Karpas* is dipped in the salt water and eaten.

You will need:

- Interested friends
- Candles
- Seder plate (or dinner plate)
- “Wine” glasses
- Red wine or grape juice
- Bible
- Parsley
- Horseradish (or radish)
- Charoseth
- Lamb shankbone
- Hardboiled egg
- Matzah
- Saltwater
- An empty place setting

✧ *Breaking of the Middle Matzah*. The leader of the Seder breaks the middle of the three cakes of unleavened bread (*matzah*) and hides half of it. This hidden half is called the *afikomen*. It is a Greek word, meaning “dessert,” or “after-dinner.” It also means “He who comes.”

✧ *The story of Passover* is narrated from Exodus 12.

✧ The youngest child asks the “*Four Questions of Passover*.”

✧ *Drink the Second Cup*: – The Cup of Judgment: “*I will rescue you from their bondage*” (Exodus 6:6). The Ten Plagues are recited, and a drop of wine is spilled for each one (see Dr. Goldberg’s article on page 6).

✧ *Matzah* is eaten. The unleavened bread reminds us of the haste with which the children of Israel left Egypt.

✧ *Maror* is eaten with matzah, symbolizing the bitterness of the forced labor of the Israelites and the oppressiveness of slavery.

✧ *Charoseth* is eaten with matzah.

✧ *The Passover Meal* is served – During the meal, the children search for the Afikomen.

✧ *The Afikomen is “ransomed”* by the leader of the Seder and shared by all. This is the Body of Messiah in the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:19).

✧ *The Third Cup* – The Cup of Redemption: “*I will redeem you with an outstretched arm*” (Exodus 6:6). This is the Blood of the Passover lamb, and the blood in the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:20).

✧ *The Z’roah and Beitzah* are noted above, as is the empty place setting for Elijah the Prophet, who will herald the coming of the Messiah.

✧ *Praises* are read from the Psalms.

✧ *The Fourth Cup* – The Cup of Praise: “*I will take you as my people*” (Exodus 6:7). Jesus gave praise to God before His suffering.

✧ *The Seder concludes* as all declare together, “NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!”

A Living Testimony of God’s Faithfulness

The Passover is a living testimony of God’s faithfulness to His people. It teaches us to look back at the past with gratitude, to accept the present with trust and to anticipate the future with hope. The Passover teaches us that the same God who rescued His children from the bondage of slavery in Egypt will also bring us into the fullness of His Kingdom at the return of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah.

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.



THE PLAGUES OF THE EXODUS AND THE PLAGUES OF THE REVELATION

God's righteousness is not to be taken lightly—and those who claim that His just judgment is to be found only in the Old Testament had better look again. The plague judgments of Revelation parallel the plagues of the Exodus—only on a larger scale. The plagues of judgment against Pharaoh and the false gods of Egypt are mirrored in the judgments against the powers of darkness in Revelation.

WATER TURNED TO BLOOD (Exodus 7:14-19)

In Exodus, this plague was directed against *Osiris*, the god of the Nile. In the second trumpet judgment (Rev. 8:8,9), one third of the rivers will become blood. And in the third trumpet judgment (Rev. 8:10,11), a third of earth's fresh water is contaminated (see also Rev. 16:3).

FROGS (Exodus 8:1-6)

This plague was sent against the Egyptian frog goddess *Hekt*. The sixth vial judgment (Rev. 16:12-14) involves "three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon . . ." (Rev. 16:13a), sent out to deceive the kings of the earth.

LICE (Exodus 8:16)

In this plague, the "dust of the land" became lice, a judgment against *Seb*, the earth god. Both the sixth seal judgment (Rev. 6:12-17) and the seventh vial judgment (Rev. 16:17-21), tell of the coming greatest earthquakes of all history.

CATASTROPHES IN NATURE

(Exodus 8:20-22; 9:18-22)

These comprise both the fourth and seventh plagues. The fourth plague was directed against *Hatkok*,

the wife of *Osiris*, and the seventh against *Shu*, the god of the atmosphere. In the first trumpet judgment (Rev. 8:7), hail and fire consume one third of the earth's trees and green grass, disrupting the oxygen supply.

CATTLE DISEASE (Exodus 9:1-7)

In the Ancient Near East, cattle meant wealth. This judgment was directed against *Apis*, the sacred bull god. All the accumulated wealth of the unregenerate will be consumed in the greatest stock market crash of the ages. "For in one hour such great riches came to nothing..." (Rev. 18:17).

BOILS (Exodus 9:8-11)

The agonizing plague of boils is directed against the god *Typhon*. In the first vial judgment, "...a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast..." (Rev. 16:2).

LOCUSTS (Exodus 10:12,13)

This frightening plague from the East comes in judgment against *Serapia*, the god who protected Egypt against locusts. The fifth trumpet judgment (Rev. 9:1-11) reveals information about demonology, when demons will be released upon lost men in the hideous form of locusts (Rev. 9:3).

DARKNESS (Exodus 10:21-23)

Darkness is a judgment against *Ra*, the sun god. The sun was darkened when Messiah died, and will be darkened again in the fourth trumpet judgment (Rev. 8:12; Joel 2:31,32).

DEATH OF THE FIRST BORN (Exodus 11:4-10)

Finally comes the all-inclusive judgment upon Egypt—the slaying of the first born. Likewise, the Lord will march through the earth as He did in Egypt and the slain will be innumerable (Rev. 19:15-21; Isa. 66:23, 24).

The only refuge from God's coming wrath is to trust in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Why wait? No one is promised tomorrow: "...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). ☆

Zhava's Passover Coconut Macaroons

If you're invited to a Passover Seder this year, you'll be the favorite guest if you bring along a batch or two of these light and fabulous coconut macaroons, kosher for Passover! They're super-easy to make (or else I wouldn't be giving you the recipe—super-easy is the only thing I know how to do!).

You'll need: 2 egg whites 1/2 tsp. Vanilla
 pinch of salt 2/3 cup sugar
 1 1/3 cup coconut flakes

All you do is beat the egg whites, vanilla and salt until soft peaks form. Then VERY SLOWLY sprinkle in the sugar, just a little at a time, and then gently fold in the coconut with a spatula. That's it! Now drop spoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet and bake in a preheated oven at 350° for 20 minutes. Makes about 2 dozen. Enjoy!

PROCLAIMING THE KING TO THE BUKHARAN JEWISH PEOPLE IN QUEENS

Who are the Bukharan Jewish people? This well-defined Jewish community comes from the city of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, and from other Central Asian countries. As many as 40,000 now call the borough of Queens in New York City their home. Not long ago, staff members Randall and Luda Ford distributed thousands of leaflets in their Bukharan neighborhood, offering free copies of the *Jesus* film. The response was most encouraging! One man called several times and wanted the video so badly that he finally showed up at the Fords' apartment door to claim it. Randall and Luda now hope to follow up with a seekers' Bible study for those who are hungry for God's Word.

"I WAS THAT MAN!"

Congregational leader Larry Feldman was preaching on Isaiah 53 and mentioned that, of all the people who had ever heard him read this passage in his office, only one man had not prayed to receive Messiah. A man seated in the congregation that day leaned over to his wife and whispered to her, "I was that man." After the service, he asked if he could talk with Larry in private. When they were alone, he said, "I don't know what was holding me back, but I am now ready." They bowed as he prayed to receive the Lord, and then the man went to find his wife to tell her the good news.

"CELEBRATE MESSIAH" HOSTS JEWISH MISSIONS WEEK IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Celebrate Messiah, Chosen People Ministries' partner in Australia, recently hosted its first "Jewish Missions Week" in Melbourne. After four days of training in Australia's capital city of Canberra, ten Melbourne University students (affectionately called "Team Messiah") joined Celebrate Messiah for three more days of Jewish evangelism in the Jewish suburbs of Melbourne. The various activities included Jewish evangelism training, visiting the Jewish Museum and the Holocaust Museum, street evangelism, attending synagogue, participating in a Sabbath Dinner and also participating in the services of Beit HaMashiach ("House of Messiah") Messianic Congregation in the heart of the Jewish community in Melbourne.

MINISTERING THE GOSPEL TO A DYING WOMAN

Frank and Roseanne Potter live in a 55+ community in the Philadelphia area. They've made friends with several neighbors, such as Irene, who was terminally ill. As Irene's health deteriorated, Roseanne was at her home many times, doing whatever she could to help. During one of her last visits, Roseanne had a chance to be alone with Irene and fully share the Gospel with her. After hearing the Good News, Irene came to faith, and Roseanne prayed with her to receive Jesus. She said she was totally at peace and ready to depart this world. Only a few days later, Irene went home to be with her Lord.

"PASSIONATE" DEBATE IN NEW YORK CITY STIRS INTEREST

The Hilton hotel in Midtown Manhattan was the scene of an intense yet productive debate on the evening of February 10th on the topic, "Who Really Killed Jesus?" The standing-room-only crowd of about 1000—about half of whom were interested Jewish people who do not yet know the Lord—listened intently as Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Messianic Jewish author Dr. Michael Brown addressed each other and fielded audience questions. This event, which was part of Chosen People Ministries' outreach during the February opening of Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion*, was covered by *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post* and several Jewish newspapers. Other media present included ABC, HBO and NBC, which aired a news segment that night. Dr. Brown made a clear Gospel presentation. See the enclosed reply card to order a copy of the debate video.



Rabbi Boteach (l) and Dr. Brown (r)

Traditional Silver Seder Plate

The Seder plate helps to tell the story of the Exodus and points to our Messiah. This plate will look great on your Passover table. Silver plated and made in Israel.

Seder plate (#5024) \$24.95^{US}

Complete Passover Set includes plate, cup and Matzah tash—not shown (#5027) \$55.95^{US}



Joined Together? now available on DVD

Explore answers to pressing questions for those in an interfaith relationship. *Joined Together?* is a documentary featuring four interfaith married couples who share their discovery that faith in the Jewish Messiah can bring a dynamic and joy-filled basis to their marriage. Hearing them relate their struggles and successes is sure to touch and move you. Visit www.chosenpeople.com/joinedtogether.

DVD #8024; Video #8025..... \$19.95



October 18-28, 2004

See Israel Through Jewish Eyes

When is a good time to visit Israel? The answer is "Now!" There is no better time to see the land of the patriarchs and the Messiah! Make your plans now to join Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People Ministries' veteran Israel guide and gifted Bible teacher, for the trip of a lifetime, October 18-28. Make this the year that you walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles.

For more information and a free, full-color brochure, call 1-800-459-9402.

2004 Summer Missions Opportunities

STEP – June 8 - July 6

Challenging and rewarding! Spend a month reaching out to the Jewish people of Chicago and New York City!

STEP-in-a-Week – July 11-18

The perfect evangelism program if you only have a week to spare—on the streets of New York City.

eXperience Israel – July 11-25

Tour Israel and bring God's Word to the Promised Land—for ages 18-35.

For more information on any of the above programs, call

1-888-2-YESHUA

STEP CANADA - July 31 - Aug. 15

Share the Good News of Jesus the Messiah with the Jewish People in Toronto and Montreal. This new Chosen People Ministries short-term mission is open to adults 18 and over with a heart to reach the Jewish people of Canada. Attend one or both weeks.



STEP in Toronto – July 31-August 8

STEP in Montreal – August 7-15

For more information call

1-888-4-HALLEL

Be sure to ask about STEP CANADA scholarships and the "early bird" discount when you call!



The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)