

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



A Table Setting for the Passover Seder

**The Passover -- Yeshua's Sacrifice Begins
YEHOVAH's Master Plan**

Lesson 10

An Open Letter from the Staff...

YOU HAVE probably heard the teaching that the Messiah did everything for you -- that all you must do is ACCEPT his shed blood for your sins, and then you are “automatically saved”!

Is the mere acceptance of the Messiah’s death all there is to salvation? Does the blood of Yeshua really “save” anyone?

The common teaching today is that the Messiah FINISHED the plan of salvation on the tree. The world consequently sees only a DEAD MESSIAH HANGING ON A TREE -- not the DYNAMIC LIVING MESSIAH at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, assisting in guiding and controlling the whole universe! (**Hebrews 1:3.**)

Just what was finished? Notice Yeshua’s own words: “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to FINISH HIS WORK" (**John 4:34.**)

Yeshua came to accomplish a specific job -- the Father’s work. That job was two-fold. One was to preach the gospel and to commission the apostles to carry on the Father’s work until the Messiah returns. The second was to offer his life for the sins of rebellious mankind.

Of the FIRST part of the Father’s commission Yeshua said: “I have FINISHED THE WORK which thou gavest me to do" (**John 17:4.**)

At the climax of the SECOND part of that commission, as Yeshua was expiring his last breath, he said: “It is finished” (**John 19:30.**)

What was finished? The sacrificing of his life for the sins of the world! But did that finish the plan of salvation? Not at all!

Consider!

If the death of Yeshua completed the plan of salvation, then why the need of a resurrection?

This, and other questions, will be answered in this important lesson.



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 10

Published at Arcadia, California by Hope of Israel Ministries (Ecclesia of YEHOVAH).

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About Our Cover...

Pictured on the cover is a typical table setting for the Passover Seder, which is observed after sunset at the beginning of the 15th of Nisan.

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The Passover -- Yeshua's Sacrifice Begins YEHOVAH's Master Plan

LESSON 10

Why the Resurrection?

Suppose Yeshua were not resurrected. Would his shed blood be sufficient to save you? Have you never read **I Corinthians 15:17**? "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is VAIN; YOU ARE YET IN YOUR SINS"!

Notice it! "Yet in your sins"! Without salvation!

Then the Messiah's sacrifice alone is not all that is necessary for salvation. THE MESSIAH HAD TO BE RESURRECTED. Unless the Messiah is ALIVE today, acting as your Advocate, making intercession as your Saviour, your faith in his shed blood is in vain! You would yet be in your sins. You would be without a resurrected, living Saviour to PLEAD FORGIVENESS on your behalf in the presence of YEHOVAH God in Heaven.

That's why Paul wrote to the Romans: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son" -- that's the work the Messiah finished on the tree -- the work of reconciliation so we can BE FORGIVEN OUR PAST SINS -- "much more," continues Paul, "being reconciled, WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE" (**Romans 5:10**).

Do you comprehend this all-important verse? The death of the Messiah -- the shedding of his blood -- paid for our past guilt, but we SHALL (that's FUTURE) be saved, that is, inherit eternal life, BY HIS LIFE -- by the power of the resurrection!

If the Messiah is not living today, if he were yet dead, you never could be saved! You never could inherit the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God and live forever! That takes the power of the holy spirit!

What people have not understood is that

there are two meanings to the word SAVE. We save or rescue someone from fire. So the Messiah saved us from the death penalty of past sins by paying that penalty himself. But we also save, that is, keep or preserve, money in a bank. So the life of the Messiah -- the HOLY SPIRIT -- IS WHAT WILL SAVE US, KEEP OR PRESERVE US LIVING FOREVER. That part of salvation is YET TO BE FINISHED at the resurrection!

The TRUTH is that YEHOVAH's Plan only BEGAN with the Messiah's sacrifice! The Messiah's death is in reality only the BEGINNING, the very FIRST STEP, in YEHOVAH God's great Master Plan of salvation.

Let's begin to understand why.

YEHOVAH's PURPOSE for Mankind

Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill, during World War II, told the American Congress: "There is A PURPOSE BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW." He acknowledged a Higher Power above who is working out that purpose!

That great and wonderful purpose for human existence was first revealed in the Garden of Eden. YEHOVAH GOD said, "I will make man in My IMAGE, according to My likeness..." (**Genesis 1:26** -- correct translation).

Man was made of the dust of the ground -- of clay -- in the form and shape of YEHOVAH God. But man was made INCOMPLETE. Man was made to need YEHOVAH God -- to receive the holy spirit without which he has no hope of eternal life.

YEHOVAH God, on that sixth day of creation week, had only BEGUN His master creation. YEHOVAH made man a perfect PHYSICAL creation. He was NOT YET A PERFECT SPIRITUAL CREATION! YEHOVAH made mankind for the purpose of



Former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, realized YEHOUAH God Almighty is carrying out a great plan here on earth.

BEING FASHIONED INTO THE VERY CHARACTER "IMAGE" OF YEHOUAH GOD -- into very spirit-born Sons in YEHOUAH's Family!

But that takes TIME. To accomplish it YEHOUAH God has allotted 7,000 years -- seven millennial "days" (**II Peter 3:8**).

The entire creation of YEHOUAH God's family begins with THE MESSIAH, and, when we fully understand, it is also FINISHED IN HIM!

Our SPIRITUAL creation BEGINS with the Messiah. It is he who became our living EXAMPLE to follow. He was born into the world, after leading a PERFECT life was able to lead the way for us. Because he obeyed and kept YEHOUAH's laws PERFECTLY, he was able

to shed his blood for our sins. He became, also, the FIRSTBORN from among the dead -- the FIRST completed, perfected SPIRITUAL MAN! He became our Elder Brother! Notice it in your own Bible:

"But we do see Yeshua -- who indeed was made for a little while lower than the angels [like the rest of humanity] -- now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by God's grace he might taste death for all humanity. For in bringing many sons to glory, it was only fitting that God, the Creator and Preserver of everything, should bring the Initiator of their deliverance to the goal through suffering" (**Hebrews 2:9-10**, Jewish New Testament).

There it is! The purpose of life is that in us YEHOUAH God is re-creating HIS OWN KIND -- REPRODUCING HIMSELF after HIS very own CHARACTER "IMAGE"!

YEHOUAH first revealed His purpose and plan to Adam in the Garden of Eden. But Adam didn't really comprehend it.

Only rarely in Old Testament times did YEHOUAH God intervene in human lives and call men to walk with Him and talk with Him about the GOAL OF LIFE and HOW TO ACHIEVE IT. In the first 1656 years of human history, the Bible records that only ONE MAN out of each generation was called by YEHOUAH God to really understand the PURPOSE of life -- chosen to mediate between YEHOUAH and man as "a preacher of righteousness" (**II Peter 2:5**).

After the flood, YEHOUAH revealed His purpose and plan to Abraham, the outstanding example of faith and obedience in Old Testament times (**Genesis 26:5**).

But it was not until the days of Moses that YEHOUAH God began to call the descen-

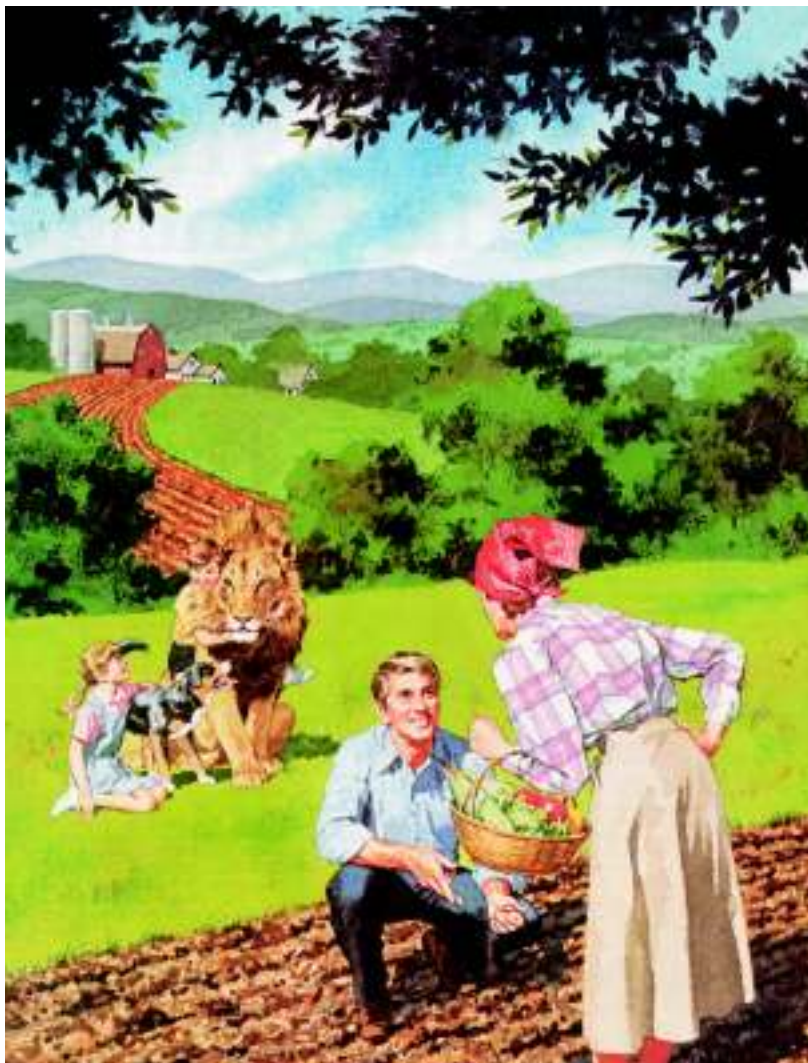
dants of righteous Abraham -- the twelve tribes of Israel -- out of Egyptian captivity. It was then that YEHOVAH BEGAN TO REVEAL the DETAILS of His plan for working out His purpose for man here below.

Sabbath Pictures YEHOVAH's Rest

When YEHOVAH God, who is the AUTHOR of time, set apart and made holy the seventh day Sabbath for man, He gave mankind a rest day carrying special significance.

To His "Church in the wilderness" -- the

During the millennial rule of YEHOVAH God and the Messiah, the knowledge of YEHOVAH's Master Plan of salvation will fill the earth.



CONGREGATION of Israel (**Acts 7:38**) -- YEHOVAH said the Sabbath was a "SIGN" between Him and His people (**Ezekiel 20:12**). This "sign" is a SUPERNATURAL PROOF of IDENTITY. It is the sign by which we know that He is God. It is a MEMORIAL of YEHOVAH's creation -- a WEEKLY REMINDER of YEHOVAH's creative power.

But the Sabbath is ALSO a reminder to YEHOVAH's people of the MILLENNIAL REST FROM SIN -- when all the world will be at peace for 1000 years -- when the knowledge of YEHOVAH's purpose will fill the earth as the waters cover the depths of the seas (**Isaiah 11:9**).

No other day but THE SEVENTH DAY OF YEHOVAH'S WEEK could have such significance and MEANING. It was designed to CONTINUALLY KEEP US in this true knowledge!

But did you know YEHOVAH God also SET APART and made HOLY certain other days of the year BESIDES the weekly Sabbath?

Annual Festivals Picture YEHOVAH's Plan

YEHOVAH God called Israel out of Egyptian slavery to perform the most important mission any nation has ever been given in all the history of mankind. Israel was not YEHOVAH's "favorite" people. They were not chosen for any goodness of their own (**Deuteronomy 7:6-9**). Rather, YEHOVAH called them so He could, through them, REVEAL HIMSELF as Creator and Ruler of the universe so that through them, as His instruments, He could make

known HIS PLAN, His laws, and His blessings to all nations (**Deuteronomy 4:5-9**).

YEHOVAH has mapped out a definite PLAN, allowing SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS for the process. Seven is YEHOVAH's number of perfection and completeness. And so YEHOVAH God has given to His people SEVEN ANNUAL FESTIVALS to keep them in the KNOWLEDGE of His Plan.

Each festival pictures a VITAL STEP in the working out of that plan for mankind. Whenever the people of Israel forgot these festivals they also forgot the Plan of YEHOVAH God. These festivals are MEMORIALS of YEHOVAH'S PLAN. These memorials, which YEHOVAH gave His congregation in the wilderness, begin with the commemoration of Israel's deliverance from Egypt -- A PICTURE FOR HIS CHURCH of the plan of YEHOVAH God in DELIVERING THE WORLD FROM SIN.

Just as the weekly Sabbath is a "sign" between YEHOVAH and His people, so are these festivals (**Exodus 31:13**). They are not Canaanitish feasts, nor Jewish feasts, nor the feasts of Moses. NOT ONCE in all the Old Testament are these days called "Jewish feasts" or "feasts of Moses." They are the "feasts of the LORD" -- "My feasts," says YEHOVAH God (**Leviticus 23:2**).

The whole story of YEHOVAH's plan is to be RE-ENACTED year after year by YEHOVAH's people. The yearly observance of these days IMPRESSES YEHOVAH's Plan on us and continually REMINDS US of OUR PART in it!

TWO Spiritual Harvests

To keep His children constantly in the true understanding of His great PLAN of salvation, YEHOVAH God originally took the yearly agricultural harvests of Palestine as a TYPE OF HIS SPIRITUAL HARVESTS of human beings.

In Palestine there are two annual grain

harvests. First, produced by the EARLY rain, is the SMALLER SPRING HARVEST. Second, produced by the "latter rain," comes the main harvest -- the much GREATER FALL HARVEST.

YEHOVAH God intended the spring harvest festivals to PICTURE to His Church repeatedly YEAR BY YEAR, the fact that those He calls now to become His spirit-begotten children BEFORE the Messiah's return, are ONLY the "first-fruits" -- only the BEGINNING of His great spiritual harvest!



YEHOVAH God used the yearly grain harvests of Palestine to picture the spiritual harvests of His Plan.

In the **23rd chapter of Leviticus**, we find a SUMMARY of these annual Holy Days and festivals. YEHOVAH God spoke them to Moses and the Levites -- who were the teachers and ministers in Israel -- so they would know what to teach the people.

The FIRST THREE festival periods, beginning with the Passover, are MEMORIALS of the first part of YEHOVAH's Plan. They picture only the firstfruits of YEHOVAH's labors through the Messiah.

The LAST FOUR festivals look forward to the future and show how YEHOVAH God will reap THE LATTER GREAT FALL HARVEST OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE!

Hope of Israel Ministries -- Preparing the Way for the Return of YEHOVAH God and His Messiah!

Holy Days Preserved for YEHOVAH's Church

YEHOVAH God chose ancient Israel for a special mission they have FAILED TO perform. Israel was a CARNAL nation. They didn't have any promise of receiving the holy spirit at that time (**John 7:38-39**). Therefore, they did NOT COMPREHEND YEHOVAH's great purpose for mankind or the true spiritual significance of the STEPS within YEHOVAH's Plan as pictured by the Holy Days.

YEHOVAH did not reveal this spiritual understanding to them (**Ephesians 3:4-5**) because it was not yet His time to give the holy spirit to "whosoever will." He KNEW they did not have the spiritual ability -- "the heart" (**Deuteronomy 5:29**) -- within them to believe and obey.

Then why did YEHOVAH God give His laws and Holy Days to ancient Israel in the first place?

The Bible tells us that the "oracles" -- the Old Testament Scriptures which include YEHOVAH's weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days, besides the knowledge of the Sacred Calendar -- were committed to Israel to be passed on from generation to generation. The Israelites "who received the lively oracles TO GIVE UNTO US (TODAY)" (**Acts 7:38**).

But the house of Israel went into captivity, beginning in 721 B.C., losing their identity and their knowledge of YEHOVAH God. They DID NOT PRESERVE the BIBLE or YEHOVAH's Sacred CALENDAR for us.

Then WHO did?

The Judahites!

The house of Judah -- the Judahites -- which had split away from the nation Israel after the death of Solomon, went into captivity beginning 604 B.C. They returned 70 years later. But Judah RETAINED the knowledge of her identity and her God.

Recognizing the fact that she had gone into captivity for breaking the Sabbath, Judah became very STRICT in its observance. The

Judahites, therefore, FAITHFULLY RETAINED the true Sabbath as well as all the Holy Scriptures and the TRUE CALENDAR!

Notice what Paul, under inspiration of YEHOVAH God, asks: "What ADVANTAGE then hath the Jew [should be "Judahite" -- the term "Jew" is of recent origin]?" Then he answers in part, "much every way: chiefly, because that unto THEM WERE COMMITTED the ORACLES of God" (**Romans 3:1, 2**).

The Judahites alone were left to preserve THE SCRIPTURES, the weekly SABBATH and the CALENDAR by which we may know EXACTLY WHEN TO keep YEHOVAH's Holy Days each year! Of all the tribes of Israel, YEHOVAH God entrusted the Judahites to be the CARRIERS of His revealed will for the New Testament Spirit-begotten Church! Unfortunately Judaism -- the religion of those who today CLAIM to be descended from Judah -- has LOST knowledge of YEHOVAH's true calendar and Sabbath day.

Now, let's learn about the BEGINNING of YEHOVAH's Plan of salvation for mankind -- the sacrifice of "Christ our Passover"! We need to be SURE we know exactly why the Messiah DIED for us.

What the Death of the Messiah Means

You often hear people say, "Christ DIED to SAVE sinners." Many suppose that is a Bible quotation -- but it isn't! Many firmly believe that the Messiah's DEATH -- his shed blood -- is what actually SAVES us -- imparts everlasting LIFE!

You may be surprised to learn that the Bible says NO SUCH THING! What a self-contradictory, totally unscientific thing the Bible would be stating, if you could find that in YEHOVAH's Word!

There is no more basic and firmly established law known to science than the law of biogenesis -- that only LIFE can beget life! DEATH has no power to impart LIFE. Life cannot spring from dead matter -- or shed blood.

The LIVING does not come from the NON-LIVING. YEHOVAH God Almighty created that law!

WHY, then, was it necessary that the Messiah DIE for us -- that he SHED HIS BLOOD? Let's understand.

YEHOVAH says: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**). THAT INVOLVES YOU! Your TRANSGRESSION OF YEHOVAH'S LAWS has CUT YOU OFF from all contact with your Creator. The penalty now hanging over you is DEATH -- eternal death -- for the wages of sin is DEATH (**Romans 6:23**). That ETERNAL DEATH PENALTY MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE YOU CAN HAVE ANY HOPE OF RECEIVING ETERNAL LIFE!

What is the only way YEHOVAH God says that penalty can be removed? Notice **Romans 5:8-10**: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US. Much more, then, BEING NOW JUSTIFIED by His BLOOD, we shall be SAVED FROM WRATH (the death penalty) through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were RECONCILED TO GOD BY THE DEATH of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE."

Do you see that we are FORGIVEN, JUSTIFIED OF PAST GUILT, reconciled to the Father, by the DEATH OF THE MESSIAH -- but that we shall be SAVED, not by his death, but by his LIFE? By his resurrection!

So the BLOOD of the Messiah does NOT FINALLY SAVE you! It only means that the Messiah has PAID IN FULL THE PENALTY OF YOUR PAST SINS for You! The barrier that has stood between you and YEHOVAH God has now been removed and you are now, by the Messiah's sacrifice, allowed contact with YEHOVAH God -- reconciled to Him!

In **I Corinthians 5:7-8**, YEHOVAH inspired the apostle Paul to lay down this commandment for the Church: "Christ, OUR

PASSOVER, is sacrificed for us; THEREFORE, LET US KEEP THE FEAST"!

The original true Church which YESHUA built kept annually the Passover, and the FEAST of Unleavened Bread -- NOT Easter. They understood the New Testament Passover is the MEMORIAL of the DEATH of the Messiah, observed on its anniversary, picturing FORGIVENESS of our past sins and being reconciled to YEHOVAH God.

Passover FIRST Step in YEHOVAH's Plan

The Bible clearly reveals that the DEATH of Yeshua the Messiah is the very FIRST EVENT, or STEP, in YEHOVAH's GREAT PLAN for man's spiritual creation!

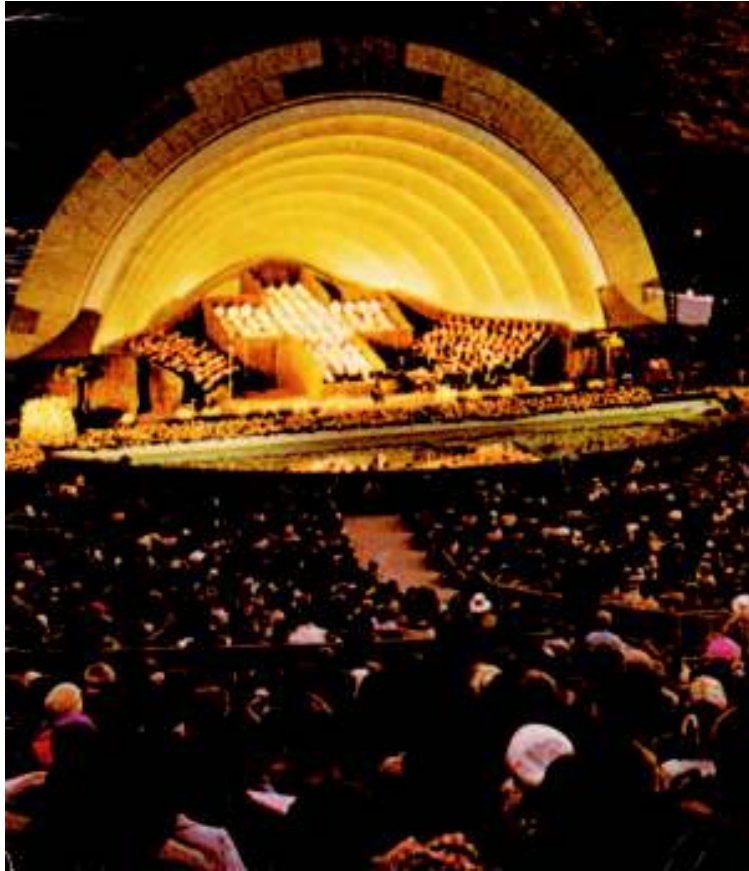
The Passover, the FIRST of YEHOVAH's annual festivals, pictures that event. Yeshua showed by example that it be observed YEAR BY YEAR, with NEW symbols so that we would never forget his sacrifice (**John 2:13, 2:23, John 11:55-57**).

The world -- because of its rebellion against YEHOVAH God, its observance of counterfeit pagan holidays -- has LOST sight of the real meaning of the Messiah's sacrifice. It has, instead, substituted Easter, supposedly in honor of his resurrection -- an event the Bible nowhere commands us to celebrate. And the world even has the resurrection on the wrong day of the week -- Sunday -- when it actually occurred on the 1st day of the LUNAR week!

YEHOVAH's True Church -- the church Yeshua built and promised to PRESERVE -- has retained the precious knowledge of his truth FOR YOU! Today, YEHOVAH God's True Church -- composed of truly converted, spirit-begotten children of YEHOVAH God -- is FAITHFULLY OBSERVING ALL of YEHOVAH's festivals.

Yes, YEHOVAH's scattered True Church has kept these Holy Days down through the centuries from the original twelve apostles UNTIL NOW!

Despite the Devil's efforts to suppress



Professing Christianity observes Easter Sunday instead of YEHOVAH's Passover.

the truth of YEHOVAH God's Plan for mankind, YEHOVAH has COMMISSIONED His True Church to begin REVEALING His MASTER PLAN TO YOU, in this Course, TODAY!

You are about to begin a fascinating and revealing series of lessons that will thoroughly explain YEHOVAH's seven annual festivals which picture His great Plan of spiritual creation.

Study your Bible carefully with these lessons, for your eternal destiny depends on a THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING and PERSONAL APPLICATION of the meaning of these days in YOUR LIFE -- NOW!

Let's begin studying, from YEHOVAH God's inspired Holy Word, the details of the FIRST STEP in His Master Plan for your

spiritual creation, and YOUR PERSONAL PART IN IT -- the PASS-OVER Day.

Passover Lamb, Prophetic of the Messiah's Sacrifice

YEHOVAH God's annual Holy Days really MAKE SENSE! They are given to TEACH US the knowledge of the seven STEPS in YEHOVAH's Plan for our salvation.

YEHOVAH first began to reveal His Holy Days to ancient Israel while they were in Egyptian captivity. It was then that YEHOVAH gave the Passover -- the FIRST STEP in YEHOVAH's Master Plan -- to His people.

Catholics, Protestants -- the majority of ALL people calling themselves "Christian" -- UNDERSTAND that this first Passover service YEHOVAH gave Old Testament Israel was LOOKING FORWARD to the necessity for a Saviour! But what they DO NOT

understand is the full SPIRITUAL meaning of the Passover for us TODAY.

The original Passover marked the exodus of the children of Israel out of Egypt, the land of SIN (**Hebrews 11:25-26**). YEHOVAH God had been pouring out His plagues upon Egypt to induce Pharaoh to release the Israelites so they could worship Him in the wilderness.

We find the story of the first Passover recorded in the **12th chapter of Exodus**.

1. As YEHOVAH God began to deliver His people from Egypt (sin), did He have to straighten Israel out as to time -- as to WHEN the year should begin? **Exodus 12:1-2**. What is the first month of the sacred year called? **Exodus 13:4**.

COMMENT: Since Israel had been in Egyptian bondage for almost two-and-one-half centuries, they were not permitted to worship

YEHOVAH God as He had ordained. They were forced to work seven days a week and to adapt themselves to the Egyptian calendar and holidays. Therefore, YEHOVAH had to reveal that the month of Abib -- the first month in the spring of YEHOVAH's Lunar Calendar -- was to be the BEGINNING of the sacred year.

2. What was each family to do on the tenth day of Abib? **Exodus 12:3**. Was the lamb they selected to be WITHOUT any spots or imperfections? **Verse 5**. Is Yeshua the Messiah called the "Lamb of God"? **John 1:29**. Was this perfect lamb PROPHETIC of the Messiah our Saviour "Lamb" who was SINLESS -- without blemish or spot? **I Petet 1:19**.

3. Until what date of the month was each family to keep the lamb they selected? **Exodus 12:6**. Were they to kill the lamb on this day? **Same verse**. Notice that they were to kill it "in the EVENING of the FOURTEENTH day!



As an innocent lamb led to the slaughter, so too was the Messiah led to his murderers!

COMMENT: The literal Hebrew from which "in the evening" is translated is "BETWEEN the TWO evenings." Notes Alfred Edersheim in *The Temple* -- "The lamb was to be killed on the eve of the 14th, or rather, as the phrase is, 'between the two evenings.'...from the

contemporary testimony of Josephus, and from Talmudical authorities, there CANNOT BE A DOUBT that at the time of our Lord, it was regarded as the interval between the sun's COMMENCING TO DECLINE and his ACTUAL DISAPPEARANCE" (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, 1987. Pp. 211-212).

This is verified by *Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon*, which states: "The Pharisees...and the Rabbinites considered the time when the sun BEGAN TO DESCEND to be called the FIRST EVENING (Arabic 'little evening'; when it begins to draw towards evening); and the SECOND EVENING to be the REAL SUNSET" (p. 652, #6153). In other words, this was the period of time between approximately 2:00pm and 6:00pm in the afternoon. So the lamb was KILLED during this period of time as the 14th of Abib or Nisan drew to a close.

4. As soon as the lamb was killed, what were they to do with its SHED BLOOD, which pictured the Messiah's sacrifice to come? **Exodus 12:7**.

5. What was the final devastating plague YEHOVAH God brought upon Egypt on that same night, to force Pharaoh to release Israel? **Exodus 12:12, 29**. Did YEHOVAH promise to SPARE -- "PASS-OVER" -- the lives of the Israelites' firstborn? **Verse 13**. Then wasn't it the SHED BLOOD of the lamb they had struck on their door posts and lintels that SAVED them from death? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: Israel's protection from the death angel WAS BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB! The lamb's blood was a "token" or sign which showed that the house was under the protection of the blood.

So it is today that those who come UNDER THE BLOOD of the Messiah, "Our Passover" Lamb who was "sacrificed for us" (**I Corinthians 5:7**), are PROTECTED from the penalty of eternal death!

YEHOVAH God had the nation Israel ACT OUT, beforehand, the exact TYPE of the

Messiah, “the LAMB of God” -- “Christ our Passover” -- who would come 1,500 years later to give his life as a “bloody sacrifice” to pay the PENALTY of our transgressions of YEHOVAH’s law!

6. For how long was Israel commanded to continue keeping the Passover Day as a MEMORIAL? **Exodus 12:14.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God commanded, before Sinai, that the Passover should be kept FOREVER -- not just until the tree, as so many falsely assume and teach today. The Passover became a yearly MEMORIAL -- before Sinai -- of the death angel’s passing over Israel and sparing their blood-protected firstborn.

But the Passover also continually LOOKED FORWARD to the time when the TRUE PASSOVER SAVIOUR of the world would appear to SHED his blood for the remission of the sins of all mankind!

The Passover plainly pictures the DEATH of the Messiah for the remission of our sins and his passing over our past sins now covered by his shed blood.

Yeshua Kept the Passover

1. While Yeshua was yet a child, did he go to Jerusalem with his parents who kept the Passover EVERY YEAR? **Luke 2:40-42.**

2. When Yeshua began his ministry, did he CONTINUE to observe the Passover which YEHOVAH God had originally given to Israel approximately 1,500 years previously? **John 2:13, 23.**

COMMENT: Before and during his ministry, Yeshua kept the annual spring festivals which YEHOVAH had originally given to Israel. The Passover is one of the seven annual festivals which Yeshua observed yearly. It is a memorial ordained FOREVER (**Exodus 12:14**). For that reason Yeshua OBEDIENTLY observed it.

Later, the Messiah INSTRUCTED his disciples how it should be continuously

observed annually, AFTER HIS DEATH, by the New Testament Church in REMEMBRANCE of himself who became our true Passover Lamb!



Did Yeshua Keep the Passover the Year of His Death?

Many people assume that in Yeshua’s day two “Passovers” were kept -- one by Yeshua and his disciples at the beginning of Nisan 14, and the other by the majority of the Judeans who killed the Passover lambs in the AFTERNOON of Nisan 14 and celebrated the feast in the early hours of Nisan 15. But is this assumption true?

1. Read **John 13:1-5**. Was this the Messiah’s LAST MEAL before his death? **John 18:1-12.**

2. Was this “last meal” the Passover? **John 18:28.**

COMMENT: The next morning, after this “last meal” Yeshua had with his disciples and after the Judeans had apprehended him, they led him to the Hall of Judgment to be judged by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. The Judeans, however, would NOT go into the Roman judgment hall “lest they should be defiled; but that they might EAT THE PASSOVER” (**John 18:28**). Clearly, Passover had NOT YET come!

Also note that the apostle John does NOT refer to this as the “Judeans” Passover -- but as “THE PASSOVER.” There was ONLY

ONE, and John acknowledged that the TRUE Passover was not yet come.

3. Read **John 13:26-29**. What did some of the disciples think the Messiah told Judas? **Verse 29**.

COMMENT: If this was the Passover meal -- as many contend -- then it is very strange that the disciples would have assumed Judas was leaving the Passover celebration, before it was finished, in order to GO SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES! No one in their right mind would have even considered leaving the Passover in order to go grocery shopping -- certainly NOT the disciples of Yeshua who were observant Judeans who obeyed YEHOVAH God's Laws!

This passage PROVES that the disciples knew that the meal was NOT the "Passover" but that the Passover was still a day away.

4. Now read **I Corinthians 5:7**. What does it say the Messiah is?

COMMENT: Nisan 14 was the day the leavening was removed from homes, and the day the Passover lambs were slain in the Temple. The lambs were slain in the late afternoon -- at the very SAME TIME that Yeshua expired on the tree! Therefore, Yeshua PERFECTLY fulfilled the typology of the "Passover sacrifice."

Now consider this: IF the true Passover was celebrated the night before (on the beginning of Nisan 14), then the Passover lambs had to be slain also the night before according to those who believe the lambs were sacrificed during the twilight period from when the sun goes down over the horizon and when the new day commences.

If Yeshua was the true Passover lamb (as indicated in **I Corinthians 5:7**), he would have had to be slain the night before according to this scenario.

But if the Messiah had changed the time of the observance of the Passover, and the day of the Passover celebration, meal and rituals, then the Judeans (the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees) would have BITTERLY persecuted both the Messiah and his disciples for this, and

accused them of "changing times and laws." The account of this persecution, and its reason, would SURELY have been recorded in the pages of the New Testament, as well as in Jewish literature, the *Talmud*, and other historical documents. Yet there is NOT ONE WORD in the entire New Testament, nor is there a single word about such a controversy in all the Jewish religious literature, or historic documents such as Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews*. There is only massive, incredible SILENCE! For more information on this write for the article, *A Nisan 14 "Passover" -- Fact -- or Fallacy?*

The Messiah Commands Foot-Washing

While the Messiah and his disciples were partaking of their last meal together on the evening before his crucifixion on Nisan 14, Yeshua gave some very definite and SPECIFIC COMMANDS for his New Testament Church to observe during the weekly Kiddush.

In giving us the account of the last meal between Yeshua and his disciples, Matthew, Mark and Luke describe the NEW MEANING he attaches to the OLD symbols of leavened bread and wine used during the Kiddush. But John alone relates ANOTHER VITAL PART of this New Testament ordinance.

1. Did Yeshua wash his disciples feet at the time of this last meal? **John 13:1-5**. Note, in **verse 2**, that the words "and supper being ended" should properly be rendered "And supper ABOUT to be served." The Greek word for "ended" here is #1096 in *Strong's Concordance* and is *ginomai* -- which means "to be made," "to become," "to happen," "be brought to pass," "be performed," etc. In a FUTURE sense. This foot-washing was done when the supper was "ABOUT TO BE SERVED." It was NOT done during or after supper! The reason for this will soon become obvious.

COMMENT: Notice that this ceremony of washing the disciples' feet was not part of the Old Testament observance of the Passover or the weekly Kiddush, although the Messiah was

instituting it to be part of FUTURE Passover and Kiddush meals. It does, however, have a PARALLEL with the Levitical washings mentioned in the Old Testament.

2. Read **Exodus 30:17-21**. Notice particularly verse 21 -- what does it say?

COMMENT: According to **Exodus 30:17-21**, the priests were required to wash their HANDS and FEET BEFORE entering the Holy Place of the Tabernacle to offer sacrifices upon the altar.

3. Now read **Exodus 40:30-32**.

COMMENT: These verses describe the CARRYING OUT of YEHOVAH's instructions given in **Exodus 30**.

4. In a similar fashion -- although more elaborate -- provisions for this washing were made in Solomon's Temple. **I Kings 7:38** and **II Chronicles 4:6**.

COMMENT: Josephus, in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, mentions that a sea (laver) was available for the priests to wash their hands and feet: "And having filled the sea [laver] with water, he set it apart for the priests to wash their hand and feet when they entered the temple and were about to go up to the altar..." (8.87).

Writes John Christopher Thomas -- "This action takes place AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE SANCTUARY to prepare the priests for entry. Such washing consecrates them for their sacred tasks" (*Footwashing in John 13 and the Johannine Community*, p. 28).

Adds Thomas, "the hands and FEET were washed regularly due to their constant exposure and possible contamination. Consequently, washings of the hands and FEET are REPEATED ACTS OF PURIFICATION to prepare the priest for a variety of sacred

activities" (*ibid.*, p. 29).

Here was the Old Testament FOOT-WASHING. It was a BAPTISM reserved for the priests during their service at the Tabernacle, and later at the Temple. This fact immediately establishes the believer's (Christian's) PRIESTLY STATUS in the New Covenant or Testament.

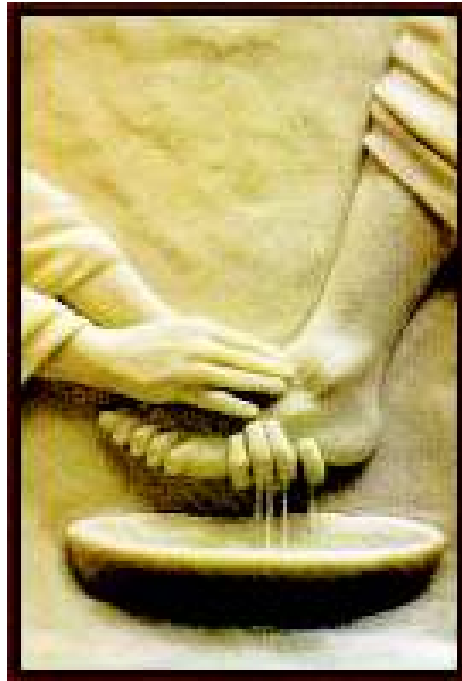
5. Notice **Revelation 1:6** -- what does it say true Christians are?

COMMENT: Yeshua, the new Moses who has fulfilled all scripture, has ordained a NEW PRIESTHOOD to replace the old Aaronic priesthood. With Aaron, we find an INITIAL BAPTISM, covering the ENTIRE BODY (**Exodus 40:11-12**). Later, he washes his hands and his FEET alone in order to minister (**Exodus 40:32**).

6. Compare this with the Messiah's reply to Peter when he pled for his head, his hands, and his feet to be washed. **John 13:10**. The *Jewish New Testament* renders this a little clearer:

"A man who has had a bath [baptism] doesn't need to wash, EXCEPT HIS FEET -- his body is *already clean*."

COMMENT: One of the noticeable differences between the washings of Old Testament priests and New Testament priests is that WE NO LONGER WASH OUR HANDS (hand baptism). New Testament foot-washing has REPLACED the Old Testament hand-washing that occurred at the beginning of the Passover service (seder) and the weekly Kiddush. Why? Because Old Testament men had *unclean hands*; they were unrighteous men whose sins were laid up until the RELEASE on the Day of Atonement -- ONCE a year! The Messiah's atonement, however, was ONCE



FOR ALL TIME!

Those of us who follow the Messiah as he follows YEHOVAH God are truly CLEAN, truly righteous. Our *hands are clean* to exercise dominion upon this earth -- as our future reward will be. In CONTRAST, however, OUR FEET ARE DIRTY because the earth AWAITS REDEMPTION. And that redemption CANNOT take place until the sons of YEHOVAH God are manifested.

7. Notice what the apostle Paul says in **Romans 8:18-22**.

COMMENT: The dust (the earth) is the place of Satan's dominion. The Christian crushes the Serpent's (Satan's) head -- but the Serpent bites his heel. The dirt (the earth) is UNCLEAN BECAUSE OF DEATH. As a result, sin affects the feet ONLY. **Genesis 3:14-15**. From this typology we can see that while baptism cleanses the believer and makes him FIT to enter the sanctuary, FOOTWASHING MAKES HIM FIT FOR THE MINISTRY.

8. Read what the apostle Peter has to say in **I Peter 3:21**.

COMMENT: Notice "the answer [pledge] of a good conscience toward God." Therefore, while FULL BODY immersion (baptism) need ONLY OCCUR ONCE as an *initiatory rite* into the faith or body of the Messiah (church), FOOT BAPTISM IS A RITE THAT MUST BE PRACTICED REPEATEDLY!

Another thought: IF Yeshua wanted to "nail to his cross" ALL laws, Holy Days, and everything that YEHOVAH God ever gave, including footwashing, then WHY did he go to such great length and pains to show his disciples HOW to observe the New Testament Kiddush service from then on?

Surely Yeshua ought to have been busily explaining to them that immediately after his crucifixion, there would be NO FURTHER OBLIGATION for them to keep the Passover, had he intended to nail YEHOVAH's Holy Days to the tree! Instead, Yeshua was taking this

LAST-MINUTE OPPORTUNITY to INSTITUTE, at his last meal with his disciples, a special observance which he then COMMANDED his disciples to KEEP and to TEACH!

9. Did Peter at first refuse to allow Yeshua to wash his feet? **John 13:6-8**. Could Peter have any part with Yeshua UNLESS he allowed the Messiah to wash his feet? **Verse 8**.

COMMENT: Peter argued with the Messiah -- saying he wasn't going to have the Messiah wash his feet. Men today argue the same thing. Yeshua explained that unless Peter ENTERED INTO THE FOOTWASHING CEREMONY, he had NO PART with the Messiah! NEITHER CAN WE!

Humility a Part of It

1. Did Yeshua explain WHY he instituted this new observance of footwashing during his last meal with his disciples? **John 13:12-14, 16**.

COMMENT: Yeshua said that those who acknowledge him as "Master and Lord" ought to wash one another's feet!

Footwashing in Yeshua's time was a menial task which only SERVANTS performed when visitors entered a house, since open-toed sandals were the customary footwear of that time and the feet would become very dusty.

So Yeshua was illustrating to his disciples that he was appointed to SERVE mankind! And shortly afterward, he proved the EXTENT of his extreme service for this world when he gave his very LIFE for the sins of all mankind! He suffered the MOST HUMILIATING and EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL DEATH imaginable for you and me.

The Messiah symbolically showed just HOW FAR he was willing to go in his service to mankind in order TO SAVE US ALL FROM ETERNAL DEATH!

Yeshua explained that if he, being the Master, would serve mankind, then his disciples ought to SIMILARLY SERVE EACH OTHER

AND THE WORLD -- "YE also ought to wash one another's feet" (**verse 14**). The New Testament shows that they and the other apostles and disciples of the Messiah did SERVE in the Messiah's steps. And most of the original apostles did also GIVE their lives while preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God!

2. Did Yeshua plainly COMMAND his disciples to wash each other's feet? **John 13:14-15**. Were they to teach the world to do likewise? **Matthew 28:19-20**.

COMMENT: Many today do not want to HUMILIATE themselves by washing the feet of their church brethren. Some argue that Yeshua commanded only his disciples to wash one another's feet. But the Messiah clearly shows that it is a COMMAND for all people "all nations"!

3. Are those who OBEY the Messiah's words by partaking of this meaningful ceremony promised a special BLESSING? **John 13:17** and **14:23**.

Be sure to write for our article, *Foot-Washing and YEHOVAH's Church!* For more details.

The Symbol of the Bread

Let's notice now what ELSE Yeshua commanded all Christians to do after he finished washing his disciples' feet.

1. Did Yeshua institute the New Testament Kiddush symbols of leavened BREAD and WINE? **Luke 22:17-20** and **Matthew 26:26-29**.

COMMENT: The bread mentioned in these verses is translated from the Greek word "artos" meaning LEAVENED BREAD, therefore the "last supper" was just that -- a last meal with his disciples BEFORE the Passover commenced. What the Messiah was introducing here was NOT the New Testament Passover symbols but the symbols of the KIDDUSH or ceremony to introduce the Sabbath and Holy Days. For a further detailed explanation, write

for our article, *Have We Been Neglecting the Sacred Fellowship Meal?*

Was the "artos" or leavened bread to represent SYMBOLICALLY the Messiah's body which was to be brutally struck and cut open for mankind? **Luke 22:19**.

COMMENT: Yeshua was using LEAVENED BREAD since the Passover had not yet arrived. However, during Passover itself UNLEAVENED BREAD was used because the Old Testament Passover was always eaten with unleavened bread (**Exodus 12:8**). This bread, eaten during the Old Testament Passover, was baked so that it was pierced and striped, with brown spots resembling bruises, caused by the baking process. Even so, Yeshua our High Priest and Elder Brother, when he gave himself for our sins, was beaten with whips -- with stripes and gashes all over his body. On top of all that, he was brutally STONED by passers-by as he hung on the tree on the Mount of Olives, his body bruised and pierced as a result.

3. Read Isaiah's prophecy of him in **Isaiah 53:4-12**.

COMMENT: What incomparable, rich symbolism! Before the Passover service, or *seder*, what is known as the *Aphikoman* is broken -- which is a very special *matzoh* or unleavened bread. THREE *matzohs* are placed and kept in a *matzoh* napkin. A traditional Jewish explanation for these three *matzohs* is that they represent YEHOVAH GOD (HaShem), the HIGH PRIEST (HaKohen) and the PEOPLE (haAm). As Christians or believers in the Messiah, we know that the MIDDLE *matzoh* therefore REPRESENTS YESHUA THE MESSIAH -- our High Priest.

4. Read **Hebrews 8:1-2**.

COMMENT: As followers of the Messiah we know that Yeshua is our High Priest -- which Paul stresses here.

5. Now read **Hebrews 7:24-28**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God foretold of the Messiah that he would be "a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." **Verse 27**.

6. The apostle Peter wrote of the Messiah

in **I Peter 2:23-25**.

COMMENT: The *Aphikomen* is taken out of the napkin during the service and BROKEN in half. One half is broken in pieces and passed around the table so each person can take a piece. The other half is wrapped separately and HIDDEN, later to be searched for by the CHILDREN and to be REDEEMED by the ELDER of the home.



A Passover Seder in Progress

So every time the Jews break the MIDDLE *matzoh*, the *Aphikomen*, they are unknowingly testifying of the sufferings of Yeshua the Messiah, the promised Messiah who laid down his life to pay for our sins and iniquities!

7. Notice **I Corinthians 15:3-4**.

COMMENT: The broken *matzoh* is a SYMBOL of the Messiah's cruel and painful death at the hands of wicked men, just as the Messiah's body was broken and killed. The half of the *Aphikomen* that is laid away symbolizes the Messiah's body that was LAID in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb to RISE again the third day. Towards the end of the Passover service, or *seder*, the children search for the missing half of the *Aphikomen*, and bring it BACK to the table -- symbolizing the RESURRECTED Messiah returning to life once again!

The very word "*Aphikomen*" literally

means, in the Greek, "I have already come," or "I have come." Thus the very ceremony of the *Aphikomen* proves that the Messiah has ALREADY COME, and done his work of deliverance and sacrifice and redemption! It represents his FIRST appearance as the lamb of YEHOVAH God. **John 1:29**.

8. Notice **Exodus 12:34, 39**.

COMMENT: At this point in the Passover service *matzohs* are distributed to everyone at the table. *Matzoh*, or unleavened bread, is the ONLY type to be eaten for the next SEVEN DAYS. This is in MEMORY of the first Passover when the Israelites left Egypt and ate only unleavened bread.

When we eat of the *matzoh* in the New Testament Passover we remember the price Yeshua the Messiah paid for our salvation, healing and redemption. He gave his body to be beaten, whipped and stoned.

9. He was struck so ferociously, cruelly and heavily that Isaiah foretold of him that he would be MARRED BEYOND HUMAN LIKENESS -- see **Isaiah 52:13-15**.

The Symbol of the Wine

1. Was the wine to SYMBOLICALLY represent the Messiah's BLOOD which was to be shed for the forgiveness of past sins? **Matthew 26:28-29**.

COMMENT: During the Old Testament Passover FOUR specific cups of wine were drunk by those observing this rite. The FIRST cup of wine began the service, or *seder*, and a blessing was asked over it. It symbolized the BLOOD of the Passover lamb PRIOR to the Exodus of Israel from out of Egypt.

In the New Testament Passover it represents the BLOOD of the Messiah, poured out for our sins, RECONCILING us to YEHOVAH God.

The SECOND cup of wine in the Old Testament service, known as "the cup of plagues," traditionally symbolized the Ten Plagues that YEHOVAH God poured out upon

the Egyptians to break their pride and to free His people Israel. It was traditional, during the service, to recite the plagues, one by one, from the blood in the Nile River to the death of all the Egyptian firstborn (**Exodus 7:14-12:31**) As each of these plagues was narrated, it was customary to pour out a little wine from the cup or glass.

2. Read Romans 6:1-13.

COMMENT: In the blessing of the second cup of wine during the New Testament Passover, we PRAISE YEHOVAH God for bringing us forth out of SPIRITUAL Egypt, even as He brought our ANCESTORS out of physical Egypt 3,500 years ago. We praise Him for delivering us from slavery to to freedom -- from being the servants of SIN to becoming the SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Just as YEHOVAH God redeemed Israel from Egypt by pouring out ten plagues on the heads of the Egyptians, and destroying their power over His people, so YEHOVAH rescues US from the POWER OF SATAN and his evil world by Divine power and miracles -- and through the power of His HOLY SPIRIT which He freely gives to us.

3. Go now to I Corinthians 10:16. What is this “cup of blessing”?

COMMENT: After the Passover meal was eaten and ENJOYED, a THIRD cup of wine was drunk. Explains Alfred Edersheim: “Immediately after the third cup was drunk, a special blessing having been spoken over it....It is called in Jewish writings, just as by St. Paul, ‘the cup of blessing,’ partly because it and the first cup required a special ‘blessing,’ and partly because it followed on the ‘grace after meat’” (*The Temple*, p. 244-245).

4. Read Matthew 24:30-31.

COMMENT: At the end of the Passover meal, the FOURTH and final cup of wine was drunk, symbolizing the REGATHERING and RESTORATION of the people of Israel to YEHOVAH God -- both the Judahites, who went into captivity in 604 B.C., and later returned to Palestine, only to be dispersed again

after 70 A.D., and the descendants of the northern Ten Tribes of Israel which were scattered in captivity in 721B.C., and most of whom NEVER returned. This is called “The Cup of Praise.”

“In this manner,” states Alfred Edersheim, “was the Paschal Supper celebrated by the Jews...” (*The Temple*, p. 243-244).

Clearly, this is ALSO the manner in which Christians should observe the Passover TODAY!

Those of us following the Messiah today understand that this fourth cup -- the “Cup of Praise” -- is ALSO the “Cup of Regathering” and restoring of Israel. At his second appearance Yeshua the Messiah will REGATHER ALL HIS FATHER’S PEOPLE and restore them to their proper inheritance.

5. Notice Isaiah 27:12-13.

COMMENT: This final “Cup of Praise” is also the “Cup of Salvation” for the diligent Christian, looking FORWARD to our final salvation when YEHOVAH God the Father and Yeshua the Messiah return to this earth in great glory.

Following the Messiah’s Example

1. Did Yeshua SHOW BY EXAMPLE that Christians throughout ALL AGES should keep the Passover? John 2:13 and John 2:23.

COMMENT: What the Messiah is saying in **Luke 22:15-16** is that he greatly desired to eat the Passover with his disciples but would NOT be able to because he would be slain as YEHOVAH’s Passover Lamb on the afternoon of Nisan 14 at the same time the Passover lambs were killed in the Temple. Therefore, he said, “I will NO LONGER eat of it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

2. Is the yearly partaking of the unleavened bread and wine on the Passover Day a MEMORIAL of the Messiah’s sacrifice for us? I Corinthians 5:6-8.

COMMENT: Yeshua the Messiah, during his life, set us the EXAMPLE that we

should keep the Passover on Nisan 15 -- AFTER his death. At his last meal with his disciples he changed the emblems of the KIDDUSH -- NOT the Passover Seder! The only thing that changed during the Passover meal after the death of the Messiah in 31 A.D. was that a lamb was NO LONGER sacrificed and its roasted body was no longer eaten. All the Old Testament symbology pointing to the Messiah was fulfilled at his death. Today we use unleavened BREAD and WINE alone -- along with, of course, the various symbols of the Bondage and Exodus, such as bitter herbs, etc.

Yeshua did NOT ABOLISH the Passover -- he merely FULFILLED the killing of the sacrificial lamb! All the apostles of the Messiah and true Christians of the first century True Ecclesia observed it on the fifteenth day of the first month of the Sacred Calendar. It is a MEMORIAL of the Messiah's death, re-affirming year by year on its anniversary "till he come," the true Christian's FAITH in the blood of "Christ our Passover" for the remission of sins. Eating the broken unleavened bread symbolizes our faith in the body of the Messiah broken for physical healing.

The Messiah commanded, "let us KEEP THE FEAST, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the UNLEAVENED BREAD of sincerity and truth" (I Corinthians 5:8).

The world is not WILLING to DO what the Messiah said!

Are you?

COMMENT: A clarification is needed here regarding the WINE used during the Passover service or *seder*. There are some who believe that GRAPE JUICE should be used instead of wine! How can we know that "the fruit of the VINE" Yeshua used was wine and NOT grape juice?

We can know that the "fruit of the vine" which the Messiah gave his disciples was truly FERMENTED WINE, not unfermented grape juice! Grape juice could NOT at that time be preserved until spring. It either became wine,

about 40 days following the harvest, or else the grape juice was made into a heavy syrup.

This was NOT syrup!

Any knowledge of the practices of the Judahite community during the days of the Messiah will reveal that FERMENTED WINE was used EXCLUSIVELY at the Passover (*Hasting's Dictionary*, article, "Wine").

How the Messiah Became "Our Passover"

1. Was the apostle Paul inspired to write that the Messiah is our "Passover" -- our Saviour -- today? **I Corinthians 5:7.**

COMMENT: Unless the original Passover lamb given to Old Testament Israel had been sacrificed or SLAIN, had its own blood shed, the Israelites' firstborn would have been killed in Egypt and they could not have been delivered out of this land which was TYPICAL OF SIN.

SO UNLESS the Messiah WAS sacrificed -- actually SHED HIS OWN BLOOD -- we WOULD NOT HAVE A SAVIOUR today!

2. Did Israel kill the Passover lamb by SHEDDING ITS blood? **Exodus 12:6-7.**

COMMENT: As the Messiah is our Passover -- and as the lamb was a TYPE of the Messiah, and had its own blood shed -- so the MESSIAH WAS TO ALSO SHED HIS BLOOD to pay for our sins.

3. Exactly why was it NECESSARY for the Messiah to shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins? **Hebrews 9:22.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God reveals in His perfect plan, that only by the SHEDDING OF BLOOD is there remission of sins. And unless Yeshua did shed his blood, he could never have become our Passover.

4. Did YEHOVAH God foretell that the Messiah would die as a LAMB led to the slaughter, and therefore shedding its blood? **Isaiah 53:7-8.** Does the recorded conversation between Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch plainly show us Isaiah was referring to Yeshua the

Messiah, who became our Passover? **Acts 8:32, 34-35.**

5. Did Isaiah prophesy the Messiah would die by POURING OUT his “soul” -- his life-blood? **Isaiah 53:12.** Does the “soul” or life of all living flesh reside in the BLOOD? **Leviticus 17:11.**

COMMENT: Any student of the Bible ought to know that it was the Messiah’s SHED blood that caused his death, not the “sentimental idea” of humans that Yeshua died of a “broken heart”!

Yeshua became “our Pass-over” by giving his life by SHEDDING HIS LIFE-BLOOD for the sins of all mankind! He was brutally STONED by passers-by as he hung on the tree, until his face was a bloody mess -- barely recognizable. He died for the sins of the whole world. (Write for the article explaining how Yeshua died: *Why Did the Messiah Die Before the Two Robbers?* See inside cover for address).



Pilate delivering the Messiah into the hands of the riotous mob to be crucified.

Why the Messiah’s Body Was Beaten

1. Previous to his crucifixion on the tree, and death by shedding his blood due to the stoning, was Yeshua also SCOURGED by Pilate? **Matthew 27:26.** Was he so BRUTALLY BEATEN that He was UNRECOGNIZABLE? **Isaiah 52:14.** Also read the entirety of **Psalms 22** which prophetically and VIVIDLY described the horrible suffering Yeshua was to experience.

COMMENT: The scourging that the Messiah endured BEFORE his crucifixion CANNOT account for such mangling since Pilate fully intended to let him go after the soldiers had chastised him -- and from this it shows that Pilate believed he would recover from his beating (**Luke 23:22**).

Yeshua was then led like a DIRTY CRIMINAL, made to carry his own crosspiece,

until he fell under the weight of it -- and then was hauled up roughly and had to feel huge spikes being pounded mercilessly into the flesh, pinning his wrists and feet to the wood. He had to feel his own body weight ripping and tearing at the flesh where the nails had been driven through, without any relief in sight.

Then, on top of all this agony, he had to endure the only type of punishment that could possibly produce the awful description of the Messiah’s suffering.

Writes Ernest L. Martin: “There is no doubt that Christ experienced the torment of volleys of small, sharp stones thrown at the front parts of his naked body while he was nailed to the tree of crucifixion. The stones were hurled at his face, at his mid-section and his legs! These must have been like sharp flintstones (many of which are on the Mount of Olives) that would break the skin and dislodge the flesh but without the force to break his bones. Such volleys of stones hitting his body periodically for almost a six hour period could produce the description of Isaiah [52]...” (*Secrets of Golgotha: The Forgotten History of Christ’s Crucifixion*, p. 186).

This merciless STONING tore his flesh open, disfigured him, caused him to bleed from dozens and even HUNDREDS of open gashes and cuts!

The Messiah died a hideous, merciless, brutal death such as a normal man would not think of inflicting upon a rabid dog!

And Yeshua did this VOLUNTARILY! He did this FOR US -- FOR THE WHOLE WORLD!

2. Did Yeshua suffer this excruciatingly painful torture of his body so we might receive physical HEALING of our bodies through faith in him? **Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24 and Psalm 103:2-3.**

COMMENT: Yeshua the Messiah allowed his body to be literally RIPPED OPEN in hundreds of places until he could not even be recognized! He suffered this torture so you and I, through faith in his broken body for us, may have the FORGIVENESS of our PHYSICAL SINS -- the healing of our bodies when we are sick -- as well as the FORGIVENESS of our SPIRITUAL SINS by his shed blood!

That is why Yeshua emphasized the breaking of leavened bread at his last meal with his disciples. It is a SYMBOL of his broken body given to the tormentors for our healing and a REMINDER to us that it is by "his STRIPES we are healed."

Just think of the tremendous PRICE that was paid that YOU might have your guilty past blotted out, and the slate wiped clean!

Can you grasp it?

What are you going to DO about it?

Kept by the New Testament Church

1. After Yeshua the Messiah had fulfilled the symbol of THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB for the Old Testament Passover, DID HE COMMAND HIS disciples -- through Paul -- to keep it in memory of his death? **I Corinthians 5:8.**

2. Did the New Testament Church of YEHOVAH God continue to keep the Passover after the Messiah's crucifixion? **Acts 12:4.**

COMMENT: The word "Easter" here is a flagrant MISTRANSLATION. The original Greek word is "pascha" which means PASSOVER! It is the SAME WORD translated "Passover" in **Matthew 26:2, 17-19.** You should STRIKE OUT the mistranslated word "Easter" in **Acts 12:4** and write in its place the TRUE MEANING, "PASSOVER."

3. Did the apostle Paul carefully teach New Testament Christians to KEEP the Old Testament Passover -- but with a new understanding of the symbology of the unleavened bread? **I Corinthians 5:8.**

COMMENT: Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles (dispersed Israelites). Here is ABSOLUTE PROOF that he taught baptized ISRAELITE CORINTHIANS to KEEP THE PASSOVER!

4. But did Christians CONTINUE to keep the Passover after the death of the apostles? Let's notice. To whom did the apostle John write the book of Revelation? **Revelation 1:4.** Was the Church of Smyrna one of those seven Churches? **Revelation 2:8.** Did the members of that Church follow Paul's inspired command to KEEP the Passover? See comment.

COMMENT: The apostles who spent time in Asia Minor -- among whom was the apostle John -- appointed Polycarp over the Church of YEHOVAH God in Smyrna. Notice what early Catholic historians admit about him.

"But Polycarp also was not only INSTRUCTED BY THE APOSTLES, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, but was also, by apostles in Asia, APPOINTED BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA... He it was who, coming to Rome in the time of Anicetus, bishop of Rome around 154 A.D., caused many to turn away from the...heretics to the CHURCH OF GOD, proclaiming that he had received this one and sole truth from the apostles..."

While at Rome, Polycarp discussed with the Roman bishop the matter of the introduction of the pagan Easter in place of the Passover.

"For neither could Anicetus persuade

Polycarp NOT to observe it (the Passover) because he had ALWAYS OBSERVED IT WITH JOHN THE DISCIPLE OF OUR LORD, and the rest of the apostles, with whom he associated...." (Quoted from Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History*, Book V, Chap. 24, in the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1 -- emphasis ours.)

5. Were later true Christians FORCED TO DEFEND their practice of keeping YEHOVAH's Passover at the CORRECT TIME and in the CORRECT WAY? Notice **Revelation 2:9-10** and the comment below.

COMMENT: Again, history gives us the answer. Within 35 years the Passover controversy broke out again. Victor, bishop of Rome, attempted to "CUT OFF WHOLE CHURCHES OF GOD who observed the tradition of an ancient custom" -- the TRUE PASS-OVER!

Polycrates, another Christian from Asia Minor, gave this forthright answer to Victor in VINDICATION OF THE TRUTH of YEHOVAH God:

"As for us, then, we SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVE THE EXACT DAY, neither adding nor taking away. For in Asia great luminaries have gone to their rest, who shall rise again in the day of the coming of the Lord...I speak of PHILIP, ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES...JOHN, moreover who reclined on the Lord's bosom...then there is POLYCARP...THESE ALL KEPT THE PASSOVER ON THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF THE MONTH [in the evening -- the beginning of the 15th], IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOSPEL, WITHOUT EVER DEVIATING FROM IT, BUT KEEPING TO THE RULE OF FAITH!" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 8, pp. 773-774 -- emphasis ours.)

6. Wasn't it prophesied that the Church of YEHOVAH God in the city of Smyrna (in Asia Minor) would suffer persecution?



The Catholic Church of the Middle Ages persecuted true Christians for faithfully observing the Passover -- even to fiery death at the stake.

Revelation 2:10. Who was to perpetrate this persecution? **Revelation 2:9.**

COMMENT: "The Synagogue of Satan," composed of those who said "they are Jews and are not" is none other than the great false church founded by Simon Magus -- the Roman Catholic Church!

They CLAIMED to be the true "spiritual Jews" -- true Christians -- but WERE NOT! They CLAIMED to be the Church "founded upon Jesus Christ," but YEHOVAH God Almighty calls them the "synagogue" or church of SATAN THE DEVIL!

This GREAT FALSE CHURCH ACTUALLY PERSECUTED YEHOVAH's TRUE servants for KEEPING the Passover!

7. Will the Passover be kept by the

Messiah and his followers when he establishes the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God on earth? **Matthew 26:29** and **Luke 22:15-16**. Was it to also be kept by YEHOVAH's Church until that time as a MEMORIAL of his death? **I Corinthians 5:8**.

COMMENT: The Bible plainly shows that Yeshua the Messiah and born-again Christians will keep the Passover in the Kingdom! And since he commanded his disciples to keep it in REMEMBRANCE of him until he returns, all the apostles and true Christians down through the centuries from that time HAVE KEPT IT. YEHOVAH's True Church is KEEPING it today -- exactly as he COMMANDED!

A Memorial Comanded Once a Year

1. Was the Passover to be kept ONCE A YEAR? **Exodus 13:10**. Did Yeshua and his disciples keep the Passover ONCE A YEAR? **Luke 2:41-42; John 2:23**. How OFTEN should Christians TODAY partake of the Passover? .

COMMENT: The Messiah taught by his own example that the New Testament Passover should be taken by Christians ONCE A YEAR -- on the FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH, IN THE EVENING, after the beginning of the day.

Yeshua both COMMANDED IT and left us an EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW -- TO DO AS HE DID -- in MEMORY of his death!

Christians today should also keep the Passover, not as OFTEN AS THEY PLEASE -- but AS OFTEN AS the Messiah and the apostles did -- NOT four times a year, NOT monthly, NOT weekly or daily or twice daily -- BUT ANNUALLY!

However, and note this well, the bread and wine -- known as the KIDDUSH -- should be observed whenever true Christians gather together -- preferably ONCE A WEEK! AND THIS ALSO INCLUDES FOOT-WASHING! This will be covered in an upcoming lesson.

The Passover is a MEMORIAL -- we

keep it in remembrance of the Messiah's death. And memorials of momentous occasions ALWAYS ARE OBSERVED ANNUALLY -- ONCE A YEAR -- on the ANNIVERSARY of the event they commemorate.

Therefore, true Christians today should be OBSERVING the Passover. It is one of the MOST JOYOUS and SACRED OCCASIONS of the year!

Any other day during the entire year IS NOT a memorial of the Messiah's death, but is merely an INVENTION OF MEN in contradiction to the DIRECT COMMAND OF YESHUA THE MESSIAH! (Be sure to send for another FREE article, *Have We Been Neglecting the Sacred Fellowship Meal?*)

2. Did the early New Testament Church of YEHOVAH God understand and follow the Messiah's example by observing the Passover annually? **Acts 12:4** and **Acts 20:6**.

COMMENT: The True Church of YEHOVAH God was still keeping the Passover as a MEMORIAL of the Messiah's death at the CORRECT TIME and in the CORRECT MANNER OVER 25 YEARS AFTER the Messiah ascended into heaven, according to your Bible. And we have seen that RECORDED church history proves that for BETTER THAN 200 YEARS YEHOVAH's people CONTINUED in the faith delivered to the saints. Today, YEHOVAH'S TRUE CHURCH IS STILL KEEPING THE PASSOVER -- just AS YESHUA THE MESSIAH COMMANDED!

Do You Stop With the Passover?

YEHOVAH God has begun to open to you SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING of His wonderful Master Plan for your salvation. Now you KNOW THE TRUTH about YEHOVAH's Passover and the IMPORTANCE of Yeshua the Messiah's sacrifice for you!

This world sees only a DEAD Messiah hanging on a cross -- not ALIVE at the right hand of the Father in heaven -- assisting in guiding and controlling the WHOLE UNI-

VERSE! (**Hebrews 1:3.**)

The religions of this world want you to believe that the Messiah's sacrifice COMPLETED the plan of salvation -- that there is NOTHING MORE FOR YOU TO DO BUT BELIEVE.

Nothing could be FURTHER from the truth! It is the SAME LIE Satan the Devil has promulgated from the beginning!

The Messiah's Passover sacrifice only BEGINS YEHOVAH God's Master Plan. In future lessons of this Correspondence Course, you will learn each of the seven steps in YEHOVAH's PLAN for salvation in their entirety.

Yeshua the Messiah died for OUR PAST sins -- that is something we cannot do. But merely "accepting Christ's sacrifice" is NOT ENOUGH.

We can't afford to STAND STILL after repenting and being forgiven by the Messiah's blood -- we MUST FORSAKE SIN COMPLETELY -- WE MUST WASH OUR FEET REGULARLY! We must COME OUT of this rotten, filthy, foul, evil world! (**Revelation 18:4.**)

The Messiah's sacrifice only paid for our sins of the PAST (**Romans 3:24-25**). It does NOT give us LICENSE to BREAK YEHOVAH'S LAW WITH IMPUNITY in the FUTURE.

Because the world wants to believe in a twisted concept of "grace" that actually means "permissiveness" to DO EVIL -- because they have NOT KEPT YEHOVAH's Holy Days, they have LOST SIGHT of the great purpose in human existence. They do NOT KNOW there is anything to DO!

Yes, the professing Christian world may profess to "ACCEPT" the Messiah's sacrifice. But the Messiah has NOT APPLIED HIS SACRIFICE to them. They are sinners because they REFUSE TO OBEY HIM -- claiming His Father's laws are done away!

The Messiah is not the minister of sin. (**Galatians 2:17.**) Not until they REPENT of sin

and believe the Messiah can they be forgiven! They have a DEAD FAITH in the Messiah's shed blood. Therefore, the world hasn't really taken even the FIRST STEP toward spiritual salvation.

The Messiah will apply his sacrifice only to those who are in a RIGHT ATTITUDE and show by their actions that they are repentant -- who sincerely turn around and FOLLOW YEHOVAH God's Laws.

IF YOU have sincerely repented of your past sins, realizing that your sins have caused the death of your Elder Brother, Yeshua the Messiah, and want to begin to KEEP YEHOVAH'S COMMANDMENTS -- begin PARTICIPATING in His wonderful Master Plan -- then you will WANT MORE INFORMATION regarding BAPTISM.

IF YOU are one of these, write to the Editor (see address listed on inside front cover) and ask for information regarding baptism.

Articles to Write For:

A Nisan 14 "Passover" -- Fact -- or Fallacy?

Have We Been Neglecting the Sacred Fellowship Meal?

Why Did the Messiah Die Before the Two Robbers?

Foot-Washing and YEHOVAH's Church

Answers to Questions in Lesson 9

1. Agreement, contract 2. Yes 3. A great number of people, a multitude of nations 4. Yes 5. No 6. Saka 7. Cimbri 8. Galatians 9. Scots 10. Scotland 11. Gentiles 12. Judeans 13. Christians 14. Normans 15. Future restoration of scattered Israel 16. The men of Israel

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: What did the death of the Messiah -- the shedding of his blood -- PAY for?

Question 2: How many YEARS have been allotted for YEHOVAH's Master Plan? _____

Question 3: The SABBATH is a supernatural proof of WHAT? _____

Question 4: How many ANNUAL festivals has YEHOVAH given His people to keep? _____

Question 5: The TWO annual grain harvests in Palestine represent WHAT?

Question 6: We are NOT saved by the Messiah's death, but by his WHAT? _____

Question 7: The FIRST evening of the term "between the two evenings" starts WHEN?

Question 8: The SECOND evening of the above term is considered to be what? _____

Question 9: Is it true that in the Messiah's day TWO "Passovers" were kept? _____

Question 10: On what DAY was leaven removed from the homes of the Israelites? _____

Question 11: New Testament foot-washing has a PARALLEL with what Old Testament washings? _____

Question 12: Old Testament foot-washing was a form of WHAT reserved for the priests?

Question 13: Foot-washing makes the Christian FIT for WHAT? _____

Question 14: What was the MAIN cause of the Messiah's DEATH? _____

Question 15: How MANY cups of wine were drunk during the O.T. Passover? _____

Question 16: The 3 matzohs placed in a napkin before the Passover seder is known as WHAT? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 9 through 12, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

