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**Favor Zion Ministries**

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Nissan 5767

Shalom Haveirim-  
Passover and Resurrection Day blessings to you, my friends,

A new season is coming upon the earth – resurrection season – the season of new and renewed life. Even thinking about it brings a sense of hope and promise as the celebrations of Passover (Pesach) and Resurrection Day occur.

As I am invited to speak to congregations at this time of year, the subject I am most often asked to speak about and demonstrate is a Passover Seder meal. Let me talk with you also about the link between preparations for the Passover found in the 12th chapter of Exodus and the New Testament account of the Resurrection of Yeshua.

The Passover feast celebrates the freeing of the Israelites from slavery under the Egyptian Pharaoh. Moses was sent to convince Pharaoh to “let God’s people go”. Moses’ pleas were flagrantly ignored ten times. Each time after an ignored warning, God unleashed a new plague on the people of Egypt. After the ninth plague God gave Moses instructions for the people to follow in preparation for the tenth plague, the “Slaying of the First Born”. Each Jewish household was told to slay a male, year-old unblemished lamb. A portion of the blood of the lamb was collected. Hyssop was used to put some of the blood on the lintel and both doorposts of each Jewish home. The plan God laid out was that the homes where blood was applied to the doorposts would be spared or passed over from destruction of all the first-borns in Egypt. This was to be a memorial to them and a feast to be celebrated as a permanent ordinance for all generations. (Exodus 12:14)

**PASSOVER CONNECTION**

I demonstrate how the application of the blood on the doorposts was done, because it forms a cross in the process. Each individual, by faith, has to apply the blood of the sacrificed Lamb of God, Yeshua, to our hearts.

Part of the traditional preparation for Passover is a massive cleaning job done to every inch of the home. It takes weeks for the women (and men) of the house to accomplish all the polishing and cleaning. This purging is symbolic of our humbling ourselves and asking the Lord to cleanse us of sin and “any unwanted leaven”.

Before the Seder meal takes place there is a candle lighting ceremony where the women light the candles, thereby bringing in the Light of the World (Yeshua), or the presence of God. Next comes the ritual of hand washing. When Messiah Jesus celebrated Passover, He girded himself with a towel and washed the disciples feet, humbly serving them.

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The meal itself consists of separate plates with unleavened bread; bones of a lamb; parsley (representing hyssop) along with a hardboiled egg, (maybe representing the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, or from pagan roots like our Easter eggs); a combination of chopped nuts, apples and honey in a paste that represents the bricks Israelites made in slavery; and lastly a pinch of horseradish representing the bitterness of slavery in a foreign land.

Wine or grape juice is drunk four different times during the Seder meal. The first sip is for sanctification, the second represents rescue from the plagues, (removing liquid drops for each plague reminds us of the suffering others endured), the third sip is for redemption from slavery, and the fourth represents a cup of praise for their deliverance according to God's promises to Moses listed in Exodus 6:1-8.

### **Our Deliverance Through Yeshua**

Prior to the cross Yeshua prays to His father, "*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Your will be done.*" Yeshua was facing death on the cross that would also free us as slaves to darkness and sin. Yeshua, the pure, unblemished sacrificial lamb, became the bridge between death and eternal life for His followers to pass over.

We too shout praises for redemption from slavery and a promised resurrection to eternal life as we celebrate Passover and Resurrection Day. **Favor Zion Ministries** delights in making the availability of this message known to all peoples, from every nation, tribe and tongue. We thank you for each gift of prayer and support to make it possible.

As a follow-up note to a previous newsletter where I set out some ministry goals and expressed a desire to establish a rapport with other Baltimore pastors for unity in the Body of Messiah here. A first time, four-day Revival crusade was held in February 2007 in downtown Baltimore with 12-14 different churches taking part. Plans are coming together for another Baltimore event and also in Washington D C.

Serving the Resurrected Passover Lamb,

Rabbi Ted Simon

P.S. If you'd like a CD of our teaching Passover: The Communion Connection, just write and let us know!

PPS: We are sorry to say our planned fall trip to Israel occurring during the Feast of Tabernacles, spoken of in our March newsletter, will be postponed until 2008, so you have a whole year to save up for it.