

# RABBI TED SIMON

## Favor Zion Ministries

June 2007 Tammuz5767

Shalom Haveirim

Blessings to **you**, my friends

Over and over again readers of this newsletter have shown their support for the **Favor Zion** ministry and also personally to Diane and I. I thank you for each time you have done that through a prayer, a note, an email, a phone call or a check. That is why I address you as *my friends*. Your prayers and support are not taken for granted and are very touching as you and I labor for our Messiah.

Our newsletters are intended to inform or educate you of the Jewish roots of the faith and to draw us closer to our Messiah Yeshua. The past two newsletters have been a discussion of Passover and Shavuot. These two observances that began in the Torah/Old Testament culminate in significant power in the New Testament.

Passover is the remembrance of the sprinkling of blood of an unblemished lamb on the doorposts, which delivered and protected the Israelites from Pharaoh's wrath. This was a picture of how the power of the blood of the Lamb of God, Yeshua; shed on the cross can deliver and cleanse us from sin.

In the April letter on Passover I talked about God's requirement to serve unleavened bread at the Passover feast, in fact it is called the Day of Unleavened Bread, because the leaven represented sin to a Holy God. If you bake bread, like I occasionally do making "Blue Ribbon Rye Bread", you know it takes only 1-2 packets of yeast (just over a tablespoon) to make bread dough. The dough is kneaded, punched down over and over, spreading the yeast or leaven throughout the dough so it can rise into the shape of a loaf of bread. This process represents how even a small amount of sin in our lives can spread into all areas of our life to negatively affect us physically and spiritually.

There is no question Jesus' blood has delivered us from darkness and sin. Our part for any sin leaven we find is sincere sorrow for our sin called repentance and turning from it to walk in God's ways. Small groups and truth speaking friends help keep us accountable and prevent the leaven of sin to do its damage.

Equally important, in my May newsletter I wrote to you about Shavuot or Pentecost, which has just been celebrated at the end of May. The disciples were instructed by Yeshua to be in one place to count off the days between Passover and Shavuot according to Levitical law. But, there was another reason for them being in one place in one accord. It was His instruction to wait for the Promise of the Father.

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*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which He said, you have heard from Me, for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. (Acts 1:4-5) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (vs.8)*

Imagine being in that upper room-the questions-the anticipation. Along with others they are praying and waiting for close to forty days. They are there for traditional reasons, but there is also the anticipation of something else, a mystery, which is about to happen. Yeshua had already taught them about the “Promise from the Father”, the Holy Spirit, when He was preparing them for the crucifixion. *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you, but if I depart, I will send Him to you. When He (the Holy Spirit) comes He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”* (John 16: 7-8)

There must have been a lot of questions then just like today, of curiosity and suspicion about the Holy Spirit. Abba they knew because Jesus said if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father, but now there was to be a third dimension that they did not know nor did they know what to expect. Power was about to be poured out on them to witness not only where they lived, but in the surrounding areas. God was about to open the faucet of His living water and everyone that wanted to drink would be baptized meaning his or her human spirit would be filled with the Spirit of God.

There is a significant lesson here. God offers us a choice to drink of the Holy Spirit or to stay in the background with suspicion and questioning, and refuse to receive and experience His power. Yeshua says, *“I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life.”* (Rev. 21:6b) The faucet has not been turned off. It is as available today as it was then.

The power to witness what Yeshua has done on the cross and is doing in our life is still needed. People need to hear this message today just like they did after Pentecost. **Favor Zion’s** mission is to witness to all who will listen-with Abba directing us and helping us with His Spirit. I thank you for every time you have helped us to do that. We pray for you to avail yourselves of the power and opportunities the Holy Spirit gives you to witness as well.

To God be the glory, great things He has done. To God be the glory, great things He **will** do!

Continual blessings,

Rabbi Ted Simon

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