

Why Do we Keep the Passover?

Aviv (Spring) is here again and another year has passed. As you start to get older you see that the yearly cycle starts to go by faster and faster and you even start to think that something that happened 3 or 4 years ago happened last year. That is the reason that our Heavenly Father gave us His set apart Holy Days to remind us all year long, every year, of His wonderful plan of salvation through the perfect life and death and resurrection of His Son Yahshua.

Passover is the very beginning of that plan for us as His creation, to be begotten, and eventually born again, at Yahshua's return. It is only when we repent of our sins, and in faith, accept the blood of Yahshua for the forgiveness and removing of the penalty of those sins, and then are baptized, that we enter covenant relationship with Yahweh through Yahshua's blood of the everlasting covenant.

Repentance and faith are the requirements to enter covenant relationship with Yahweh, and in any covenant relationship there is a requirement on the sides of both parties who are making the covenant. Once we repent and accept Yahshua's sacrifice for the penalty of our sins, then we are baptized as the outward physical sign of the commitment we are making. Then, Yahweh, in turn, through His ordained ministry, has the ordained elder lay hands on the newly baptized member for the literal imparting of His Ruach H' Chodesh (Holy Spirit). It is only at that point that the newly baptized member receives Yahweh's Spirit and becomes a literal child of His and a first fruit and if faithful till the end will reign with Messiah for the thousand year millennium and forever. (*Please see lesson one of our Bible course called [Joining the New Covenant](#)*).

Act 2:37 And hearing, they were touched in the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men, our brothers, What shall we do? **Act 2:38** And Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, each of you in the name of Yahshua YAHWEH for the forgiveness of sins, that you may receive the gift of the Spirit of Holiness.

Act 2:41 And some of them readily received his words and believed and were baptized. And there were added in that day about three thousand souls.

Act 2:47 they were praising YAHWEH while finding favor before all the people. And everyday our Master would add to those who lived among the congregation.

1Pe 3:20 which were formerly disobedient, in the days of Noah, when the long suffering of Elohim commanded an ark to be made, in hope of their repentance; and eight souls only entered into it, and were saved upon the water.

1Pe 3:21 And you also are saved in that same manner by baptism, not merely when you wash the filth from the body, but by confessing YAHWEH with a pure conscience, and by the resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah;

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news, the things concerning the kingdom of YAHWEH, and in the name of Yahshua Messiah, they were baptized, both men and women.

Act 8:13 And Simon himself also believed, and being baptized was

continuing steadfastly with Philip. And seeing miracles and mighty works happening, he was amazed.

Act 8:14 And the apostles in Jerusalem hearing that Samaria had received the Word of YAHWEH, they sent Simon Peter and John to them, **Act 8:15** who going down prayed concerning them so that they may receive the Holy Spirit. **Act 8:16** For it was not upon any one of them yet, but they were only being baptized in the name of the Master Yahshua. **Act 8:17** Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. **Act 8:18** But when Simon Magus saw that the Holy Spirit is given through the laying on of the hands of the apostles, he offered them money, **Act 8:19** saying, Give to me also this authority that to whomever I may lay on the hands he may receive the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, since the Spirit of YAHWEH dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Messiah, this one does not belong to Him. **Rom 8:11** But if the Spirit of the One having raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, the One having raised the Messiah from the dead will also make your mortal bodies live through the indwelling of His Spirit in you.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of YAHWEH, these are sons of YAHWEH.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery again to fear, but you received a Spirit of sonship by which we cry, Abba! Father! **Rom 8:16** The Spirit itself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of YAHWEH. **Rom 8:17** And if children, also heirs; truly heirs of YAHWEH, and joint heirs of Messiah, if indeed we suffer together, that we may also be glorified together.

So very clearly, we see from Scripture that to become begotten with the Spirit of Yahweh and be a literal child of His, and have the hope of eternal life with Yahshua our King, we need to repent of our sins, have full faith in Him, and then enter covenant relationship by being baptized in the name of Yahshua. Then, also, after being immersed in water, we need to have an ordained elder of Yahweh lay hands on us for the imparting of His Holy Spirit.

So what does this have to do with the Passover? As mentioned, it is repentance, faith and being immersed in the name of Yahshua that puts us into covenant relationship with Him and Yahweh. But Yahweh's covenant, although if we are faithful lasts forever, is conditional to us on being obedient to His Word and keeping the faith that enabled us to join that covenant.

Heb 10:26 For if we are willfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins, **Heb 10:27** but he is ready for the fearful judgment and "zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries."

So, the Passover is a yearly renewal of that covenant or contract agreement. That is what makes the Passover so extremely important. Satan the devil has hoodwinked most of Christianity to believe that you can take the symbols of the Passover (bread and wine) every day, every week, every month, or when ever you want to; but what does Scripture say?

Luk 22:19 And He took bread and gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them and said, This is My body, which for your sake is given. Do this for My memorial.

Luk 22:20 And in like manner the cup, after having supped, saying, This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is being shed for your

sakes.

1 Co 11:23 For I received from the Master what I also delivered to you, that the Master Yahshua in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; **1Co 11:24** and giving thanks, He broke and said, take, eat, this is My body which is broken on behalf of you, this do in remembrance of Me. **1Co 11:25** In the same way the cup also, after supping, saying, this cup is the New Covenant in My blood, each time you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me. (Luke 22:19, 20) **1Co 11:26** For each time that you may eat this bread, and drink this cup, you solemnly commemorate the death of our Master, until His coming. Scripture is very clear that the Passover is a **MEMORIAL!** It is not something that we do whenever we want to, but it is to be observed "*in its season only once a year*". **Exo 13:10** And you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time, from year to year.

Everyday that we live; when we leave our home, we should be proclaiming the life of the Messiah who saved us from our old sinful nature. When we share Yahshua as the Son of Yahweh and Savior of the world, we proclaim a living Messiah, for who would want to believe in a dead messiah. However, once a year on the beginning of the 14th day of the first month (Aviv) of the year, according to Yahweh's calendar, we remember a dying Messiah. We remember the suffering and beating and sorrow that our Savior Yahshua had to go through, not for Himself, but for each one of us who are blessed by Yahweh to join His covenant and receive His Holy Spirit.

That is what the Passover is all about; it is a time each year of reflection and somberness that we have gone another year of our life under the covenant promises of Yahweh through Yahshua our Messiah. It is also an extremely serious time of the year because it is a time that we are supposed to reflect on that covenant relationship that we made at our baptism and strive to focus on how we can be even better servants of our Master Yahshua in the upcoming year. The actual Passover service is a fairly short, somber service that is meant for us to renew that commitment that we made on the day of our baptism and try to do so with an even greater zeal than the year before. So important is this yearly reflection that some brethren were even getting sick and dying because they were not taking serious this yearly self- reflection that is required to take the symbols of the bread and wine and enter another year of covenant relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua.

1 Co 11:27 So that whoever should eat this bread, or drink the cup of the Master, unworthily, that one will be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Master.

1 Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and let him drink of the cup;

1 Co 11:29 for he eating and drinking unworthily eats and drinks to his condemnation, not discerning the body of the Master.

1 Co 11:30 For this reason many among you are sick and weak, and many sleep.

1 Co 11:31 For if we discerned ourselves, we would not be judged. One could not make such self-examination and have it have true meaning if it had to be done every day, or week, and Yahweh does not put that burden on us. If we had to make such self examination each day, our life would be more focused on the death of Messiah and be filled with grief, always focusing on His death, instead of His life. For we are forgiven by His death, but we are saved by His life (Ro 5:10.)

Yahweh wants our focus to be on the new life that He has given us through the perfect life of His Son. He wants us to focus on beginning that new creation that now we can become through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. And He also wants us through His spirit to put to death our old sinful human nature with all the lusts of the flesh that came along with the old man who was buried at our baptism, and to live to the new man we are becoming through the indwelling of His Spirit.

That is why at the Passover service besides taking the symbols of the unleavened bread and wine, we also do the ceremony of the foot washing with each other. The foot washing is symbolic that any member of the body of Messiah is humble enough to kneel down and wash another member's feet, but there is even more meaning than that.

When Yahshua kneeled down to wash Peter's feet, Peter refused and said to Him that He would never allow Him to wash His feet. Then Yahshua answered and said if He did not wash Peter's feet that he had no part in Him. So naturally Peter goes on to say if that is the case, then wash his whole body and look at Yahshua's answer.

Joh 13:10a Yahshua said to him, The one having been immersed has no need other than to wash the feet, for all of him is clean.

This saying is very symbolic, as Yahshua is saying that he that is washed (baptized) does not need to wash his whole body (be baptized again) but only needs to wash his feet. We do not need to get re-baptized every year, as there is one baptism, one faith, and one spirit that we receive when we have a legitimate baptism and the laying on of hands from a qualified elder who has been properly ordained. But as we are still humans and still unwittingly sin each year, the foot-washing is also symbolic of the little sins that we still need to wash out of our life.

Hopefully, year by year we are growing and maturing in the faith and are trying to get out every spot and blemish so as to be a perfect bride ready for Messiah at His return.

The Passover is the most important solemn day of the year for a baptized covenant believer in Yahshua. So important is this day for a covenant believer that if the believer does not partake of the Passover they would be cut out of the covenant of Yahweh and would no longer be a first fruit.

Joh 6:53 Then Yahshua said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. **Joh 6:54** The one partaking of My flesh and drinking of My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:55 For My body is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. **Joh 6:56** He who eats my body and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him. **Joh 6:57** Even as the living Father sent Me, and I live through the Father; also the one partaking Me, even that one will live through Me. **Joh 6:58** This is the Bread which came down out of Heaven, not as your fathers ate the manna and died; the one partaking of this Bread will live forever.

Num 9:2 Also the sons of Israel shall prepare the Passover in its appointed season. **Num 9:3** In the fourteenth day of this month, between the evenings, you shall prepare it according to all its statutes, and according to all its ordinances.

Num 9:13 But the man that is clean, and is not on a journey, and has failed to prepare the Passover, even that person shall be cut off from his people, because he did not bring the offering of YAHWEH in its

appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.

So important is the Passover that in the case that someone is either sick, or physically somewhere that it is just impossible to keep it on the proper day (14th of the first month Aviv) that Yahweh put a second Passover so that the person would not be cut off from Him.

Num 9:10 Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your generations shall be unclean by reason of a body, or be in a distant journey, yet he shall keep the Passover to Yahweh. **Num 9:11** In the second month, on the fourteenth day between the evenings, they shall keep it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs; It also stands to reason that if the Passover is a memorial of the covenant that a believer entered at baptism, then no unbaptized, non-covenant member may eat of the Passover.

Exo 12:43 And YAHWEH said to Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover. No heathen may eat of it. **Exo 12:44** And every man's slave, a purchase of silver, you shall circumcise him (enter covenant relationship), then he may eat of it.

Exo 12:45 A foreigner and a hired servant may not eat of it. Clearly, only covenant members may eat of the Passover. Some have wrongly misinterpreted that someone has to be circumcised to eat of the Passover from the above scripture, but it is not being *circumcised*, but being in *covenant relationship*, which is required. And since circumcision was the sign of the Old Covenant, as baptism is the sign of the New Covenant, then of course in the Old Covenant one would have had to be circumcised to join that covenant and partake of the Passover, the same way one would have to be baptized in the New Covenant to partake of the Passover.

You would not rededicate yourself to a covenant that you never joined in the first place. It is like someone telling you please come to our wedding anniversary party, and you ask when did you get married, and they answer we never got married, but we celebrate an anniversary each year. It just would not be logical. You would not rededicate to a covenant that you never joined or belonged to.

There is another point of confusion that needs to be explained due to the incorrect Passover Seder that modern Judaism performs. There is the solemn Passover ceremony that in the Old Covenant was done with the Passover lamb, and in the New Covenant is done with the symbols of the bread and the wine. This is done after sunset, between the evenings on the beginning of the 14th day of Aviv, the first month of Yahweh's biblical calendar.

So you would take the symbols on the beginning of the 14th day of Aviv, and then the next morning after you have taken the symbols of the covenant with Yahweh through the blood of Yahshua, then you would remove all the leaven out of your home on the daylight period of the 14th of Aviv or Passover. Remember that Yahweh's days go sunset to sunset, not midnight to midnight as the modern Roman calendar does. Then after you remove all the leaven from your quarters on the daylight portion of the 14th of Aviv, then at sunset of that day, when the 15th of Aviv and the 1st Holy day of Unleaven Bread is beginning, that is what Scripture calls "*The night to be observed*".

This is the night of celebration when the Israelites left Egypt. This is the night after the Passover when we have a celebration meal and a festive night because the previous night we were blessed to take the Passover symbols and continue our covenant relationship with Yahweh for

another year.

Exo 12:41 And it happened, from the end of four hundred and thirty years, it happened on this day, all the armies of YAHWEH went out from the land of Egypt. **Exo 12:42** It is a night of celebration to Yahweh, for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This night is a celebration for all the sons of Israel to their generations.

Remember they could not have left on the night of the 14th, as that was the night of the Passover when the death angel was passing, and all were told not to leave their houses until morning (Ex 12:22). Certainly, the night of the Passover and death angel was not a celebration, but the next night was when they were leaving Egypt. Scripture also clearly says that the children of Israel did not leave Egypt on the night of the Passover, which was the 14th, but the next night on the 15th.

Num 33:3 And they pulled up stakes from Ramses in the first month on the fifteenth day of the first month. On the next day after the Passover the sons of Israel went out with a high hand, before the eyes of all the Egyptians.

Deut 16: 1 Observe the month Aviv, and perform the Passover to Yahweh your Elohim. For in the month of Aviv, Yahweh your Elohim brought you out of Egypt by night.

These are two different celebrations. One was a solemn celebration called Passover, which signified being a firstfruit of Yahweh and passing from death to life, and the second was a celebration for taking the leaven (represents sin) out of our lives and leaving our old life in Egypt and starting a new life in the wilderness in full faith of Yahweh. What Judaism did was incorrectly combine both of these ceremonies into one Passover Seder on the 15th of Aviv instead of the 14th.

I pray that you are able to see the importance of the Passover ceremony and have a greater understanding to why it is so important and is a yearly memorial and not a weekly occurrence. The Passover is the most important day of the year to a covenant believer. We should be preparing weeks in advance reading our bibles and meditating on the great sacrifice that both Yahweh and Yahshua made on our behalf.

Then, the next day after we take the Passover symbols on the beginning of the night of Aviv 14, we should remove all leaven from our quarters, as we only have the strength to remove the leaven (sin) after receiving the symbols of the bread and wine (Messiah living in us). And after we remove all the leaven from our lives when sunset comes and the Holy Day on the beginning evening of Aviv 15, we get together for the night to be observed and celebrate the redemptive work that Yahweh is doing in us through the blood of His son.

What a wonderful plan of salvation that Yahweh has laid out for us each and every year through His Holy Days, and it all starts with the Passover, and death and resurrection of His Son Yahshua.

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