



**CELEBRATE  
MESSIAH**

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# **PASSOVER:** THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

## **INSIDE:**

**Passover: A Prophetic Portrait  
of Redemption**

**How to Introduce the Gospel  
through a Passover Meal**



# Passover

## A Prophetic Portrait of Redemption



Executive Director of  
Celebrate Messiah Australia



Dear friend,

Shalom in the great name of Jesus our Messiah. The festival of Passover is just around the corner, and the staff of Your Mission to the Jewish People has been presenting a demonstration called Messiah in the Passover at dozens of churches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

I have personally given this presentation

hundreds of times in my 24+ years in Jewish ministry, and I never tire of the message.

Maybe it's because of the simplicity of the Good News – Yeshua is the Messiah and the Passover Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Pastors often give us the privilege of presenting Messiah in the Passover at their congregations, with the added joy of celebrating communion – the Lord's Supper. To *relive* the Passover as described in the book of Exodus and then to participate in

communion with fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, is one of the most heart-stirring experiences a believer can enjoy.

If you have never had this experience, please ask your pastor to invite Celebrate Messiah to present this wonderful *living sermon* at your congregation next year. Or call our office for more information or write to our Church Relations Department at [churchrelations@celebratemessiah.com.au](mailto:churchrelations@celebratemessiah.com.au).

### **Messiah in the Passover and the Story of Redemption**

Participation in a Messiah in the Passover presentation is not only a beautiful experience for the believer, but the Messianic Seder is also a very powerful way to help Jewish seekers witness the four-dimensional prophetic portrait of redemption shown in the presentation. Messiah in the Passover is the Gospel in living colour!

The Messiah in the Passover enables you and your Jewish friends to sit down in the Upper Room and dine with Jesus and His disciples. Your Jewish friend will recognise the traditions, feel comfortable and will usually be more open to hearing about our Jewish Messiah. So, please think about attending one of these presentations and bringing along a Jewish friend. To find out where our representatives are presenting Messiah in the Passover, please call our office or send us an email.

## Yeshua the Passover Lamb

There are many references to Passover in the New Testament, which affirm the fulfilment of Passover in the person of our Messiah. Let's look at a one of the many themes from the Passover and show how it points to Jesus. We find it in John the Baptist's words:

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)*

In order to properly interpret John's statement in this passage, we must understand the Old Testament context. In Exodus 12:3-13, the Lord commands the children of Israel to slay a lamb and smear its blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. The blood of the lamb would then cover the home, thus sparing the first-born males from the Lord's judgment. This is a type (an Old Testament prophetic picture) of what Jesus would accomplish through His crucifixion.

Atonement through the blood of the innocent, spotless lamb would become a way for the children of Israel to understand the sacrificial system, which would soon be revealed at Mount Sinai, and eventually in the power of the death of the Messiah Jesus. He is the Lamb of God who takes away OUR sin!



## Born Again - and Experiencing the Passover

I still remember my first Passover as a believer. I came to faith when I was twenty years of age, a year and a bit after my family arrived in Australia from South Africa. It was on the 24th of March, 1984.

When I celebrated the Passover that year, probably less than a

month after coming to faith in Yeshua as my Messiah, I felt like the light had been switched on for the first time. Everything we did at Passover suddenly made sense. I could see how so many of the traditions that we had been following every year, as we celebrated the Passover Seder, were fulfilled in Yeshua our Passover Lamb. Of course, I didn't understand it all at that stage, but what I did understand, made me want to blurt it all out loud, but I knew my family were not ready to hear.

At that stage, my mum and dad felt that my brother and I (my brother Alan came to faith before me and led me to the Lord)

had betrayed our Jewish heritage when we accepted Yeshua as our Messiah. Over the years I was able to demonstrate to my parents that I had indeed not rejected my Jewishness at all, but that I came to believe that Yeshua was our Jewish Messiah. Year after year the Passover story and traditions afforded me the opportunity to explain to my family what we, as Messianic Jews believed.

Eventually my parents asked me to lead the Passover for the family each year. Gradually I would introduce some of the messianic explanations for some of the Passover traditions and emphasised how the Messiah prophetically fulfilled the story of Passover and the promise of redemption for His people.

I am sure that these special, spiritually-rich family times helped pave the way for my mum to finally come to faith in Yeshua as Messiah. She received the Lord four weeks before she passed away several years ago.



## Reaching Your Jewish Friends During Passover

Please be sure to send your Jewish friends Passover greeting cards and wish them a sweet holiday. This is one way to show love to your Jewish friends and express an appreciation for Christianity's roots in the ancient Israelite faith of the Old Testament Scriptures.

You can also learn a lot more about Passover, which you can then share with your friends, by visiting us online at [www.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au) and search for Passover. So, please take a moment to see the resources we have made available for you.

The sights, smells, tastes and story of the Passover all combine to make a memorable celebration that lifts our spirits. At Passover, we honour our past, give thanks for our present, and look ahead to the glorious future the Lord has promised to those who are found in Him. Truly, Passover offers a wonderful insight into the love, mercy and justice of our God in a way that is like no other.

**Thanks again for your faithful prayers and generous financial support.** On behalf of our board, staff and ministry team, thank you, happy Passover, and have a blessed Resurrection Day!

Your brother,

  
Lawrence

All photos of the Passover banquet on pages 2-4 were taken by Asher Hirsch.

# HOW TO

## Introduce the Gospel through the Passover Meal

To purchase your own Passover Set, see back page.

Passover is all about redemption. Each year, in Jewish homes across the globe, Jewish people gather together to celebrate the holiday during a traditional feast, which is called the *Passover Seder*. The seder commemorates God's redemption of Israel and retells the story of their liberation from Egypt. It not only recounts Israel's escape from their harsh enslavement under Pharaoh, but also presents a clear picture of redemption.

Jesus celebrated this feast with His disciples on the evening before His death (Matt. 26:17-30). During the celebration, Jesus used the elements of Passover to explain how His death and resurrection would provide redemption from enslavement to sin (Matt. 26:26-29). The seder speaks about redemption and is an easy way to introduce the Gospel in a Jewish context.

### THE NEED:

Any good story needs a conflict, and the Exodus is a great story. Enslavement is a prerequisite for redemption. If Pharaoh had not oppressed Israel in Egypt, the story of Passover would not have been possible. Israel's enslavement prepared the way for the Exodus (Ex. 1:11-12; 6:6). As the Jewish people were slaves under Pharaoh, so too has all of humanity been enslaved to sin and alienated from God (Is. 59:2; Rom. 6:20-21; Eph. 2:1-3).

### BITTERNESS:

The story of Passover reminds the Jewish people of their oppression. The seder illustrates this bitterness through both salt water and bitter herbs, typically horseradish. Both elements encourage the participants to recall the tears the nation shed in Egypt. This bitterness leads God's people to look for their Redeemer. God did not design creation to be full of suffering—and just as in the time of the Exodus, our affliction and the brokenness in creation cries out for a redeemer.

### REDEMPTION:

God poured out ten plagues upon Egypt, but redeemed Israel through the tenth plague. God instructed the people to kill a flawless lamb and spread its blood upon the doorposts and lintels of their homes with hyssop (Ex. 12:5, 21-22). God redeemed Israel through the death of the lamb. John introduced Jesus as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29). Jesus is the Passover lamb, who not only redeems Israel, but the entire world through His sacrificial death (1 Cor. 5:7).

### MATZAH:

No seder is complete without matzah, the unleavened bread (Ex. 12:19-20). The Jewish community refers to the matzah as the bread of affliction. It reminds the nation that they had to leave Egypt in haste. During the seder, each family places three special pieces of matzah in the center of the table. The leader breaks the middle matzah and hides it until after the meal. At the Last Supper, Jesus handed each of His disciples a broken piece of matzah and told them that it symbolized His brokenness (Lk. 22:19). Yet Jesus did not remain broken; He rose from the dead. The return of the broken matzah during the seder can be an illustration of Jesus' resurrection.

### THE CUPS:

During the seder, each participant drinks from four cups, reminding Israel of the four expressions of redemption (Ex. 6:6-7). The third cup is "the Cup of Redemption." Jesus handed this cup to His disciples and said it represents the New Covenant (Lk. 22:20; cf. Jer. 31:31-34), which promises both redemption and the forgiveness of sin.

### THE HOPE:

The Feast of Firstfruits is a little-known holiday God prescribes during Passover (Lev. 23:9-14). God instructs Israel to offer the first part of their harvest on the first day after the Sabbath following Passover, which is the Sunday following Passover. It was on the Feast of Firstfruits that Jesus rose from the dead, giving hope to His people for the future resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-23). Though the story of Passover begins with oppression, God provides redemption and gives hope for future restoration.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## SYDNEY SEMINARS EQUIP FOR WITNESS

Sydney Celebrate Messiah staff and volunteers hosted two special events in February: a half day Jewish Evangelism Seminar led by Lawrence Hirsch and an evening Messianic concert and message featuring live music from Phil Plotnek from Melbourne. Phil is a Messianic recording artist and the worship leader of Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation. The message from Lawrence Hirsch gave practical awareness to issues facing the Australian Jewish community as well as the ministry of Celebrate Messiah. Participants reported leaving the day feeling more confident in their witness and inspired how to pray with more insight for the Jewish community.

## DISPERSED HUNGRY FOR THE WORD

The Australian Jewish community is not just in the capital cities! At a church service in a NSW country town, a Jewish woman came at the invitation of her work colleague to hear the guest speaker from our Celebrate Messiah Sydney staff. After the service they discussed Yeshua. The same Jewish person came back to the evening service to hear our staff member speak again and met again this time ready to believe in Messiah, and prayed with our staff member. What an encouraging start to 2014 in NSW.

## SCRIPTURE HOLDS SPECIAL MEANING

In a church just south west of Melbourne, most of the members were immigrants including Iranian refugees. Barry started sharing the Word and asked a lady on his right to read the scripture out loud to the congregation. "She looked at me incredulously and said, 'You want me to read the scripture?' I replied, Yes, and after she completed the reading she said that this particular scripture held a very special meaning for her because around 12 years ago she wasn't able to conceive and sought the Lord Jesus for release. The same scripture Barry used in his sermon was the scripture she reminded God of at the time of her greatest need (Mark 5:27-34), and a few months later she gave birth to her first child. "How wonderful that our Lord knows and fulfils all our needs so intimately and brings it to our remembrance in very special ways", Barry said thankfully.

## UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MESSIAH

Our missionaries often come into contact with Jewish people as they go around speaking in churches throughout Australia. Celebrate Messiah founders Lawrence and Louise Hirsch visited New Hope Baptist Church in Blackburn and met a Jewish girl who had become a believer and had been attending there for a year. She told Louise that she used to live next door to our Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation in Bamba Rd, South Caulfield, and on Saturday mornings would sit outside on her lawn listening to our services, wishing she could come in, but wasn't sure if she could. Now she looks forward to visiting us to experience Messianic worship.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY: Young Jewish people flock to New Age festivals to seek meaning of life.

## ANCIENT TRUTHS RIPE FOR A NEW AGE

Jay took a team of three up to a psytrance (New Age) festival in North Western Victoria over the March long weekend. "The Lord has been impressing on our hearts for the past year to reach out to the hundreds of Jewish and Israeli young adults who visit these rave parties every year," he said. "We arrived in a tiny town where over 4000 people had gathered for the festival. On the way up we had bought a big box of mangos at a roadside market. We started chopping up mangos and handing them out to the tired and hungry ravers who had been dancing and tripping out on drugs the night before. The very first couple we started talking to were from Melbourne. Natalie was Jewish and Nick had a mother who was a Christian. We shared the Jewishness of Jesus with them. Natalie opened up and asked us to pray for her because she had 'attachments' she wanted broken off from her life. She was struggling with fear and nightmares. We had so many opportunities to witness and pray for people it was unbelievable. We wrote down 13 names that we could remember who we got to specifically share Yeshua with during the day. Many Jewish people were drawn to us throughout the day." Please pray for Jay and his team as they plan an outreach for next year's festival.



## Celebrate Passover with your own 4-Piece Passover Set

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to celebrate the Biblical feast of Passover in your own home? *Yeshua* (Jesus) our Messiah celebrated this ancient festival

that commemorates the Israelites' freedom from Egyptian captivity. Not only is it a powerful picture of God's saving power and redemption, but it also contains glimpses of Yeshua throughout.

With our **Complete Passover Set**, you can incorporate this beautiful tradition into your family's worship of our loving Messiah. This feast celebrates much more than deliverance from Egypt's power. As believers, it is also a meaningful way for us to express gratitude to God for His deliverance from the power of sin.

The **Complete Passover Set** includes a Kiddush cup, Seder plate, and Matzah cover as well as a Messianic Passover *Haggadah*.

**All for a special price of \$99**

Fill out the order form enclosed with this newsletter, or order online at [www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store)

In 2014, Passover falls from April 14-22. Visit our website [www.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au) for more information on how to prepare your own celebration of this holiday, which is deeply meaningful for believers in Jesus!

## Celebrate Simcha\* 7 Dec - 9 Dec 2014

Join us at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort from Friday 7 December to Sunday 9 December 2014. Hear excellent Bible teaching from messianic leaders, pray for revival amongst Jewish people in Australia and around the world, and enjoy Messianic worship in music and dance.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

*\*Simcha is a Hebrew word meaning a joyous occasion*

# Simcha 2014



EXPERIENCE A

*Messianic Jewish Passover Banquet*

**SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2014 AT 6.00 PM**  
BURWOOD FUNCTION CENTRE • BURWOOD SYDNEY NSW

**SUNDAY 13 APRIL AT 6.00 PM**  
HEADLAND PARK GOLF CLUB, GOLF LINKS RD, BUDERIM

**TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014 AT 6.30 PM**  
MELBOURNE • ST KILDA TOWN HALL

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE ON 03 9563 5544  
OR VISIT [WWW.CELEBRATEMESSIAH.COM.AU](http://WWW.CELEBRATEMESSIAH.COM.AU)

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CELEBRATE  
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### "BRINGING THE MESSAGE TO THE ORIGINAL MESSENGERS"

Serving together with Chosen People Ministries in: Argentina • Australia • Baltic States • Canada • Finland • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Hungary • Israel • Netherlands • New Zealand • Poland • Russia • South Africa • Ukraine • United Kingdom

In Australia contact: Celebrate Messiah Australia, PO Box 304, Caulfield South, VIC 3162, Australia.  
Phone: +61 3 9563 5544 Fax: +61 3-9563 5544 Email: [enquiries@celebratemessiah.com.au](mailto:enquiries@celebratemessiah.com.au)

In New Zealand contact: Celebrate Messiah New Zealand, P.O. Box 8355, Cherrywood, Tauranga 3145, New Zealand.  
Email: [celebratemessiahnz@gmail.com](mailto:celebratemessiahnz@gmail.com) Web: [www.celebratemessiah.co.nz](http://www.celebratemessiah.co.nz) Cover photo by Carly Hennigen.

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