



## CELEBRATE MESSIAH

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*In Partnership with Chosen  
People Global Ministries*

### Shalom!

Happy Passover and Easter season. I look forward to this time of year when we observe Passover, which is a foreshadowing of the most defining moment in human history – the death and resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. The two holidays are forever linked in much the same way as the Old and New Testaments are joined in one great story of God's love and redemption. Yet, the historical distinctions between them are at the core of the religious self-understanding of so many Jewish people and Christians. It is thought that Passover is for the Jews, and Easter is for the Christians. However, biblically speaking, the true redemptive message of Easter: the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah, is found in the story of Passover. The cross only makes sense in the shadow of the blood-smeared doors of the Israelite slaves in Egypt.

How I pray that my Jewish family and friends might one day recognise the continuity of this one great story and its fulfillment in the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua. Passover and the message of Easter are like bookends holding together a narrative of faith that spans thousands of years, dozens of authors, and Spirit-breathed texts (2 Timothy 3:16). Yet, it is still one grand story of God's love and creation, of man's fall and spiritual wanderings, and of the prophetic hope exquisitely fulfilled when the Savior spoke these words at His last Passover supper with His disciples.

*And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." (Luke 22:19-20)*



The rabbis call this time of Passover; *Z'man Cheiruteinu*, the Season of our Freedom/Redemption, remembering the deliverance of the Israelite slaves out of Egypt about 3,500 years ago. The object lessons and redemptive analogies that are found in the Passover Seder lend themselves perfectly in presenting the Gospel to both Jew and Gentile alike. For this reason and during this Season, Celebrate Messiah missionaries will be leading dozens of Messiah in the Passover demonstrations and Passover Banquets in churches and messianic outreaches across Australia, New Zealand and even in such far flung places as Far East Russia.

I have seen many times how the power of the full Passover message, i.e. the Passover story that includes God's redemptive acts all the way from Egypt to Golgotha, touches the hearts of Jewish people. Last year at our Passover Seder at the St Kilda Town Hall we hosted about 450 people including about a dozen not-yet-believing Jewish people. At the end of the night, as we were singing a very powerful worship song that exalted Yeshua our Passover Lamb, I noticed that several of our Jewish guests

were videoing the worship. Afterwards one Jewish lady said to me; "What was going on during that song? I felt so moved in my heart tears welled up in my eyes! I almost found myself singing together with you." I explained to her that she had experienced a touch from the Spirit of God. She was deeply impressed.

Please pray for the many Jews and Gentiles who will hear this message of Redemption during this upcoming Passover Season. We will not only be sharing the Gospel in person at dozens of Passover events, but we will also be sharing online through our Facebook campaigns and on our website.

Find out more by visiting our website and find a Passover Seder near you – [www.celebratemessiah.com.au/events](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au/events)

### Passover, Prophecy and Yeshua

Our mission partners, Chosen People Ministries, will be soon releasing a brand-new book entitled, *Messiah in the Passover*. It is a reference book and

there is something in this volume for everyone. It includes an in-depth study of the Passover throughout biblical history, church history, and Jewish history – all of which leads to a deeper understanding of the Passover today and how the Jewish people celebrate this remembrance of the redemption from Egypt. We will let you know as soon as we have copies of this new book here in Australia.

The following is an excerpt from one of the chapters written by Dr Mitch Glaser; Passover in the Gospel of John. We have also included some other excerpts from the book in the rest of our newsletter.

Enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter. I hope you will be blessed and enriched and that the Messiah of the Passover will be more precious to you than ever before!

Your brother in Yeshua our Messiah,

Lawrence Hirsch  
Executive Director,  
Celebrate Messiah Australia



## Passover in the Gospel of John

by Dr Mitch Glaser<sup>1</sup>



Often referred to as His Passion, this last week is the most eventful of Jesus's short life. Certainly, it is the most significant from a human perspective, as it includes His death and resurrection, the penultimate moment of human history. His final week, according to John, also includes various teachings, which are unique to this Gospel [of John] such as His Upper Room Discourse, teaching on the Holy Spirit, High Priestly Prayer, etc. The last week of Jesus's life is also significant because many Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled during this week, especially those involving His atoning death and resurrection.

The agenda, goals, and purposes of His last week are outlined in both the Old and New Testaments and driven by the necessity for Jesus to fulfil all that is predicted about Him in the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, as well as His own predictions in the Gospels. In particular, three Old Testament passages heavily influence the agenda of the Messiah's last week on earth: Isaiah 53, Daniel 9:24–26, and Leviticus 23. These texts create a path for what Yeshua would do and when He would do it.

1. Isaiah 53: The prediction of the Messiah's suffering, death, and resurrection, along with Israel's response to His message.
2. Daniel 9:24–26: The prediction of the Messiah's death as detailed in the prophecy of the seventy weeks.
3. Leviticus 23: The pattern of the Messiah's passion as revealed through the Passover, which will especially influence the last week of Jesus' life.

The Jewish festivals found in Leviticus 23 appear to be prophetic types and in one way or another are fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus (we view the first four "spring" festivals as

fulfilled in His first coming and the three additional "fall" festivals as fulfilled in His second coming).

Additional Old Testament prophecies such as Psalm 22 and Zechariah 12:10 also help to paint a prophetic portrait of our Messiah's last days on earth. As the Apostle Peter writes,

*As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. (1 Peter 1:10–11)*

There is no doubt that the Savior of the world was born to die in order to fulfil many direct prophecies and types. Especially that of the Lamb of God, which is a direct comparison to the Passover lamb whose blood was smeared on the doorposts of the Israelites homes to protect their firstborn males from the tenth plague of the Exodus story.

The Apostle John, in the book of Revelation, describes Jesus as "the Lamb who has been slain" (Revelation 13:8). The Apostle Peter adds that we "were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you" (1 Peter 1:18–20).

The predicted role of Jesus as the suffering and sacrificial Lamb of God who will die for sin and rise from the grave is not peripheral to the plan of God, but rather is at the very heart of who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. Isaiah had already used the prophetic imagery of the Passover lamb in his well-known chapter 53.

*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from chapter 5 of the book *Messiah in the Passover – "Passover in the Gospel of John"* by Dr. Mitch Glaser



**Dr. Darrell Bock**

## Passover and the Gospel of Luke

The following are small samples of the content you will find in the new *Messiah in the Passover* book, a publication that will be available in Australia soon. We hope these excerpts will whet your appetite for the wonderful information you will discover within the 400-plus pages of this excellent reference book, especially designed for believers to learn more about the festival and to be able to celebrate with their families.

The events of the Last Supper are critical as it is the basis for what is commonly known as the Lord's Supper or Communion. The Apostle Paul considers this meal to be important as he makes direct reference to the words spoken by Jesus at the table in 1 Corinthians 11:23–25, which most Christians today hear regularly.

The issues related to this meal are numerous and complex, leading to a host of debates and discussions, each of which could fill this chapter. However, our concerns are narrow. We will attempt to answer the question, “What does the first-century Jewish background of the Passover holiday contribute to our understanding of what Jesus did with His disciples at this evidently special meal?” Specifically, we will need to establish if a Passover or Passover-like meal took place, what can be known about the way in which it was celebrated, and how Jesus transformed this celebration by His words and actions.

Luke explicitly associates the Last Supper

12, where he similarly refers to both celebrations. This is an important observation to make as we prepare to discuss the topic.

The celebration of the Passover goes back centuries as other chapters in this book show. But the more controversial question is whether a specific Passover Seder was present or merely a liturgically structured meal with multiple cups. And where can we find more conclusive information regarding the meal, elements, symbolism, and traditions observed that evening? We will examine whether or not Jesus observed a more defined Seder, the nature of its internal elements and symbols, such as the cups mentioned in the account, and if what Luke describes is generally consistent with the elements of the Passover meal.

**Dr. Mitch Glaser**

## Introduction

The Jewish holidays not only include teaching, but also special sacrifices that are made such as the waving of sheaves, the baking of bread, the building of booths, and the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn trumpet). The seven great festivals of Israel are replete with object lessons that help us better understand the story of redemption. These object lessons, woven into the very fabric of the feasts, enabled the Israelites to “get their hands a little dirty” and to not merely hear or listen, but to do and participate so that the lessons of the festivals became ingrained in their very souls. It's no secret to modern experts on the process of learning that it is not merely children who learn better by doing—but adults as well. Participating in the activities makes these lessons unforgettable.

This is the foundation for the Passover: it is a festival filled with opportunities for participation in the remembrance of our great deliverance from Egypt. We were told to recount the story year after year so that new generations of Jewish people would never forget what God did in delivering them from Egypt.

It is wonderful to observe the Passover because there are so many invaluable lessons preserved in the festival for the people of God. Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples in light of His sacrifice for our sins. Similarly, Christians throughout the world, in one way or another, remember Jesus and give thanks for His sacrificial death through the Lord's Supper, often called Communion.

with the Passover meal and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Luke 22:1, 7, 15). He does this because the two feasts come back to back and were often combined or discussed together with either name used for the whole (Ezekiel 45:21; Matthew 26:17–18; Mark 14:1–2). Flavius Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, writes “the feast of unleavened bread, which we call the Passover” (Ant. 14.21). The Passover connection is also seen in Mark's use of the terms in Mark 14:1,





When Christians celebrate the Passover, however, they grow in their understanding of the Old Testament, affirm the Jewishness of the Gospel, deepen their understanding of the Lord's Supper, build community with fellow Christians, and develop a common experience that will enable them to better communicate the Gospel to their Jewish friends. Most of all, we are passing along the glorious message of redemption to future generations and linking our children and grandchildren to the Exodus. This will help our children develop a sense of continuity between the Old and New Testaments and between prophecy given and prophecy fulfilled. This will build the faith of our kids, giving them greater assurance that what the Bible said about the future has and will come to pass.

**Cathy Wilson**

## Passover and Your Home

Should the Lord lead you to present a Passover Seder at your church or in your small group, it is wise to consider including an introduction about the significance of the Passover. You might even suggest that your fellowship invite a Celebrate Messiah staff person to instruct the group. Our Church Ministries staff would be happy to speak with you or your pastor. ([www.celebratemessiah.com.au/contact/inviteaspeaker](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au/contact/inviteaspeaker))

Allow me then to share some of what I tell those who are interested in, but unfamiliar with Passover to interest them in learning more and even celebrating a Seder. You will

help your believing friends by introducing them to this great opportunity to better appreciate redemption!

### *The Lamb: Centre Stage*

At the first Passover in Egypt, lambs enter the lives of the family members and are scrutinized from the tenth until the fourteenth of the month of Nisan (Exodus 12:1–7). An attachment to the lamb, now a part of the Jewish household, naturally develops. To help His people understand the cost and value of redemption, it may be that God's intention was for the lambs to be cherished and then later mourned.

Can you imagine what the children of Israel really thought about God's instructions? "We're to do—what? Why?" The children of Israel may not have remembered what God had so graphically conveyed about a lamb years ago when He called Abram to offer his only son as a burnt offering. The father and son climbed one of the mountains in the land of Moriah, and Isaac asked about the whereabouts of the burnt offering. His father plainly stated, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (Genesis 22:8). The Lord provided a ram (a male lamb) caught in the thicket by his horns as a substitute for Isaac (v. 13). This may well have been the first substitutionary sacrifice in the Bible. If not, it nevertheless dramatically displayed the biblical theme of substitutionary sacrifice.

We see this pattern emerge again in the Exodus when the time came for the first Passover, as God requires another lamb to be slain and its blood smeared upon the lintel and doorposts of each Israelite home as a substitute for the death of the firstborn sons of Israel. If the Israelites obey, their firstborn sons will not need to die. For the Lord will go through the land of Egypt to smite all the firstborn sons of the

Egyptians, but when He sees

the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into the Israelites' houses to smite them (Exodus 12:7, 12–13, 21–23).

The lamb of the Egyptian Passover presents a foreshadowing of the Lamb mentioned in the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, where Isaiah speaks of a lamb to come as a substitute for His people, Israel:

*But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. (Isaiah 53:5–6)*

The theme of the sacrificial lamb continues through Scripture, but can only be fully appreciated by first understanding the original Passover. By retelling the Passover story during the Seder, we deepen our connection to both the people and the God of Israel as we understand that the ultimate sacrificial Lamb is Jesus Himself.



Painting by Josefa de Ayala - The Sacrificial Lamb

# NEWS BRIEFS

## HE WORKS ALL THINGS FOR GOOD

A series of unfortunate events led to Jean★, a lovely Jewish lady, breaking her leg while helping set up for a garage sale. Lawrence and Louise went to visit Jean in hospital on the eve of the Festival of Purim, taking with them one of Celebrate Messiah's Tikkun Olam Purim parcels. Since it is Scriptural and traditional to give gifts at Purim (Esther 9:22), Jean was excited and very grateful to receive a parcel packed with traditional food items. After a very pleasant visit and conversation and just before Lawrence and Louise were going to leave, Jean asked; "please tell me how you both became believers in Yeshua." That led to another 30-minute conversation all about Yeshua being the Jewish Messiah and how Lawrence and Louise both came to faith in Yeshua on the very same night in different parts of the world. Jean exclaimed: "Wow that is so interesting, I would love to come to your congregation some time. I am very interested." Praise the Lord for this opportunity to share the Gospel with Jean. Please pray for the seed that has been planted to be watered by the Holy Spirit, and that her leg is healed speedily.

## ART FOR GOD'S SAKE

A young Jewish believer held his art exhibition in a Melbourne gallery. On the evening of the opening of the exhibition he spoke of what motivated and inspired his art. There were unsaved Jewish people in the crowd. In the middle of his speech, he spoke of his relationship and love for Yeshua his Messiah. Looking at the faces of people present, his mentor Baruch, could see they desired to know more. Throughout the evening, Baruch and his wife found themselves speaking to people, both Jews and non-Jews, about their faith in Yeshua. God's timing is always perfect at any place He chooses.

## SEARCHING SCRIPTURE FOR MORAL COMPASS

Staff member Robin met Ran★ backpacking in New Zealand. They talked for a long time about the difference between religion and knowing God personally and believing the Bible. Robin encouraged him to read the prophecies and to read the Gospels and see what Jesus said about Himself. The next day, Ran pulled Robin aside and said, "I want to talk to you." Ran shared that he was thinking about their previous conversation. In the army he sometimes read his Bible and found wisdom there, but saw it as moral fables. Robin talked about historic truth and God's faithfulness to Israel, and prophecies foretold then fulfilled. He decided it was time to read a Gospel to explore if there was more to the Hebrew Scriptures and this book (the New Testament)

than moral lessons. Pray that Ran will open his heart to the Messiah.

## NEW CENTRE OPENS IN TEL AVIV

Very exciting things are happening in Tel Aviv. Staff member Jason reports, "During our renovation period, we had a lot of deliveries and technicians. They always asked about the purpose of the facility." One young man, David★ was very interested when Jason explained our team are Jewish people that believe that the Messiah has already come. David didn't want to take *Isaiah 53 Explained*, but he promised to read Isaiah 53 in the Bible. Around the same time, a delivery of new copies of *Isaiah 53 Explained* in Hebrew and Russian arrived. One of the delivery men, Moses★ wanted to know what the book was about, so Jason explained it to him and he asked for a copy. Most Israelis think that believing in Yeshua (Jesus) is a new fad. So Jason has been approaching conversations like these from a historical perspective and it has been very effective. Jason and the Tel Aviv staff look forward to the future ministry that this centre holds.

## FAITH BLOOMS IN FLORAL TRIBUTE

Sydney Celebrate Messiah staff member Eve★ specially ordered the favourite flowers for a Jewish friend Lena★ in hospital. But on visiting she was told the friend was not allowed to have visitors or flowers in that particular ward. As Eve left the hospital feeling very disappointed and wondering what to do with the flowers, she was approached by a family asking directions and commenting on the beautiful flowers: it was their mother's favourite variety. Eve offered them the bunch of flowers to bring to their mother, and they gratefully accepted.

A few days later, Eve received a phone call from Lena. She shared how when she had been moved to a new room, a patient in the same room had her favourite flowers and offered to share them, and also shared how Yeshua had unexpectedly provided for her family to bring to her her favourite flowers. The two patients had several conversations about the Messiah before both they were discharged. Eve has continued to discuss Yeshua with Lena.



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Special guest speaker:  
Israel College of the Bible  
president, Dr Erez Soref



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Our special Passover Set from Israel has a *Seder Plate*, *Matzah Tash*, *Kiddush Cup*, and *Messianic Haggadah*. The Seder Plate helps tell the story of the Exodus and points to our Messiah. The Matzah Tash, or matzah cover, is a pouch with three compartments, each hold a piece of matzah (unleavened bread). It is a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature. The Kiddush Cup (15cm tall) symbolizes the blood of the sacrificed paschal lamb, or the Lamb of God. It is filled four times during the Passover meal as the story of God's redeeming work among His people, the people of Israel, unfolds.

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