



Celebrate MESSIAH

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In Partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries

PASSOVER: PROPHECY FULFILLED

Passover & Isaiah Chapter 53



A Passover Seder in Melbourne

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from Celebrate Messiah's head-office in Melbourne. Soon we will be celebrating Passover and Messiah's resurrection from the dead and all this means to us as believers. Passover begins on the eve of the 18th of March and falls within the Easter week.

In this newsletter, we will give you the tools and guidance to celebrate your own Passover *Seder* as fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We have provided a service outline that you can follow to celebrate Passover in your home. Over the last few years, it has been wonderful to see how many Christians are eager to connect with their Jewish roots in the Messiah and celebrate the biblical festivals as fulfilled in Jesus!

I hope that you will take this opportunity to prepare your heart for Resurrection Sunday through celebrating the Passover in your own home. I am sure the

experience will be spiritually enriching for you and your family as you remember the Last Supper, which was a Passover *Seder*. It will also help you better understand your Jewish friends and neighbors.

We encourage you to enjoy a Passover *Seder* with your family and friends and celebrate all that Messiah has done for you through His death, burial and resurrection.

If you have any questions about celebrating the Passover in your own home—whether it be about the service, recipes, significance or other questions—please feel free to call or visit our website and we will be happy to answer your questions. Let us know too if you would like to book one of our speakers to come to your church or home group.

The Link Between Isaiah 53 and Passover

If you have been reading our newsletter recently, you know that over the past year, your Mission to the Jewish people has been engaged in an Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign. This will continue to be a major strategic initiative to help both Jewish people and Gentile Christians become aware of this inspirational chapter in the Hebrew Scriptures, which specifically links the death of the Messiah with His atonement for our sins.

I have been studying this marvelous chapter more deeply over

the last few years, and I would like to share with you a few of the parallels I have discovered between the Passover and this great prophecy of the death and resurrection of Messiah Jesus. If you compare Exodus chapter 12 and Isaiah chapter 53, I am sure these links will become as obvious to you as they have to me.

In Exodus chapter 12, God spoke through Moses and told the Jewish people to sacrifice a young lamb for the “Lord’s Passover.” However, this was not just any lamb—the lamb had to be perfect and without blemish. As Moses wrote,

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year... (Ex. 12:5)

In Isaiah chapter 53, the prophet described the Servant of the Lord who would ultimately be slain for our sins as being innocent and undeserving of His brutal death. The Passover lamb had to be without physical blemish, but the Servant of the Lord needed to be spiritually perfect—in other words, without sin. The prophet describes the coming Messiah in these words:

...He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. (Is. 53:9)

The reasons for Messiah’s perfection are evident: if He were sinful Himself, then it would have been impossible for Him to die a substitutionary death for your sin and mine, as He would instead have died for His own. Yeshua (Jesus) lived a

perfect life, fully obeyed the Law of God and was spiritually unblemished; therefore, He was worthy to sacrifice His life to atone for our sin.

Moses also gave the Israelites very clear instructions on what to do with the blood of the Lamb they sacrificed:

And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. (Ex. 12:22-23)

This passage evokes some vivid images in our minds and hearts! One of the reasons I love the Passover Seder is that the visual imagery of the festival helps both children and adults better grasp what occurred at the original Exodus. It is a magnificent prophetic portrait of Jesus' work on our behalf when He died as an innocent lamb. The

prophet Isaiah described the sacrificial death of the Lord's Servant in chapter 53:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Is. 53:5-6)

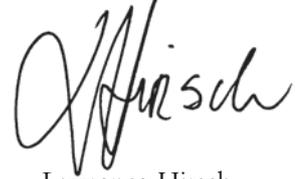
This describes exactly what the Messiah did for all humanity when He took on flesh and died in our place as a sacrifice. If He had not died for our sin, each one of us would not only have to die physically (which we will if the Lord tarries), but we would also die spiritually as a punishment for our sin. Spiritual death is defined as eternal separation from the God who made us.

I am so grateful for the lessons of Passover,

and for these wonderful parallels with Isaiah chapter 53. They give us a deeper appreciation for all the Lord did for us through His Son Yeshua—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

He is Risen!

Your brother in Messiah,



Lawrence Hirsch
Executive Director, Celebrate
Messiah Australia



Executive Director of
Celebrate Messiah Australia

Passover, which celebrates the Exodus of the Jewish people from their bondage in Egypt under Pharaoh, is one of the festivals that grounds Jewish life in history and tradition. You too can celebrate it with your family, friends, and neighbors as the Jewish people have celebrated from before the time of Jesus. The *Haggadah* (the telling), which has changed little over the centuries, is our guide to the *Seder* (the order of the ceremony). Just follow the steps below and you will experience the blessing of gathering to celebrate the Passover, just as Jesus the Messiah gathered with His disciples at the Last Supper.

The Passover involves two separate kinds of food: the Passover meal, and the special elements that are part of the ceremony—the bitter herbs, the parsley, the hard-boiled egg, the lamb shank, the *matzah* (unleavened bread), the salt water, the *charoset* (chopped apple and nut mixture) and the Four Cups. Three pieces of *matzah*, separated by napkins or placed in a special pouch called the *Matzah Tash*, are placed alongside the *Seder* plate.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The woman of the house lights the candles, reciting the Passover blessing:

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to light the Passover candles.”

THE FOUR CUPS

Each of the Four Cups of Passover stands for one of the four “I wills” of Exodus 6:6-7:

- Sanctification: *“I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”*
- Judgment: *“I will rescue you from their bondage.”*
- Redemption: *“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”*
- Praise: *“I will take you as My people.”*

The red color of the fruit of the vine reminds us of the blood of the lamb, which was applied to the doorposts and lintels of Jewish homes to avert the terrible judgment of the Lord upon the wickedness of Egypt. While drinking, we recline to the left, to symbolize the freedom of our liberation from slavery.

THE FIRST CUP — THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

The leader of the *Seder* offers the blessing:
“Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.”

All partake of the cup together.

THE KARPAS (PARSLEY)

All dip greens in the salt water—the greens symbolize hyssop, the plant used to brush the blood of the lamb upon the Jewish homes at the first Passover, and the salt water represents the tears shed by the Jewish people while in bondage.

THE BREAKING OF THE MATZAH

The middle *matzah* is removed from the napkins or *Matzah Tash* and is broken in half. One half is wrapped up in a cloth napkin and hidden for the children to search for during the dinner. The remaining half is replaced in the *Matzah Tash*.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS OF PASSOVER

An introductory question is asked: “Why is this night different from all other nights?” This is an invitation to tell why the Passover is so meaningful. The following questions are one of the most well-established centerpieces of the Passover celebration. They are usually asked by the youngest child at the table.

- 1) On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread; why on this night do we eat only *matzah* (unleavened bread)?
- 2) On all other nights we eat vegetables and herbs of all kinds; why on this night do we eat only bitter herbs?
- 3) On all other nights we never think of dipping herbs in water or in anything else; why on this night do we dip the parsley in salt water and the bitter herbs in *charoset*?
- 4) On all other nights we eat either sitting upright or reclining; why on this night do we all recline?

THE MAGGID (TELLING OF THE STORY)

In reply to the Four Questions, the Passover narrative is read from Exodus 12:1-13, placing special emphasis upon the essentials of the Passover—the lamb, the unleavened bread, the bitter herbs and the manner in which the children of Israel were instructed to eat the Passover meal.

THE TEN PLAGUES

The Second Cup is filled and the Ten Plagues that the Lord visited upon Egypt are now recited in unison. The participants in the *Seder* spill a drop from the Second Cup for each plague. This represents the belief that we must have compassion for our enemies, and our joy is diminished when we remember the suffering of the Egyptians.

THE SECOND CUP — THE CUP OF JUDGMENT

We partake together of the Second Cup, with the traditional blessing (see First Cup above).

THE MATZAH

The leader of the *Seder* elevates the unity of the three pieces of *matzah*. He then breaks olive-sized pieces from the top and middle *matzahs* and distributes them to the others. After the following prayer, they are eaten:

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commands us concerning the eating of the unleavened bread.”

THE MAROR (BITTER HERBS)

Everyone dips a small piece of *matzah* into the *maror*, and eats after the following blessing:

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us concerning the eating of bitter herbs.”

THE CHAROSET (MORTAR)

A small piece of *matzah* is dipped into the *charoset*, a mixture of finely chopped apples, nuts, honey, and cinnamon, which symbolizes the mortar with which the children of Israel fashioned the bricks for Pharaoh's building projects. The *matzah* is eaten.

SHULCHAN ORECH (THE PASSOVER DINNER)

Dinner is served. It may be as simple as chicken, potatoes and cooked carrots. *Matzah* ball soup is a common dish. Adventurous cooks may want to find a Jewish cookbook and try recipes for Jewish dishes from around the world. Throughout the dinner, the children search for the piece of *matzah* that was previously hidden.

THE AFIKOMEN (THE HIDDEN MATZAH)

After the meal, the hidden *matzah* is presented by the fortunate boy or girl who has found it. The leader of the *Seder* “redeems” it with a gift of money. It is then broken, distributed and eaten. This, together with the Third Cup, forms the basis of the Lord's Supper.

THE THIRD CUP — THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

The Third Cup is consumed with the appropriate blessing (see above). This cup is a reminder of the shed blood of the Passover Lamb that purchased our redemption from slavery.

ELIJAH'S PLACE SETTING

Throughout the evening, one place at the table has been left unoccupied. This is Elijah's place, and the door is now opened to see if he will enter, and bring with him the long-awaited Messiah of Israel.

THE ZEROAH AND THE BEITZAH

The shankbone and egg, symbols of sacrifices that are no longer offered because of the destruction of the Temple, are referenced for the sake of their presence on the Passover Plate.

THE FOURTH CUP — THE CUP OF PRAISE

As the Passover is brought to conclusion, a blessing is said and the fourth cup is taken, while the following phrase is said in unison:

“Next Year in Jerusalem!”

For more detailed instructions on Passover preparation and further commentary about the meaning of Passover for believers in Jesus, contact Celebrate Messiah Australia on 03 9563 5544 or visit our website www.celebratemessiah.com.au.

CELEBRATE THE *Passover!*

ANZACS & THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

by Kelvin Crombie



a greater restoration. Such a restoration, however, would depend upon the defeat the Turkish Empire, and the capture of the land of Israel by a power sympathetic to the Jewish aspirations.

Significance of Gallipoli

In late 1914 Britain and France, planned an assault upon the Dardanelles Peninsular in Turkey in order to assist their Russian ally. The Russians then, in March 1915, informed the British and French that once Turkey was defeated then the strategic areas of the Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara, Bosphorus and Constantinople were to be handed over to them—the Russians.

As a result of this Russian demand, Britain now began to consider what was strategically important for them in a defeated and dismembered Turkish Empire. France had always coveted the province of Syria—which included Palestine, the land of Israel. But what did Britain need?

At this point Britain realised that if Russia controlled the Dardanelles, and if France held Syria, then these two potential future rivals could effectively threaten the Suez Canal—her link to her Eastern Empire of India, Australia, New Zealand and more.

Soon afterwards Britain decided that it could never allow a political situation to develop which could threaten the Suez Canal. Of prime importance now was the future of the east bank of the Suez, which they did not want France to control. The question though was: “If not France, then who?”

The Anzac horsemen and Beersheba

Following their withdrawal from Gallipoli some of the Allied soldiers were deployed into the Sinai—to protect the Suez Canal.

These men, including Anzac horsemen, moved slowly towards the land of Israel. By late 1917 the British Government was firmly resolved to defeating the Turks in the entire province of Syria, and thereby securing a political future for that region in line were Britain’s geo-political interests.

On 31 October 1917 British infantry and the Anzac horsemen won a resounding victory at Beersheba, aided by a gallant charge of the Australian Light Horse. At about the same time as the final surge to victory at Beersheba, the members of the British War Cabinet in London agreed to a proposal from the Zionist Organisation to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

A sympathetic power had conquered the land from the Muslim Turks. The Jewish people were ready to return. British and ANZAC soldiers had played a part in the military victory. And behind the scenes for several hundred years ordinary Christians had been reminding God of His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Beersheba is really part two of the Gallipoli story. Indeed the road to Zion began at Gallipoli. That is the real significance of Gallipoli, and this is the wonderful news all Australians and New Zealanders should be made aware of.

God is totally faithful to His covenant promises, and Israel being restored to her land is evidence of this. If this is so, then how great of an encouragement is that for us. God keeps His promises to Israel AND TO US. Hallelujah!

[Kelvin grew up in rural Western Australia, where he developed an interest in the Anzacs as a young boy, as well as developing a keen interest in Israel and the Jewish people. He is not Jewish, nor came from a practising Christian family. He went to Israel in 1979 and in 1981 came to faith in Jesus as Messiah and Lord. He married Lexie, a Dutch nurse in 1984, and they have four daughters. Kelvin has written five books concerning the history of the period in Israel after 1798 and has co-produced several documentaries on the same subject. His latest book is called Anzacs and Israel, a Significant Connection.” See back page]. The Crombies are back in WA after serving some 24 years in Israel.

The Anzac Day service on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem in 1992 was on the same weekend as Passover and Easter. On that day a Catholic minister spoke about how Passover represents the identity of the nation of Israel; Easter represents the identity of the Christian; and the Anzac landing at Gallipoli represents the beginnings of the identity of Australia (and New Zealand).

I left that service feeling challenged to further research about the significant connection between the Anzac soldiers in the Eastern Mediterranean and the restoration of Israel, and especially of any connection with the Gallipoli campaign.

There is indeed a significant connection.

What is the real significance of Gallipoli?

Ever since Napoleon invaded Egypt in 1798 in an effort to cut Britain off from India, the British were extremely concerned about geo-political developments in the Eastern Mediterranean. Britain’s obsession with the Eastern Mediterranean led her take control over the Suez Canal in 1875.

Also during the nineteenth century many British Christians began to proclaim that according to God’s covenant faithfulness, national Israel would one day be restored to its ancient homeland. They interceded for such a Jewish restoration.

Then towards the latter part of the century nationalist Jewish people began coming to the land of Israel, anticipating



MISSION TRIP TO FAR EAST RUSSIA

Celebrate Messiah will be sending another mission team to reach out to the Forgotten Jews of Far East Russia in July. Please can you pray for Rita Ivenskis as she leads the team to Vladivostok, Khabarovsk and the Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidzhan. Celebrate Messiah pioneered work in this area of Russia seven years ago and have helped establish over 8 outreaches across this remote region of Russia. Your support and prayers for this mission will be greatly appreciated.

PURIM BASKETS TOUCH HEARTS

During the festival of Purim it is traditional to give gifts to the poor as well as family and friends which are called *mishloach manot* in Hebrew, literally “sending of portions.” This year Celebrate Messiah had the privilege of giving around 50 baskets to needy people and Holocaust survivors in Melbourne. Thank you to all those who supported this project through financial support and volunteering your time. We intend to distribute food parcels to needy people on a monthly basis. If you would like to support this work, please tick the appropriate box on your response form.

MESSIAH TOUCHES UK WOMAN'S HEART

Daniel N. in the U.K. is happy about a new men's Bible study on Wednesday evenings, as these gatherings have provided a safe, comfortable place for several Jewish men to air their questions about faith in Yeshua to the group.

Now the women are starting their own Bible study in U.K. staff member Fiona's house. Daniel was very encouraged recently when a lady who has been coming with her two children for some time confided, “I do believe He is the Messiah. I really do!” This woman comes from a very religious form of Judaism, and her statement is an amazing sign that God has truly been at work in her heart.



Daniel & Debi N.

AN ELDERLY RE-BIRTH

California-based worker Michael Cohen regularly ministers to the elderly at convalescent homes, and enjoys many opportunities to witness to

Jewish people. Sadly, some of the people Michael talks to are very hostile to the Gospel message, but others appear to open their hearts after Michael shares his testimony and verses from the Scriptures. One man reacted like the Philippian jailer after Michael shared with him that Yeshua had come to give him eternal life—he immediately prayed to receive Messiah!



Michael and Lisa Cohen

FOOTBALL EVANGELISM IN ISRAEL

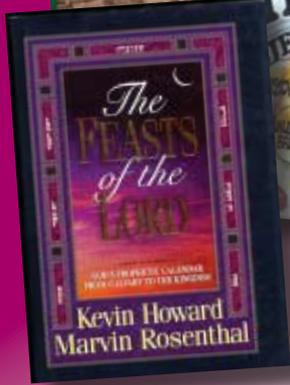
Chosen People Ministries staff member Dan,★ serving in Israel, suffered an injury during a soccer game. Despite his injury, Dan continued to invest in building relationships with his team by helping out where he could. During an hour-long drive home from a recent game, the Lord opened the door for Dan to share with five of his teammates about his faith in Yeshua. Four of them were students at *Yeshiva* (Jewish religious school) and asked him question after question about his beliefs. Please pray for these young men—and also for the rest of the soccer team—that God would open their hearts to receive His Messiah.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Anzacs and Israel - A Significant Connection
by Kelving Crombie (\$20)

The Gospel in the Jewish Feasts - 2 set DVD
by Lawrence Hirsch (\$20)

The Feasts of the Lord
by Howard & Rosenthal (\$36)



Simcha 2011

Event dates: 25-27 November 2011

"THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE MESSIAH"

Diarise Dates Now!

For more information, visit www.celebratemessiah.com.au.

Online registration coming soon.

This Year See God's Salvation in Passover

The **Messianic Passover Haggadah** is a must for those who want a deeper understanding of this feast. This Haggadah has been prepared to show God's redemptive grace in the Passover through the death, burial and resurrection of His Messiah, Jesus, and to symbolize God's spiritual redemption of His people.

Messianic Passover Haggadah **\$15.00**

The **Matzah Tash** (unity) is a pouch with three compartments for matza—a vivid illustration of the unity of God's triune nature. This white Matzah Tash is beautifully embroidered in Israel.

Matzah Tash **\$45.00**

This silver **Seder Plate** is made in Israel and beautifully displays the seder elements.

Seder Plate **\$45.00**

Each of the four times the **Kiddush Cup** is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is illustrated. This silver cup is about three inches tall.

Kiddush Cup **\$45.00**

Complete Set:
Haggadah, Matzah Tash, Seder Plate and Kiddush Cup
. **\$150.00**



Passover Banquets:

Come and join us for an exquisite night of celebrating a messianic Jewish Passover Seder through reading the Haggadah, singing and dancing accompanied by a professionally catered three course meal. This night is different from all other nights of the year. Hosted by Lawrence and Louise Hirsch founders of Celebrate Messiah Australia.

Sydney -

Saturday 16 April at 6pm
(booking deadline 8 April)

Sunshine Coast -

Tuesday 19th April 2011 at 6pm
(booking deadline 10 April)

Melbourne -

Thursday 21 April at 6.30pm
(booking deadline 15 April)

Please do not delay in placing your booking as there is limited seating.

Please call our office or visit our website for more details and registration forms.



Celebrate MESSIAH "Bringing the Message to the Original Messengers"

Serving together with Chosen People Ministries in: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Ukraine, United States. Cover image: Carly Hennigan.

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