



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Jesus...Our Passover Lamb

**T**hough Easter is over you will be receiving this prayer letter on or around Passover and during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. **The Emperor Constantine unbiblically disconnected the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from Passover, in order to make the celebration of the resurrection less Jewish and to disconnect the “Christian” holidays from the Jewish holidays.** What a tragedy of history for the church and for the Jewish people.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread begin the Jewish biblical year and the Jewish festival calendar. Passover is one of the most observed holidays by the Jewish community much like Thanksgiving is for Americans. **Your Jewish friends will be celebrating Passover.** More on that later...

Passover celebrates how God redeemed the Israelites from slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt. Its celebration, commanded by God in Exodus 12 and Numbers 9, demonstrates God’s love for the Jewish people and His sovereign power over history.

**Jesus celebrated Passover.** He knew the significance of the festival. It was the meal that He desired to eat on the night He was betrayed. He wanted to eat it with His disciples. In fact in scripture we read Jesus saying, *“I earnestly desire to eat this meal with you.”* Luke 22:15

**We get a glimpse into Jesus’ last meal before His death.** Though Jesus and His disciples had celebrated Passover together for three or four years as teacher and disciples, we only get to see that last meal. The last Passover Jesus celebrated here on earth.



Little did the disciples know how significant that Passover was going to be. **Tensions were high in Jerusalem. Jesus had entered Jerusalem on a colt. Messianic expectations were high for some...political ambitions were on the minds of others.** Roman authorities were concerned about keeping control over their territory. Jewish leaders were concerned with maintaining their control over Judaism. **Jesus was caught in the middle.** But, for the disciples the Passover they were getting ready to celebrate with Jesus was a typical Passover.

**Some of the disciples may have been thinking about their own families who were celebrating Passover with their extended clan.** For the disciples it would have been like missing Thanksgiving dinner to be at college. They could not go home because they were committed to Jesus. They wanted to be with Him. But, their families must have been on their minds. *“How are Grandma and Grandpa? What is going on with my aunts, uncles, and cousins?”* These were probably questions they had every year since beginning to walk with the One whom they knew to be Messiah.

But, other than the usual questions and the increasing tensions over Jesus’ ministry, they had no reason to think

the Passover they were going to celebrate was any different that the others they had celebrated with Jesus. Some disciples might have been thinking, *“I wonder if He is going to teach us anything new this year around the Passover table?”*

### The disciples prepared for Passover.

They went to the room, as instructed by Jesus, and made sure that the Passover table was ready. It was in an upper room in some house in Jerusalem. We don’t know where. The lamb had to be slaughtered. **All leaven had to be removed from the home.** Leaven could not be used during the exodus. The Israelites had no time. So the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread remember the haste in which they had to leave. Leaven is also a symbol of sin in the scriptures. **And so the preparation for the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread included the removing of all leaven from the house. It needed to be holy. Sinless. The table was set.**

Jesus and His disciples gathered for that Passover meal. When they gathered together for the Passover meal there must have been some laughing, joking around, and the telling of stories about what they might have heard from home.

Passover is a joyous celebration. It is a time of thanksgiving. It is a time to remember the goodness of God. To remember His sovereignty.

**Jesus and His disciples sat down at the table.** More accurately they reclined around a low table, perhaps on pillows or blankets. In Middle Eastern societies only the free could recline at a meal. Only the redeemed. There was some bantering over who was going to

sit next to Jesus that year. I wonder if they had ever bantered about that before? Probably.

**We know that Jesus and His disciples went through an order of service.** A Seder (rhymes with later...long a... and means "order"). They drank four cups. The first cup to bless the service, the second cup to retell the story of the Exodus, the third cup Jesus used to proclaim the New Covenant, and the last cup to give praise to God.

**They had all of the festival elements on the table.** God instructed the Israelites for all generations to celebrate their redemption. He told them to have the Passover lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and the fruit of the vine on the table to commemorate how He redeemed them from slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt, "with a strong hand and an outstretched arm." Jesus and His disciples were doing what God commanded them to do.

**But that night was different.** After the festival meal during the Cup of Redemption Jesus did something, Jesus said something, that he had never done, never said, before. During the Passover meal He lifted the Cup of Redemption and some unleavened bread, He looked at His disciples and said, "This is all about Me." **Jesus, pointing to the Passover table, told the disciples that God had orchestrated history for that meal, that night.**

Jesus was saying,

*"Disciples, you are familiar with the story of the Exodus. You know how God allowed our people to go into slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt for 400 years. How He sent Moses to say, 'Let My people go!' Pharaoh relented for a moment but then his heart was hardened. Then God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. That last plague, the slaying of the first born, God commanded our people to take a perfect lamb, to sacrifice it and put its blood on the doorpost of our homes. Because of that blood Death passed over us. Disciples, tonight I want you to know that I AM THE PASSOVER LAMB!"*

On the night He was betrayed Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples. It was during that Passover meal that Jesus



told His disciples what He came to do. He came to suffer and die for them, for the world, so that spiritual death would pass over us all.

Oh that my Jewish people would see.

**Jesus came to bring....**

- **Redemption**
- **Freedom**
- **Hope**
- **Peace**

Jewish people regularly attend the many Passover celebrations which we are conducting in churches around the southeast. Some are seeking. Others are just curious. But they come and hear the message of Jesus in the Passover. He's there. Our hope is that perhaps some of those Jewish people will be celebrating Passover next year with faith and a knowledge of Jesus as their Messiah and Passover Lamb.

During this Passover season will you pray that more of my people will open their eyes to the truth of Jesus. Will you pray that many more Jewish people

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will come to see and accept the truth of His atoning sacrifice. **May more Jewish people accept the One who came to us as the Passover Lamb.**

Passover begins on April 22nd at sunset. **Please do not neglect to send your Jewish friends a Passover card to wish them a happy holiday.** We've added a link on the home page of our website for you to send a Passover card to your Jewish friends. If you would like more information regarding how you can use this time of year to deepen your relationships with your Jewish friends please let us know.

## Israel Tour 2016

**We are planning another tour to Israel in the fall of this year. Our tour dates are October 29th-November 8th.** Our last tour of Israel was a life changing trip for those who joined us. There is nothing like learning about the Bible in the land of the Bible!

We will be visiting all of the biblical sites. Both the Old and New Testaments will come alive. We will also be experiencing and meeting the people of the land today. See Israel through Jewish eyes!


Please see the enclosed brochure as well as the information about the tour on our web site. Also please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions you might have.

## Thank You!!

Our ministry is here to encourage you to pray for the Jewish people and to help them hear the message of Jesus.

**As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of Messiah Jesus!**

In His service,

  
 Murray Tilles...for the staff  
 Light of Messiah Ministries

