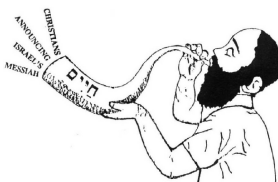


CHAIN TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "CHristians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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A Passover for All Nations

To understand the Lord's Supper, it is essential to understand the context in which it was given: Passover. It was at the Passover Seder in the Upper Room that Jesus instituted this sacrament of the New Covenant. He used the unleavened bread of the celebration of the Exodus and the traditional wine consumed during the feast to represent his body and blood. It is of great value to consider the implications of the institution of Communion in the Passover setting.

Passover began the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread, commanded by Moses: "And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, from the flock or the herd, at the place that the LORD will choose, to make his name dwell there. You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction—for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt." (Deut. 16:2-3)

The Exodus from Egypt was the central historical act of redemption for the people of Israel. It is mentioned again and again in the Psalms and Prophets. Jesus telling his disciples that they are from then on to partake of the unleavened bread and wine in remembrance of him means he came to fulfill the Passover by bringing a greater act of redemption. The Israelites were freed from the land of slavery, idolatry, sin and death. Messiah came to bring a greater liberation for all nations. As he said, he came to fulfill the Law, to bring it to its greater realization and deeper meaning.

The Israelites ate unleavened bread to remember the need to leave Egypt in haste. There was no time for the bread to rise. Leaven in the context of the Passover had come to symbolize sin by the first century, as Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 5:6-9. We also see it in later rabbinic writing: "...the yeast in the dough [represents] the evil inclination that is within every person" (B. Talmud Ber. 17a)

In the matzah Jesus portrayed himself as without the leaven of sin, the sinless sacrifice made for us. The four cups of wine during the Passover Seder represented the redemption of God. Since Jesus said: "I tell you I will not drink again of

this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Therefore it had to be the last cup, the Cup of Completion that Jesus used to indicate he was bringing about the completion of redemption by his sacrifice as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) Indeed while on the cross Jesus said: "It is finished." Redemption for all who believe was finally and fully accomplished.

You see, the reason for the Exodus from Egypt was to fulfill what was promised to Abraham. And what was promised to Abraham? That he would be blessed, that he would be multiplied into a great nation, that his descendants would inherit the land, and that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him. He would become the father of a multitude of peoples. The call of Abraham was to redeem a people from the curse of the Fall. Blessing overturns curse and is its opposite.

Israel's redemption from Egypt was part and partial to and the precursor of a redemption that would ultimately go to all peoples. In other words, the call of Abraham, the creation of Israel, and the Exodus were all ultimately part of a grander and more comprehensive redemption and all pointed to what Messiah would do. Israel never existed for itself. Rather it existed for the sake of God's Messianic redemption. It was Jews who followed Jesus who brought the message to the world. The rejection of the Jesus by the Jewish majority served to advance the gospel among the nations as Paul turned to the gentiles. The scattered Jewish believers in 70 AD spread the word to the known world. The restoration of the Jewish people to faith in Jesus will also, according to Paul, be an even greater blessing to the world. (Romans 11:22)

When we partake of the Lord's Supper, let's remember the original context. Also let us pray for our Jewish friends as they eat the matzah and remember the Exodus, that they would come to understand the bigger picture. Let us rejoice that the ultimate Passover Lamb was slain to pay for our sins, to conquer death, to bring about freedom from sin, and to one day bring about the ultimate promised land, a new heaven and a new earth. —FK

CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES



Rick Anderson continues to have a fruitful time doing street outreach in the Upper Darby area working with local churches there. Good job, Rick! This is an ongoing effort, and your prayers are an important and absolutely crucial part of this ministry.

Vitaly Kalinovsky reports he has Russians, Ukrainians and Belarussians in the English language classes he helps teach. Of course there are now tensions between these various groups because of the war in Ukraine! Each week he has an opportunity to share the Good News with immigrants. Our Rock of Israel PCA church plant seeks to be a peace-making force in the Russian-speaking immigrant community.



Ukraine has a booming evangelical movement. You can see the massive turn-out for prayer about the war in Ukraine on the steps of the Art Museum in Philadelphia. It was a wonderful worshipful gathering.



CHAIM's Director Fred Klett (on the right with the fedora) was privileged to be invited as one of the local pastors to speak to the group and to lead in prayer. (By the way, these pastors are not being robbed!)

CHAIM team members will be leading Jesus Our Passover Seders at a number of local churches. Keep us in mind for presentations on the Jewish holidays and how they point to Jesus. We are available to speak at your church or fellowship group. Passover and the Fall Festivals of Israel are very popular themes and dramatically show the gospel in the Hebrew Bible. Also, don't forget useful articles and bulletin inserts about these holidays are available on the CHAIM website.

2022 INDEPENDENCE WEEK SUMMER CAMPAIGN! COME JOIN US!

We are planning to do street evangelism during the famous Independence Week festivities in Philadelphia. If you would like to take part, please contact the CHAIM office. Pictured below are some participants from a previous year.



Vitaly, Rick, Kevin, & Fred a couple of years ago at Penn's Landing. You can be a part of our summer campaign this year!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

CHAIM Staff Members:

Rev. Fred Klett, Executive Director
Rev. Rick Anderson, Senior Missionary
Rev. Vitaly Kalinovsky, Russian Ministry