

PASSOVER..PART 3

Joseph's prophetic dream of Pharaoh's cup bearer, baker, and the number three

The progression of the blood

Messiah our Unleavened Bread

Messiah our First Fruit

Counting the Omer

Yeshua our High Priest

Conclusion of Spring Feasts

JOSEPH'S PROPHETIC DREAM OF PHARAOH'S CUP BEARER AND BAKER, AND THE NUMBER THREE.

Joseph helps the Pharaoh's cupbearer, and baker with their dreams, yet they forgot all about his helping them for years after wards (Gen. 40:9-24).

Gen. 40:12-13 *Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the **three branches are three days; 13 within three more days** Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his **cupbearer.**"*

Gen. 40:16-19 *When the **chief baker** saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, "I also saw in my dream, and behold, **there were three baskets of white bread on my head; 17 and in the top basket** there were some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head." 18 Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: **the three baskets are three days; 19 within three more days** Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."*

Gen. 42:17 *So he put them all together in prison **for three days.**"*

Can you see the use of the number three so prevalent in these verses, all thematically connected to Yeshua's three days of death, burial, and resurrection? Every time you see the number 3, 30, 300, etc and multiples of three in scripture, you will find a thematic connection to His death burial and resurrection.

Here we see the cupbearer and baker all connected to Joseph. Now let's go a little deeper and we will see that both the cupbearer and Joseph had important positions. Both Potiphar and Pharaoh were angry with their servants. Joseph and the cup bearer and baker were all thrown into prison. Both the cupbearer and baker had dreams and Joseph just happened to be an expert in dreams and their interpretations, like Daniel. Both Joseph and the cup bearer were exalted again into high positions of the Pharaoh when the smoke cleared. Yah is trying to show us that all three of these were thematically connected.

What is the significance of the jobs of the cup bearer and baker? The cup bearer provided the Pharaoh with wine. The one who took the wine was restored back to the kings side. After the third day Yeshua was restored back to the kings side.

The baker provided the Pharaoh with bread. This wine and bread are of course symbolic of Yeshua's Last Supper, the wine and the bread, the body and the blood.

Why do you think that the stories in the torah concentrated so much on a cup bearer and baker?

The writer did so because they were shadows of things to come in connection with the Messianic Messiah?

What was the cup-bearer?



The cup-bearer was a servant of his most high Pharaoh. Wasn't Yeshua a servant of His Most High Father? **What did Yeshua say to the criminals executed with Him at Calvary?**

Luke 23:42 *And He was saying, "Yeshua, **remember me when You come in Your kingdom!**"* Isn't that what Joseph said? **Gen. 40:14** *"Only **keep me in mind** when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house."*

How is the baker executed?

The baker was hung on a tree. (Gen. 40:19)

How deep can we go? How far out on that branch of connections can we climb?

As you can see the tree we were on has now taken us way out into the branches of remez and mid rash. These are deep understandings that are rarely ever uncovered.

What is the significance and the connection of the basket in regard to the baker, Jonah and Isaac?



The baker has a dream that there were baskets (made usually of vines, thorns or reeds) on his head. Didn't Yeshua have a weaving of thorns on His head? The baker's basket was a shadow of what would happen to Yeshua many years later. We can even see a clear connection here with Jonah. **Jonah 3:5** *"Water encompassed me **to the point of death**. The great deep engulfed me, **Weeds were wrapped around my head**."* Remember the idea of the pit been associated with death, as manifested in the life of Joseph when his brothers left him in a pit and sold him to the Midianites, wow!! To appreciate this to its fullest we must look at the life of Joseph as a type of Yeshua.

See the teaching on thematic connections; Joseph as a type of Yeshua.

Are you ready for more? What was the name of the town Yeshua was born in?

Yeshua was born in Bethlehem, which means bread basket.

Do you remember any other significant Messianic figure in the Torah connected with a bread basket?

Let's now look at the story of Moses. Moses, as a baby, was put in a bread basket and floated down the Nile river. His mother put the baby in a bread basket in the river; it should have never lived, but it did. The basket she put him in should have been his grave. It was symbolic of a tomb of death. There is no conceivable way that a child could survive such an endeavour. Moses was yet another Messianic type of Yeshua. Moses name meant "drawn from the water". Wasn't Yeshua the water of life from which He said all who thirst and drink of will find life (John 7:37-38)? We can also see an obvious connection to the "Water Libation Ceremony" connected to the Feast of Sukkot. I could go on and on, it simply never ends, all the incredible connections.

What did Joseph say to the cup bearer when he was set free?

Remember me, keep me in mind. **Gen. 40:14** *"Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house."* When Joseph told the cup bearer to remember him (Gen. 40:14) he put his faith in a man rather than Yah, and he spent two extra years in prison because of his lack of faith in Yah's provision. Neither the cup bearer or the baker appreciated Joseph's help. Does that sound familiar? Some day people will remember those of us who explained to them about the Jewish Messiah Yeshua.

Here on earth we are in a worldly prison trying to reach and teach others the truth of the Word. How many have we talked to about torah, and how many will remember us when all hell breaks loose in the ends times?

THE ABRAHAM AND ISAAC CONNECTION

Do you remember when Abraham took Isaac up Mount Moria for a sacrifice, and Abraham offered up his ONLY Son?

Gen. 22:2 *"Then Yahveh said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.'"* Yah tells Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering.

Where does Yah tell Abraham to go?

Yah told Abraham to go to the land of Moriah. Traditionally it has been accepted that Abraham offered Isaac on Mt. Moriah. Mt. Moriah is famous for the following things that took place there:

The place where the Temple Mount stands (Acts. 2:1-13, 2Chron. 3:1-2).

The tree of life was located there in the center of the Garden Of Eden. (Gen. 3:3)

The city of Salem was located there. Melchizedek king and high priest.(Gen. 14:18)

The land of Moriah was there. (Gen. 22:1)

The shek'inah (glory) cloud was found there, filling the Temple. (2Chron. 5:11-14 & 7:1-3)

Yeshua's dedication took place there. (Luke 2:21-38)

Yeshua's circumcision took place there. (Luke 2:21-38)

The 3,000 were baptized in the Holy Spirit there at Pentecost. (Acts 2:41)

In Ezekiel's vision, the Kings throne is located there. (Rev. 21:21-22 & Ezek. 43:1-12)



How did Abraham respond to Yah's command?

Gen. 22:3a *“Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac.”* Abraham responded with complete obedience, without any delay. The fact that Abraham, and not his servants, saddled his own donkey shows the immediate obedience of Abraham.

Do you think Abraham told his wife Sarah what and where he was going with Isaac? No way! If Abraham would have told

Sarah what he intended to do to their son, then she would have offered up Abraham as the burnt offering. I am sure Abraham told his wife the same thing he told his servants.

Gen. 22:5 *“Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there; we will worship and then **we will return to you.**”* Notice that Abraham says “we will return.”

What does this show about Abraham?

I believe Abraham knew that Yah would miraculously intervene and Isaac would be returning with him.

What was Isaac's question in verse 7?

Gen. 22:7b *“...The fire and wood are here, but **where is the lamb** for the burnt offering?”* Isaac recognizes that there is something missing from the picture.

What was Abraham's response?

Gen. 22:8 *“Abraham answered, ‘**Yah Himself will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**’ And the two of them went on together.”* Abraham believed



that Yah would be providing a lamb for sacrifice. Isaac probably realized that he was going to be the sacrificial offering, that is why it says “they went together.” Abraham was 133 years old and Isaac was 37 years old. Isaac could have fled from Abraham, but **Isaac, like Yeshua, submitted himself to his father**, and the two of them went in harmony.

Gen. 22:9 Abraham builds the altar, arranges the wood, and binds Isaac on the altar. This is the fourth recorded altar built by

Abraham. **Gen. 22:10** *“Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”* Despite the fact that the promises were to come through Isaac, Abraham still intended to offer Isaac. **Hebr. 11:17** *“By faith, Abraham, **when he was put to the test, offered up Isaac as a sacrifice.** Yes, he offered up his only son, he who had received*

the promises.” Abraham raised his hand with the knife. The same knife that probably circumcised the son of the promise, would now become the knife that would take the life of the son of the promise.

But before Abraham kills his son, Yahveh intervenes and calls out, “Abraham! Abraham!” **Gen. 22:12** *“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” He said, ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear Yahveh, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.’”* Yah now sees that Abraham fears Him. Abraham has now passed the test. We learn from this that we must be faithful all the way through to the end.

THE PROPHETIC SIDE

Why did Adonai offer up a ram as a substitute for Isaac, when Abraham said Adonai would offer up a lamb?

Gen. 22:13 *Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.”*

Gen. 22:8 *“Adonai will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.”* When Abraham spoke these words he was speaking prophetically about Yah providing a lamb in the future. Yah provided a ram for Abraham and Isaac instead of a lamb. If Yah had provided a lamb rather than the ram, people later on would have said that that prophesy would have already been fulfilled. Abraham was, without even knowing, prophesying what would later be written about in the Book of John. **John 1:29** *The next day, Yochanan saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, “Look! Yah’s lamb! The one who is taking away the sin of the world!*

Summary

Wow, it's hard to believe that a few words, a verse, a thought, an idea can, be weaved in and out of the Living Word in such a beautiful way. As you can see the crown of thorns on Yeshua's head at Calvary is connected thematically to many other areas in the bible. By connecting these dots we can see some of the mystery hidden in the depth of the Hebrew words in our Good Book. Without recognizing the scarlet thread connection throughout our bible we would never see the incredible living color stories hidden in-between and among the words. We go from Yeshua at Calvary at Passover, to Rosh Hashanah for Kings, to Yeshua as King of the Jews, to Joseph and the Kings cup-bearer, to the Kings baker, to Joseph's three days and three nights interpretation of the dreams, to three baskets of bread, to three days in prison, Joseph saying: "remember me", to the baker being hung on a tree, to Jonah wrapped in weeds, to Bethlehem meaning "bread basket", to Moses in a basket in the river Jordan, to Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moria, which was the place where the Temple Mount stands, where the tree of life was located in the center of the Garden Of Eden, where the city of Salem was located, where Melchizedek king and high priest was, where the shek'inah (glory) cloud which filled the temple was found, where Yeshua's dedication took place, where Yeshua's circumcision took place, where 3,000 were baptized in the Holy Spirit, where in Ezekiel's vision, the Kings throne is located, where a ram is caught in a thicket of thorns, to the prophesy of Abraham directed at John saying: "look, Adonai's lamb!". Wow! Hallelu-Yah!! Selah

THE LAMBS SLAUGHTERED AT THE TEMPLE

The logistics of the slaughtering of the lambs that took place at the temple at Passover is a marvel. On the 13th of Nissan at 3:00pm, twilight, they would prepare

the regular evening oblation. The temple would be immediately shut down after that.

At 9:00am the next morning, the priests began the slaughtering of the passover lambs, and it was completed at 3:00pm with the last lamb representing Yeshua. Then "it was finished". This process took about six hours. They had just enough time to sacrifice their lamb, skin it and prepare it for the evening feast starting at sundown about 6:00pm. This was now the 15th day.

For Passover all 24 divisions of the priests would help with the sacrifices. It was not normal for the individual divisions of priests to be at the temple more than two weeks at two different times. Because of the size of the endeavour, on High sabbaths during the Feasts, all priests would work together dealing with the sacrifices. It is estimated that there could have been upwards of over 200,000 people in the area when these sacrifices were being made.

Nicanor and Beautiful gates

The people who didn't slaughter their own lambs, would bring them and form a line starting at the outer **Beautiful Gate**, of the temple.



Once inside, the people would proceed to a specific point through the **Nicanor Gate** into the altar area, where they would then form lines horizontally. Nothing was spoken during this process, it was a very solemn service. Because it was a very solemn service the priests would use the ringing of bells only to direct the people in line. The entire front line of people with their lambs would have priests with them and at the ringing of the bell, the priests would

simultaneously slit the throat of the lambs and drain the blood. After the blood was drained out a bell would ring and the person would back out of that temple area with his lamb and as they retreated, another line would be formed by them on their way out of the temple. The priests would be going back and forth steady with the blood of the lambs and pour it out at the base of the altar. Then the next row would line up across the front and the process would begin again, until all the lambs were done. There was a very good drainage system set up so that all this blood would drain away and ultimately end up in the Kidron Valley.

Passover is an evening memorial, done during the dark just as Yeshua was put on trial during the evening hours. It is called the watch night of Passover. At daylight Yeshua was handed over to Pilate and the process of crucifixion continued, with Him being on the stake at 9:00am the next day, the morning of the 14th. He dies and He is buried on this same 14th day. All of these events took place within that 24 hour period.

That night when Yeshua was arrested, He went from the upper room across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane. When He was arrested, He came back across the Kidron Valley. He literally, physically, PASSED-OVER the blood of the lambs being slain on His way back.

Peter and John were sent before Yeshua so they could go through this procedure with a lamb. They then took the lamb back to the upper room where they had to skin it and prepare it for their meal.

THE ORDER OF PASSOVER (PESACH) (aviv barley)

In order to establish the order of things at Passover, which includes "Unleavened

Bread, and First Fruits”, we must first establish that the barley is aviv. If the barley is aviv it will be harvestable about two weeks after the sliver of the moon at that time. This is usually what we call March/April. So, if the barley is in its aviv stage we count from the sliver of the new moon accordingly. This can be done several ways actually.

All farmers know that similar crops vary in their growth stages depending on the exact location. Similar crops planted across the road from each other can sometimes vary in their growth stages. When we look at the aviv barley for Passover, we must look at the whole area of Israel for ripeness, not just one particular small area. We must look at the big picture. When we are in doubt we should play it safe and look at the later crop being aviv compared to a small area where some is aviv earlier on. For Passover we must have ripe barley. It can be slightly over-ripe, but it most certainly must be at least ripe. For that reason when we have a year where there seems to be a discrepancy in the crops, we must play it on the safe side and choose the later harvest. Because the starting date for Passover sets the schedule for all the following Feasts, we should therefore rather be safe than sorry.

Everything in biblical time uses Jerusalem as its focus, the dates should be as per Jerusalem time whenever possible. This is what I believe. If one wants to celebrate these holidays as per North American time zones then I’m sure Yah has no problem. In this case, the date would be twenty four hours later, the following day.

The following schedule is per Jerusalem time.

13th day of the month Nissan (starting at sundown) is generally when the Seder is kept by many Messianic's. This is not a High Sabbath.

14th day (starting at sundown of the 13th) is a **HIGH SABBATH** beginning the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is generally when the Seder is kept by Orthodox Jews and many Messianic Jews.

15th day (starting at sundown of the 14th) they ate the lamb and made sure nothing was left by morning.

There is always one weekly Sabbath between the 14th and 21st.

18th day (starting at sundown) is First Fruits. It is always a Sunday. It is not a High Sabbath.

21th day (starting at sundown) is considered a **HIGH SABBATH** that ends this Feast season. This is the last day of Unleavened Bread.

THE LIE OF THE CROSS AT CALVARY

Matt. 27:40 and saying, *“You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of Adonai, come down from **the cross.**”*

In this and many other verses in the Renewed Testament we see the Greek translated word “stauros” (Strong's #4716) being used incorrectly. The English meaning of the word cross automatically conveys the meaning that two pieces of wood cross at some point or angle. Many mislead translators have inferred that stauros means cross, but it is simply not the case. Stauros does not require this meaning. Even though we don't have the original Hebrew word used, we know that stauros is incorrectly translated throughout the scriptures as a cross. In Greek the word stauros means, as per Strong's: **“a stake or post (as set upright), a pole or cross (as an instrument of capital punishment),”**. In Hebrew, the words “yated, mot, zakuf, yashar, le hizakef” are used to mean an object: like a piece of wood (dead or alive) used in an upright position. Yeshua was not charged with any Roman capital crime so there would be no

reason to hang Him on a cross. Yeshua was hung on a wooden upright stake, it was not a cross. The cross (Tau) was commonly used as an Egyptian occult symbol 1400 years prior to Calvary and I don't believe Yah would allow His Son to be nailed to it.

The simple truth is, regardless of the translation error, we should be concerned about who died on the stake and the reasons He died. The instrument used in His execution is not relevant any ways! Think about it from another angle, if Yeshua had been hung on a wall, does that mean people should walk around with houses hanging around their neck? Of course not! Common sense should still be used.

NOTE: The well known scholars; Cassiodorus, Wescott, Epiphanius, Lactantius and Gregory of Tours all rejected the idea of Yeshua dying on a Friday.

Most scholars agree that there is an obvious error in Matt. 28:1 and Mark 16:1, the "Sabbath" written, should be plural. **Matt. 28:1** *Now after the Sabbath, (sabbaths) as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.* **Mark 16:1** *When the Sabbath (sabbaths) were over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him."*

THE ACRONYM (EPITAPH OF YESHUA)

On a plaque directly above Yeshua's head on the stake, Pilate had four words inscribed. It read (right to left): Ha Yehudim **V**Melech **H**a Nazarei **Y**eshua.

In Hebrew this is called an "acrostic", a poem, word puzzle, or other composition in which certain letters in each line form a word or words.

If you take the first letter (consonant) from each word and use it as an acronym, it reads correctly "**YHVH**". That is why the Pharisees got so upset and told Pilate to change the writing. They realized what it said, and were afraid. Pilate didn't even realize the acronym he had written until it was done. The plaque that was placed above His head on the stake, in Hebrew, read: "Yeshua Hanotzri Melech Ha yehudim".

"Yeshua of Nazareth, King of the Jews". His hand was directed by Elohim. Yeshua was born in Bet Lehem (Bethlehem), but He did spend most of His life in the Nazareth area, so He was often spoken of as Yeshua of Nazareth.

"IT IS FINISHED!" (Afikomen)

As mentioned earlier, at passover the lamb that the high priest chose was staked at the temple mount for the public to inspect. All could inspect it for four days before it was offered up for sacrifice. The thousands of lambs would then be sacrificed, starting at around 9:00am. on the 14th day. The shofar would sound to announce to the surrounding areas that the last lamb of about 100,000-200,000 had been slaughtered. This would be about 3:00pm., the same time of day (twilight) when the evening oblations (sacrifice) always took place. The blood from the slaughter was in such volume that it shone in the brazen pans as the sunlight reflected on it. This red glow (shine) was evident from the hills a long distance away. The High Priest who had closely inspected the lamb, satisfied it was unblemished (perfect), would say: "***I find no fault in him***" (John 18:38, 19:4, 6).

Starting at about 9:00am of the 14th day, the High priest was required (by tradition) to stand there for about six hours and supervise until all the lambs were sacrificed. It was exactly six hours that Yeshua hung on the stake before He died. The main lamb offering at the temple mount during Passover was made by the High Priest after all the others had been made, about 3:00pm., at twilight. **Exod. 12:6** "*You are to*

keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el **will slaughter it at dusk**". After the High Priest offered up the last lamb the High priest would say "**I thirst**". He would then wet his lips with water and proclaim that "it is finished", meaning the slaughtering of all the lambs for Passover. It was exactly 3:00pm (twilight), when Yeshua gave up His Spirit and said His last words; "**it is finished**". If you recall, as part of the Jewish wedding tradition the father of the groom to be would declare to his son "**it is finished**", when the grooms house was complete. He was then able to go get his bride. **Does this sound familiar?**

Have you ever wondered why Yeshua died so fast? He died quickly because of the curse on the bitter water/wine He drank from in regard to the adultery test. In the Book of Numbers 5:23-28, we see this test explained. Yeshua had to drink of the cup of the adultery test because He represented the bride (those believers who had committed adultery with other gods) because He stood in covenant for Abraham's seed forever. When one was found guilty of adultery, according to the test, he would immediately be cursed with death. The people Israel were guilty and He represented them. That is the other prophetic meaning of: "**It is finished**" (John 19:30). After He died the true bride of Adonai was made clean again and she could once more become His fiancé.

When you accept Yeshua into your life it's as if you were standing with the people at Mt. Sinai in agreement with the wedding contract, the torah. When Yeshua died He took the penalty of death away from us because of the cup He had to drink of.

John 18:11 So Yeshua said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; **the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?**"

Matt.27:48-50 "Immediately one of them ran, and **taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink.** 49 But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him 50 And Yeshua cried out again with a loud voice, **and yielded up His spirit.**" Luke 23 was the fulfillment of **Isa. 50:3 "I clothe the heavens with blackness And make sackcloth their covering."** **John 19:30** Therefore when Yeshua had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

Yeshua too was the last lamb sacrificed and He would have heard the sound of the shofar blasting as He gave up His life for us. **Yeshua wasn't killed for us, He died for us**" **Luke 23:44-45** "It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two." The analogy is so beautiful. The more we learn about the Feasts, the more analogy's and thematic connections we see between Yeshua and everything associated with Him in the Scriptures. (see also Ps. 22:31)

Passover is a portrayal of our personal salvation. When we become truly born again, our first step is to repent, ask for forgiveness, accept Yeshua as our Messiah, and to passover from Egypt (the secular world of Satan), and begin our pilgrimage into the promised land of Yah (Hebrew means: crossed over). Our second step includes accepting Yeshua as the final passover sacrifice for our sins. The third step is accepting Yeshua as our first fruit of the new man. Believers who have taken the first steps are "Passover Believers". They have some peace with Yah but they have not fully experienced the power of Yah, nor the peace of Yah. They must go on to the fourth step, Pentecost. The Pentecostal "spirit filled " experience enables the Believer to be an effective witness and to minister in the power of the holy spirit. But even the

Pentecostal Believer is only halfway to Yah's rest. He or she must go on to become tabernacle Believers, the fifth, sixth, and seventh step. This includes being prepared for the wedding to come, atonement, a new beginning, and dwelling with Him in our final resting place. We must all learn how to conduct spiritual warfare and handle the trials of our faith and that of those around us. As we take each of these steps in trust and obedience to Yahveh, we will enjoy His divine rest in our souls. The ultimate goal is the PEACE OF YAHVEH, which only a rare few ever experience. This divine rest is the essence of the meaning of "shalom". True shalom is the outward and inner evidence of the real fruit of the spirit.

THE NAPKIN.. "was finished", "I'm done"

Why did Yeshua Messiah fold the linen napkin after His resurrection?

John 20:5-10 *"The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. (NAS)*

The Gospel of John tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Yeshua when He was resurrected, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes: **7 also the cloth that had been around his head, lying not with the sheets but in a separate place and still folded up.** (CJB), it was folded up.

The author uses an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes.

Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition: When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table would be furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating. The servant would not dare touch that table, until the master **was finished**.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. **For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'**.

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because.....**the folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'** Yeshua was telling us, He is Coming Back!

WHAT WAS THE ORDER OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED AT CALVARY?

Barley must be harvestable 15 days after (Aviv), the first day of the biblical new year, for the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover). The biblical Lunar year consists of months that are 29.5 days long. The year can be as short as 354 days, depending on the abib barley. When the barley is not Abib, the month is called Adar-Bet. In order to start to figure out when Passover begins yearly, we must first bear witness to the barley

being aviv in Israel at the time of the sliver of the new moon. Then we know the progression of Passover. The sabbath prior to Passover is called "The Great Shabbat", "Sabbath HaGadol", in Hebrew.

Please study carefully the following chronological outline. The following occurred on the Hebrew month of Nissan/Abib, the first month of the sacred calendar, (April/May of the Gregorian Catholic calendar), the year Yeshua was crucified.

9th Messiah arrives in Bethany (6th day of the week = **Friday..Yom Shishi**)

10th Messiah enters Jerusalem/selection of the Lamb (7th day = Sabbath)

11th Examined by the chief priests and elders (1st day of the week = Sunday)

12th Examined (2nd day of the week = Monday..Yom Sheni)

13th Last Supper ... SEDER (3rd day of the week = **Tuesday** ..Yom Shishi.. afternoon/evening) beginning of preparation day. Went to Gethsemane that evening was abducted and examined.

14th Tried early (after about 6:00pm Tuesday evening), examined and declared faultless by Pilate (4th day of the week = **Wednesday..Yom Revil**). On the execution stake from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. twilight, **WEDNESDAY**. Expires the same time the last Passover lamb was being slaughtered in the temple. The blood was smeared over the doorpost at dusk (evening) of the 14th day. Prepared for burial and placed in the tomb just before sunset. They wanted to get Messiah' body in the grave because the **next day (15th) was a high Sabbath** (John 19:31). Remember that the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a special High Sabbath and no work is to be done. Many assume they had to get Yeshua's' body in the tomb before the weekly Sabbath, but it wasn't the weekly Sabbath, it was the **High Sabbath** of Unleavened Bread.

15th First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (**a High Sabbath**) In the tomb 1st night and 1st day (5th day of the week = **Thursday..Yom Hamichi**)

16th In the tomb 2nd night and 2nd day (6th day of the week = **Friday..Yom Shishi**)

17th In the tomb 3rd night and 3rd day (7th day of the week = **Sabbath/Saturday**) Resurrected Saturday, the close of the Sabbath, about 3:00pm

18th The day of First Fruits, Messiah's body could not be found in the tomb (1st day of the week = **Sunday..Yom Rishon**) Later that day Messiah appears to the disciples.

21st The last day of Unleavened Bread, also a **High Sabbath** (4th day of the week = Wednesday)

NOTE: What many people don't realize is that many Orthodox Jewish people keep passover early on the 14th day of Nissan. This is very common in Israel today. It was the tradition back then and it is the tradition to this day in many places. Yeshua kept His passover/seder on the 13th. simply because He would be dead on the 14th. **John 18:28** *Then they led Yeshua from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.*" As seen here, even in those days the Jews kept Passover on the 14th day of Nissan. **John 19:42** *Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Yeshua there.*

TYPES..THEMATIC CONNECTIONS...ANALOGIES OF THE

SPRING FEASTS

Cheirographon

The custom of the “cheirographon” is very ancient. In very ancient times, your debt was written upon raw clay tablets (Cunieform tablets). When you paid your bill (debt), the holder of your debt would bring out a hammer and a stake. By this time, the raw clay tablet was dried brittle. The stake, nail, would be driven into the clay tablet, shattering the tablet. After papyrus became more popular, the nail was driven through the papyrus record of debt. The hole in the papyrus was proof that the debt had been paid.



This custom has continued on into modern times. The “account’s spike” continues to be used relative to paid restaurant tickets even today. That “ticket” is a “cheirographon”, (a hand written record of debt). Once the bill is paid, the bill, ticket, is slapped onto the accountant’s spike to cause the hole to establish that the bill had been paid.

One verse in the Messiah’s (Lord's) prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) has the words regarding owing “debt” to the Father. **Matt. 6:12** *“forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”* Here we see Yeshua explaining the debts of the world had been cancelled on the stake. **Col. 2:14** *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his stake;”*

Now let's look at the incredible thematic connection in front of us. When the Roman soldier's pounded stakes through Yeshua's hands and feet on the tree, and when His side was pierced with a spear, it was symbolic of the "account being paid in full" (the cheirographon).

The following are a few more types, analogies, and thematic connections seen in the Spring Feasts:

In 1John 5:7-8 (KJV) it says *“Three that bear witness in earth”*, not *“on earth”*. John was bearing witness of what he was seeing as the holy spirit left Yeshua as He died and the blood and water poured out from the spear. The blood poured out and down the crack the earthquake opened up, to land on the west side of the ark of covenant hidden below.

The first shabbat after the Unleavened Bread Feast, on the 21st. is symbolic of when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.

When Judas accepted the dipped bread from Yeshua at the Last Supper and left, it was symbolic of removing all the leaven from the house on preparation day during Passover week.

In regards to the people that gathered for Yeshua's trial, they were gathered by the temple crowd who were prosecuting Him. Remember, the trial began sometime after dark. Who would be aware that this trial was even going on? Most people would be at home asleep. Only those notified by the priesthood, temple scribes and Pharisees, were present. Do you really think these guys were sympathetic to Yeshua's call and ministry? Of course not! When Pilot offered Barabbas in place of Yeshua, he knew what he was doing. Barabbas was no ordinary criminal. He was a political prisoner who had been fighting against Roman occupation of Israel. Of course they wanted to see him set free, Barabbas was well known.

At Passover two who were despised and rejected were to be sentenced to death. Yeshua the Messiah was despised by the Pharisees (the so-called church leaders), and Barabbas was despised by Rome. "Barabbas" is a contraction of the Hebrew words "bar" meaning "son", and "Abba" meaning "Father", thereby "Barabbas – Son of the Father". Yeshua, selected as the perfect substitute became the atonement offering. Barabbas, deserving death as the Azazel, was released. This is a very clear reminder of the so-called christian church today who has chosen to follow another "son of the father", Barabbas whom they call Jesus Christ. They have chosen another Messiah rather than the Jewish Messiah Yeshua now, as they did back then. It is called rebellion, spiritual rebellion. The Pharisees back then (the CEO'S of the christian churches today), were afraid of loosing their titles and privileges as priests, by allowing the real Messiah to be recognized. This is just like it is to this very day. They want their people to follow their Jesus rather than the real Messiah. If the People ever figure out the Way, they will loose their flock and their income. This is their fear.

It was a tradition in those days for every father of the household to take a lamb to the Temple to be sacrificed. The father would take the lamb to the Temple area, wash his hands, and then hand it over to the Levites to be sacrificed.

Pilot hated the Jews, but he was familiar with the tradition of the Jewish fathers in regards to the passover sacrifice, so he publicly washed his hands and handed over the lamb (Yeshua) to be slaughtered. After Pilot judged Yeshua, he declared "*I find no fault in Him*". These are also the exact words the high priest spoke each year at Passover after the lamb was inspected for sacrifice. The high priest had to declare this publicly before the lamb was sacrificed. A type of Yeshua, foretold hundreds of years prior to the event happening.

In biblical as well as modern day Israel, when a man's firstborn son dies, he will tear his robe as a sign of grief and mourning. When Yeshua gave up His spirit at Calvary, His Father tore the veil dividing the Holy of Holies in the Temple (Matt. 27:50-51). Can you even begin to imagine how the people felt when they saw the Temple veil split in two. Just so you can get a good idea of how strong the Temple veil was, keep this in mind. When testing the second veil in front of the Holy of Holies in the Temple, two pair of oxen were attached to either end of the veil. If the oxen could split the veil, it was not made strong enough.

After Yeshua was resurrected, He met Mirium, but told her she couldn't touch Him because He was to be the First Fruit sacrifice along with all the dead that arose from their graves as the First Fruits. (John 19:35)

In the following scripture we see that Elisha and Elijah did the same thing as Moses when the Jordan river parted. Elijah and Elisha parted the Jordan while Moses parted the Red Sea. **2Kgs. 2:13** *He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; 14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Elohim of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.*

The number three is often associated with prophesy, and almost always associated with the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua in some manner. Let's have a look at a few interesting thematic connections in this regard.

Gen. 22:4-5 *On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. 5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."* It was on the third day that Isaac was going to be sacrificed. Isaac (who was 37 years old), carrying the wood for the sacrifice when he went up Mt. Moriah with Abraham was a type, as Yeshua carrying the stake on His shoulder on the same path on Mt. Moriah hundreds of years later at Calvary.

Gen. 40:13 *within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer."* **The one who took the wine** was restored back to the kings side. After the third day Yeshua was restored back to the kings side.

1Sam. 30:11-12 *Now they found an Egyptian in the field and brought him to David, and gave him bread and he ate, and they provided him water to drink. 12 They gave him a piece of fig cake and two clusters of raisins, and he ate; then his spirit revived. For he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights."* This was the story of an Egyptian man that David came across in the middle of nowhere. David provided this man, who was almost dead, with bread and he revived. Egypt represents the religious system. He was dying for all the world, just like Yeshua, but he was revived.

Wasn't Joseph an Egyptian?

Here we go again. Joseph is hinted at in this passage, and Joseph of course is the shadow that points us to Yeshua. In just a matter of a few simple verses we see a thematic connection between Moses, the Pharaoh's cupbearer, the Egyptian man, Joseph and Yeshua. That's why we say His Word is "active and sharp as a two edged sword". His Word is alive.

THE MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT OF PASS-OVER, UNLEAVENED BREAD AND FIRST FRUITS MESSIAH OUR PASSOVER LAMB

1Cor. 5:7 and John 1:29 and 36 state that Messiah was/is our Passover Lamb. If Messiah was our Passover Lamb, then everything He did would have to be in direct fulfillment of those events recorded in the Torah. Messiah would have to fulfill these Feasts to the very day and hour they had been observed for hundreds of years.

John 12:12-15 “On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Yeshua was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and [began] to shout, “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF YAHVEH, even the King of Israel.” Yeshua, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, “FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, **YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY’S COLT.**”

Zech. 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout [in triumph], O daughter of Jerusalem! **Behold, your king is coming** to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and **mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**”

Matt. 21:6-9 The disciples went and did just as Yeshua had instructed them, **and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats.** “Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, **and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road.** The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, “**Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF YAHVEH; Hosanna in the highest!**”

THE PROGRESSION OF THE BLOOD

When Abraham offered up the blood of the ram that was found in the bushes on Mount Moriah, it was for the redemption of Himself.

When the families of the Israelites sacrificed a lamb and spread its blood over the door posts, it represented redemption for one family. Yeshua came to redeem us, that is why He is often referred to as Yeshua Ben David.

When the High priest offered up the blood on the Feast Of Atonement, it was for the atonement of the whole Nation of Israel.

When Yeshua became the blood sacrifice at Passover, it was for the redemption of the whole world then, and to come. **John 1:29** “The next day he saw Yeshua coming to him and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of Yah who takes away the sin of the world**”

John 1:36 “and he looked at Yeshua as He walked, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of Yah**”

1John 2:2 “and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for [those of] the whole world.”

1John 4:18 “In this is love, not that we loved Adonai, **but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.**”

Gal. 1:4 “ **who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our Elohim and Father,**”

MESSIAH OUR UNLEAVENED BREAD

What is leaven?

Leaven (7603) from (7604), seh-ore, shaw-ar, to leave or remain behind. Leaven is said to represent sin. Leaven doesn't represent sin only, it represents sin in our lives if we are puffed up, prideful.

There are two different ideas (traditions) in regards to what is considered leaven. One is according to the Ashkenazic (European Jews), and one according to the Sephardic Jews. According to the Ashkenazic Jews leaven includes any wheat or legume that could possibly be milled into a flour substance that could be turned into bread, tortilla, etc. This would include, beans, rice, and corn. The Sephardic tradition

(commonly thought of as people in North Africa and in the land of the middle east), includes all things that come from wheat, but not things that come from rice or corn.

The sin (leaven) Yeshua is talking about in the scroll of Matthew is the teaching of the Pharisees of old, that same sin of the so-called pastors and preachers today, who have added their denominational doctrine and dogma to the Word. Their teachings were and are religious man-made rules and laws that have nothing to do with the torah. Leaven is also the oral teachings that have been added to the original Word by religious organizations calling themselves churches of God.

In first century times they would take bread dough that was fully leaven and pinch off a small piece. They would “hold back”, “leave something behind”, a “remnant”, a small lump, which would be placed in the next batch of dough, and so on and so on. Every time a new loaf was made the fermentation of the remnant left behind was added to the next loaf and the process would continue on indefinitely. The little piece would cause the big lump to start fermenting, rising up. Everyone in the first century was very familiar with what leaven was.

Matt. 16:6 *And Yeshua said to them, “**Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**”*

Matt. 16:12 *Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”* The moment Yeshua said leaven they knew what He was talking about. The people knew very well that leaven in bread is a good thing, a necessary ingredient for their staple food of life. They also knew the Pharisees were indeed puffed up, prideful arrogant men who claimed to be men of Adonai but were not. They were not holy and they were not His leaders. We have this same scenario played out for hundreds of years and still today in most christian churches throughout the world. You can witness these Pharisees standing in the pulpit of the so-called christian churches on many street corners every Sunday morning. They are snake oil salesmen pitching religion to those too lazy to read the bible for themselves. They are the CEO’S of religious businesses.

1Cor. 5:6-7 *Your **boasting** is not good. **Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?** 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed.”*

In scientific terms we would call leaven yeast. Yeast is a living organism that creates a high state of corruption in bread. **Yeast is a single celled organism** that feeds off carbohydrates, creating carbon dioxide and alcohol. When we think of the spiritual body of believers, we realize that we are all like a single cell organism in a huge body of believers.

In order for bread to rise you must add all the ingredients and then it takes time to rise. You cannot hurry the rising of bread. If for example: you took baking soda and added it to half your bread lump and put it in the oven, it would not produce bread because it is not a living organism. Only living organisms can destroy other living organisms. One single cell of yeast feeds off the energy (carbohydrates) of other living organisms around it (its neighbor) to corrupt them. It consumes the energy of all things around it in the batch, and produces carbon dioxide, the very thing that will kill you. It produces death. When you watch a lump of bread with yeast mixed in it rise, it is not actually puffing up, it is dying. The yeast is corrupting all the other organisms and killing

them, taking over the entire lump for itself. It creates a gas during this process which causes the bread to rise.

Every year, every time we celebrate Passover, it is like a biblical audit, it is a time to re-evaluate what leaven we may have allowed to come into our lives, and remove it. A time to re-access what we have accepted in regard to our biblical teaching. If this would have been done properly over the last two thousand years we would not have all the pagan teaching taking place in what is called the church today. Annual audits would have kept the leaven out of organized religion and it would not have turned into a business of religion.

How is unleavened (matzah) bread a picture of Messiah and what can it teach us?



Unleavened bread is a symbol and picture of Messiah. Matzah bread contains no yeast. In Scripture, yeast is used metaphorically. It is also symbolic of sin and the leaven (sin) of the Pharisees, those who proclaimed to be teachers of Yah's law, yet did not follow it themselves (1Cor. 5:7; Matt. 16:6; Gal. 5:9). Just as the matzah bread contained no yeast, Messiah also did not have any sin in Him. **1John 3:5** says, "*You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and that **there is no sin in Him.***" In a Passover Seder (seder means "order" in Hebrew), bitter herbs are placed on the matzah bread to remind us of the bitterness, sin, and bondage of Egypt.

Messiah lived a sinless life (Hebr. 4:15) but Yah laid upon Him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6).

Note: Orthodox Jews say when making up matzah bread, it must not take more than 18 minutes to get it in the oven, or wild yeast may become active.

Matzah bread is not baked like most bread, it is grilled. Matzah bread is perforated to speed up its cooking time. **Isa. 53:5** says, "*But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us shalom was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*" When the matzah bread is finished being grilled it will have grill marks (stripes) on its backside. Are you beginning to see the picture? Messiah had no sin in Him (matzah bread), Yah laid upon Him our sins (bitter herbs), He was pierced for our transgressions (perforated holes), and He was whipped and beaten on our behalf (grill marks). The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a perfect picture of our Messiah and His sufferings.

He suffered to be our fiancé'.

Yahveh called out His bride from Egypt and invited them to His wedding betrothal. He gave them the wedding contract (ketubah) on Mt. Sinai which they all accepted and promised to honor. One copy for Him, one copy for them. Their copy was put in the ark of the covenant. They took on His name and were headed for the "Promised Land" where He would look after them. The Name of the Husband was taken by His wife; and so they were/are called Yahudim. This name was corrupted over the years by translators and was changed to "Judah", then "Jude", and then "Jew". Years later they abandoned Him by going into Babylon and taking on the sins (idols) of the pagans. According to torah, the only way a bride could get a divorce was if the groom died (Deut. 24:2-4). Yeshua died at Calvary so the bride had another chance to become His again. His ketubah was His Torah, same as before, and He promised them

eternal life in His Kingdom of Heaven, if they were obedient. Again they took on His name (Nazarenes) and were to follow Torah forever. Those brides who have been following His Torah will be gathered up when the groom returns again for the second time. Like at all weddings, there is a rehearsal. The first wedding it seems was a rehearsal, the second wedding is the real thing.

We must always remember that because the bride Israel turned back to her pagan ways, Yeshua had to come and partake of the “cup of bitterness” of the adultery test (Num. 5:16-28). He took the curse of spiritual adultery upon Himself so that we, the new bride who has accepted the wedding contract set out at Mt. Sinai, could be made clean again. We have become a new clean bride again for our fiancé.

MESSIAH OUR FIRST FRUIT

The third step in our walk with Yah is represented by the Feast of First Fruits. As with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, it too relates to our condition as Believers in Yeshua. Yeshua was the firstborn of Yahveh. He was the “first fruit”. We are to always offer up (thank Yah) for our “first fruits”, whether it be money, livestock, fruit, vegetables, anything we harvest.

These Feasts show the two different phases of our Biblical commitment that are necessary to change our spiritual condition, which are separation and consecration. Whereas the Feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us about separation, the Feast of First Fruits teaches us about consecration.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits represent two phases of a Believers commitment which are necessary to change our spiritual condition. Unleavened Bread teaches about being buried with Yeshua, which indicates we should live a life separated from the attitudes and ways of the world. This involves our putting off the old man of sin, characterized by the works of the flesh.

The Feast Of First Fruits always falls on a Sunday (Yom Rishon) because it comes the day after the weekly sabbath during the Passover Feast Season. That day was a variable, it was different every year but it was established as the day after the weekly shabbat. That first day of the week was the first day of the Feast of First Fruits which always fell during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. **If the 14th ends up on a weekly sabbath, then First Fruits is considered the next day.** First Fruits always falls within seven days of Passover. The counting of the omer starts at First Fruits.

When Moses lead the people over the Red Sea it was on the day of First fruits. Exactly 50 days later they were at Mt. Sinai for the first Pentecost (Shavuot).

The Feast of First Fruits teaches us about our resurrection with Messiah in our spirit as well as our future bodily resurrection. We are saved from our old life to live in the resurrected life of Yeshua. Putting off the old man is not good enough. We must also put on the new man. After Paul told the Ephesians to put off the old man, he then said: **Eph. 4:24** *and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of Elohim in true righteousness and holiness*”. This new nature Sha’ul (Paul) is speaking of is the very nature of Yah coming within us through the nature of the holy spirit.

1Cor. 15:20 states that Messiah is also the Firstfruits from among the dead. **On Saturday, just before sundown** (the close of the Sabbath) **on the 17th of Nissan/ Abib, Messiah was resurrected.** John 20:17 says that the resurrected Messiah told Mary not to touch Him because He had not yet returned to the Father. This little statement has puzzled Believers for many years. To understand His statement one

needs to understand what was happening in the Temple on the day of First Fruits. Lev. 23:10 says that on the day of Firstfruits the priest is to bring up to Yahveh **the firstfruits of the ripe barley harvest. Abib, means barley harvest.** Before the priest performed this duty he would make himself ceremonially clean. If anyone came in contact with him before he offered the Firstfruits, he would become ceremonially unclean and could not perform his service. Messiah is also our High Priest (Hebr. 3:1) and told Mary not to touch Him because He had to fulfill His priestly duty of offering the firstfruits. As High Priest of the order of Melchizedek, Messiah presented to the Heavenly Father the firstfruits of His resurrection on the Day of Firstfruits.

Immediately after all the lambs were sacrificed at Passover, the High Priest would walk down to the barley fields and gather up ten sheaves of barley (previously cut). When people are looking for the aviv barley, it is a prophetic picture of looking for the Messiah. This was the wave offering.

In the same way the priests were looking for Yeshua the night before He was crucified. When they found Him they brought Him before Caiaphas the High Priest, who then crucified Him. Then after three days and three nights in the grave, right after sundown on shabbat, the Father “cut” the Son loose from the earth.

The grain of this ripe barley would then be swiftly ground up into fine flour and made into two loaves of barley bread. The next day he would offer them up at the Temple as the First Fruits of the barley harvest. It takes about seven weeks after the barley is ripe, for the wheat to ripen. That is why Shavuot (Pentecost), is seven weeks later.

In order to fully appreciate the significance of the Feast Of First fruits we must familiarize ourselves with the regulations and traditions at the time of the Temple. We must understand that the people were forbidden to use any part of the wheat harvest (which came 50 days later), until they had offered up the first fruits of their harvest to the High Priest.

What do sheaves represent?

The word “sheaf” in Hebrew is omer. It is related to alam, which means to bind or to silence. Sheaves represent people. **Gen. 37:6-7** *He said to them, “Please listen to this dream which I have had; 7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered*

around and bowed down to my sheaf.” The word omer is related to shaw-khaw (7812) which means to bow, to worship. **Luke 10:2** *And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech Yahveh of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”* We are connected to grain. We are connected to the natural part of agriculture, which is the torah. We will not grow until we are connected to the holy spirit which feeds us. The Ruach provides us with all the nourishment required to grow and produce fruit in our lives. You know when someone is spirit filled when everything



they touch produces fruit. When we bring a first fruit offering before Yah we are

bringing ourselves as a living sacrifice. We are cutting ourselves off from the rest of the world and setting ourselves apart for His service.

COUNTING OF THE OMER

An omer is approximately 1/50 -1/60 of the crop of the land. It is an amount smaller than a bushel. **The omer is always counted starting on Sunday (First Fruits), the first day of the week after the weekly sabbath.** This first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin the 50 day counting of the omer. This was always on a Sunday. It took 50 days from the barley harvest, Unleavened Bread, to the wheat harvest, Pentecost.

Counting the omer is like counting the sabbatical years leading to the Jubilee ($7 \times 7 + 1 = 50$). Yah told us to count the number of sabbatical years until we had completed seven of them, and the following year was to be a Jubilee year (yovel), thus $7 \times 7 + 1 = 50$. Therefore, the fiftieth year of Jubilee and the Feast of weeks are reminders of the first year in the Messianic kingdom in which the Master has returned and we are just beginning to live our lives with Him. Counting of the omer is a time of rectification, repentance, fixing things, purging away improper things in our lives.

Symbolically there is a time between Passover and Pentecost when Yah is changing us. He begins to change us, write His Torah on our new heart and in our mind. We cannot hear His voice until we allow Him in our heart. This only happens AFTER we Exodus the world and are truly "born again". The counting of the omer is a rectification (correction period) in our lives. A time to contemplate our Exodus from the world, repent and head towards receiving the power of the Ruach in our lives. We all have a plethora of things in our lives that need to be dealt with before we can be set free and move on and upward. We have left Egypt but we are still living with a slaves mindset. When your out in the world you have limitations, which is good, but it also enslaves you. When you have a personal relationship with your Abba, the limits of this world are withdrawn. We are still thinking differently than we should and we need time to contemplate the changes we must make in our lives. Yah is using this period to build and develop an intimacy with us. Day by day over this 50 days we learn to understand what Yah expects from us and what He wants us to do, according to His Word.

After the 50 days the High Priest would offer up the individual wave offering of the families and the wheat harvest would begin at the Feast of Pentecost (Lev. 23:11). They couldn't enjoy any of their harvest until Yahveh was first given respect and recognized for His provision of the harvest (Lev. 23:14). Along with the sheaf offering of wheat they were also required to bring a loaf of leavened bread. This may seem strange at first because of what they had just offered up during the Feast of unleavened Bread, but it was again very symbolic. You can't make bread without wheat, simple enough? The sheaf and the loaf were symbolic of saying: **"we bring the wheat in faith that He will give us our daily bread"**. By bringing Yah the seed, they were visually proclaiming an act of faith that Yah would provide the bread of the future harvest. **If we don't provide Yah with our seed (tithe), we better not expect Him to bring in the bread. It's that simple!** I suggest a close look at this verse will shed some light on Firstfruits and Pentecost. **1Cor. 15:20-23** *But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruits,*

after that those who are Messiah's at His coming," Sha'ul is reminding us of Adam's fall and sin coming into the world, in like manner Sha'ul is revealing to us that resurrection will come to all Believers because of Messiah's resurrection.

The common practice in those days was for the men to go out to their crops and rope off a section of their crop with scarlet thread. This section was their tithing for Yah. They dedicated it to Yah before they even considered their harvest 50 days later. Then, at the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), the High Priest would take their offering of first fruits of the wheat harvest in the form of two loaves, and offer them up to Yah. These two loaves of leavened bread represented the Two Houses Of Israel, the Jew and the Gentile.

Yah said that if we didn't bring Him the first fruits of our harvest He would not grant us a harvest. Please consider the severity of not obeying Yah's commands, as explained in Mal. 3:8-12. This harvest is what we now consider to be tithing. If we don't offer at least a tithe to Yah, He will not bless us spiritually. The principle of tithing was not instituted by man, but rather, it was instituted for man. When we trust Yah enough to give Him our firstfruits, we prove our faith in Him. "Faith without works is dead".

Who were the first fruits of His resurrection?

Matthew 27:50-53 indicates that the tombs of many holy people broke open, and they were raised to life (resurrected). After Messiah's resurrection these firstfruits from among the dead went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people. **Matt. 27:50-53** *And Yeshua cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split, and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.* Yeshua will also raise us from the dead if we will pursue a personal relationship with Him (Rom. 8:11). By Yeshua presenting Himself to the Father as the "First fruits", He consecrated us all to Yah. When Yeshua raises us from the dead (our old life), we must live in the resurrected life of Yeshua from that day forward. The new nature that Sha'ul tells us about in Eph. 4:24 is the very nature of Yah coming within us through His Ruach Hakodesh. **James 1:18** *"In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures."*

Who were these people?

We can only assume who they were. They would have been all the saints who had died prior to Yeshua's resurrection. This would have included: Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Noah, David, Solomon, etc., and their families. Messiah appeared before the Father in heaven and offered these holy people as the firstfruits of His resurrection (1Cor. 15:23). His offering was accepted, and He returned back to His disciples (John 20:19). Messiah died as our unblemished Passover Lamb, and was our Firstfruits from among the dead.

When did they actually come forward from their graves?

They came forward soon after Yeshua was resurrected. Yeshua was the First Fruit representing Yah, and those who arose from their tombs represented the First Fruits of the new mankind. Remember the lambs were chosen on the 10th day of the month. They were inspected for 4 days, then sacrificed. Yeshua was in the ground for three days and three nights after that, which takes us to the 17th of the month of

Nissan. First Fruits is always on a Sunday. It starts the day after the weekly sabbath, which that year would have been the 18th. One week prior to all of this happening Yeshua said the following: **Luke 19:36-40** *As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise Yah joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, (38) shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF YAHVEH; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But Yeshua answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"*

Why did they come out of their graves?

Besides being the "first fruits wave offering", they came out because the people were not recognizing Him as their King, their Savior. The people remained silent throughout most of His ordeal, so He had the dead come forth to proclaim Him being the Messiah, just as He explained to the Pharisees. *"I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"* The stones Yeshua was referring to were grave stones. All over the side of the Mount Of Olives were cemeteries. This is exactly where Yeshua was preaching from as spoken in Luke 19:28-40. It's incredible to think that when the WORDS of Yeshua were spoken, the dead came alive.

Another analogy we see here is Yeshua as Yah's SEED, given through Mirium. Yah implanted the seed of His Ruach Hakodesh into a woman who bore a child. This child then grew up and bore much fruit for the world.

Why did Yah's seed come through a woman?

Because of the fruit that Adam ate, the male sperm from that point on, held the genes of good and evil. The egg of Eve remained pure and still remains pure in women today. Man had literally gone from a righteous man before the fall, to an unrighteous man, with sin nature in his genes. That is the reason why generational curses all went down through the Fathers blood, not the mothers (Deut. 5:9).

That is why Yeshua was born from a virgin, because the female egg is pure and the body was still clean, virgin. Emmanuel had to come through a virgin (which was a pure egg) and be divinely fertilized by Yah's Holy Spirit, to be sinless. That is how Yeshua had the ability to be sinless, His Spirit was pure.

Divine blood

Yeshua and Adam were connected. Adam in Hebrew means "divine blood". Yeshua and Adam are the only two people in history that had divine blood, that's why they are called Adam and the second Adam. **1Cor. 15:45-47** *So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven."*

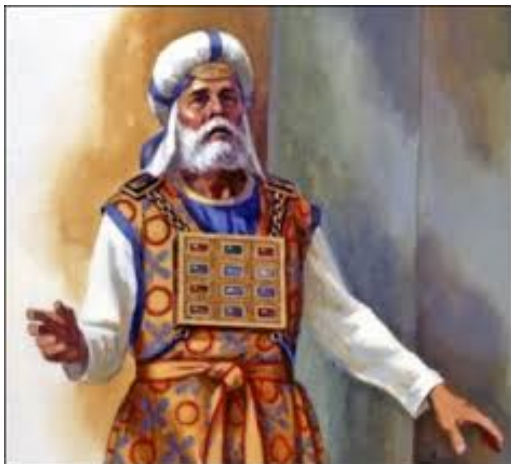
YESHUA OUR HIGH PRIEST (Cohen Gadol)

Why did Yeshua remain in the tomb for exactly three days?

It was the common practice of the High Priest in those days to go into seclusion for three days after the Passover ceremony took place. After seclusion, the first thing the High Priest did was to go out to the harvest and gather a bundle of barley and return to the Temple where he would offer it up to Yah. This offering represented Yah as our "bread of life". Without the harvest (Yah's creation), you have no bread to nourish you. Only after all this took place, was he allowed to go back into the public.

During this period of time no one was allowed to touch him.

Does any of this sound familiar?

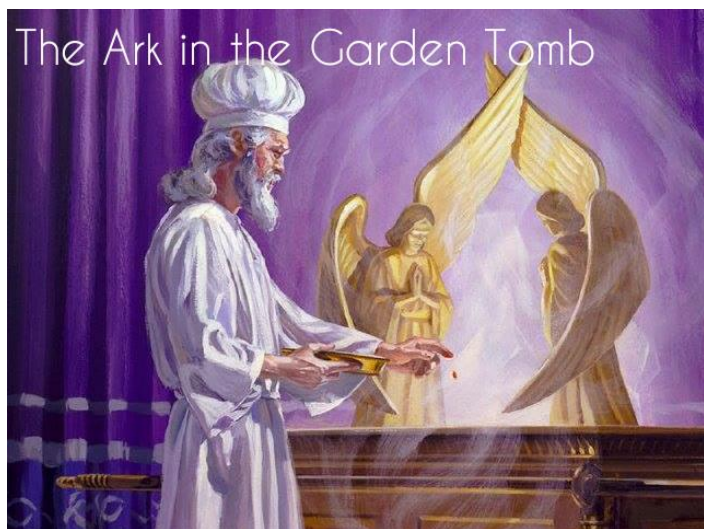


John 20:17 Yeshua said to her, **“Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My Yah and your Yah.’”** If we look three days later, we see Yeshua asking people to touch Him. **John 20:27** Then He said to Thomas, **“Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”** Yeshua did just as the High Priests had done for centuries, hoping the people would recognize Him as their High Priest, their Messiah.

THE TOMB WAS SYMBOLIC OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

In the resurrection account of Yeshua we find an awesome picture of the Ark of the Covenant on Yom Kippur.

On Yom Kippur, the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies with the blood of a goat to atone for the sins of the people. He sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat which was located on top of the Ark of the Covenant (Exod. 25:17-18). Also located on the top of the Ark were two Cherubs, one on each end. Therefore, the blood of atonement was positioned in between the two Cherubs.



The Bible tells us that when Peter and John came to the tomb on resurrection day,

Yeshua wasn't there. But they found something laying where Yeshua had been lain: **John 20:5** *"And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying there".*

See, Yeshua was gone but His blood stained burial clothes were still lying there. The Bible then tells us that two angels appeared, shortly thereafter, to Mary as she looked inside the tomb. Take note of where the angels were standing: **John 20:12** *"And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Yeshua had lain."*

The garden tomb was symbolic of the Holy of Holies. The place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The slab where they laid the body of Yeshua represents the Ark of the Covenant. On the two ends of the slab we find the angels that Mary saw. These two angels represent the two Cherubim, one on each end of the Ark. In between these two angels were the blood stained burial clothes of Yeshua, representing the blood of atonement placed on the Mercy Seat. Yeshua, in His resurrection, amazingly pictured the Ark of the Covenant and fulfilled the blood atonement on Yom Kippur!

I don't know about you, but this is so incredible to me. The more we look into the Feasts, the more we learn about our Father, our High Priest, and our Messiah. Hallelu-Yah!

Conclusion of the Spring Feasts

These Feasts are beautiful shadow pictures of Yah's redemptive work through His Son. To understand these Feasts is to understand how Elohim announced in advance how Yeshua would pay the penalty for man's sin. Messiah fulfilled each of the Spring Feasts to the very day and hour which they had been observed for hundreds of years by Yah's people. The Hebrew people were observing these feasts, rehearsing for this great occasion, but only a few recognized the Messiah when He came.

Why didn't they recognize their Messiah when He suffered during His appointed times?

They did not recognize Him because they had added so many man-made rules and traditions to Yah's Torah that they became all consumed by their religiosity. The church can learn some valuable lessons from the Jewish people. The church today has basically done the complete opposite and has gotten absolutely the same results. The church has subtracted from Yah's Torah through our man-made religious doctrines and traditions. Remember Messiah's words in **Matt. 5:17-18** (written in RED) ***“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.*** Because the church has separated itself from Yah's Torah, they may not recognize Messiah's second coming at His appointed time. We need to rid ourselves of our misconceptions about Yah's Torah and seek to understand the shadow pictures of the past and the future of Messiah.

Again we see how the Spring Feasts were shadow pictures of how and when Messiah would come. Fifty days after Messiah's resurrection He sent His promised Ruach (Spirit) to His faithful followers and equipped them with spiritual gifts that would further His kingdom. We can look back at these Feasts and see that our Elohim is truly an awesome Yah. Now that we have the puzzle put together regarding the Spring feasts, it is time to examine the puzzle pieces surrounding the mid season feast, fall feasts and their relationship to Messiah's second coming.

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excerpt from Feasts Book.