

## Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times"  
- Strategic Partner
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

### Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

## PASSOVER APPLICATIONS

Thanks to the *Besorot*, (Gospels), believers are more familiar with Passover than with any other biblical holy day, mainly because the Passover Seder ceremony is the original 'Lord's Supper,' common in most forms of Christianity.

**What Passover tells us about ADONAI:** Although the Israelites had been left in slavery, seemingly forgotten by the Most High, He did not, and does not forget! ADONAI is not helplessly sympathetic to our human plight. He rescues us and lifts us out of bondage with His *z'roah netuyah v'yad hazakah* (outstretched arm and mighty hand).

**What Passover tells us about ourselves:** If ADONAI does not lift us out of our life situations and all that oppresses us, we shall never transcend the sin and selfishness that shackles us and pulls us down. How shall we ever find rescue from the sins that so easily beset us?

We see that ADONAI raises up the prophet Moses, but even Moses knew that a far greater prophet would come forth in God's perfect time (Deuteronomy 18: 15,18,and 19). It was the role of Moses to establish the credentials of the Messiah! Even commentaries written by rabbis and sages throughout the ages declared that the Messiah must be the greatest of prophets, and *nearest in spirit to Moses*.

Yeshua confronted the Adversary (Satan) just as Moses confronted Pharaoh. There were signs and wonders that accompanied both Moses and Yeshua. In these two situations, there was ultimately a winner; the people are set free! And the victory is the same nearly 2,000 years later. When we want to leave Satan's dominion, we only need to follow Yeshua, just as the people had to follow Moses. This is the way out!

While Passover began with Moses, it was fulfilled—made perfect—in Yeshua! And, when our Jewish people come to the saving knowledge that He is the Messiah, they will have an entirely different perspective on what this festival means to them.

Throughout the generations, Jewish people worldwide have observed Passover, even under the harshest of circumstances. It is sad that most have not yet made the connection between Moses' redeeming work and Yeshua's completed work. Prophetically, we believe this is already starting to change. Hallelujah!

For Messiah Yeshua's Glory,

Joel Liberman  
Executive Director

# International Messianic Jewish Alliance

## האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

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## ESSAY # 170

### PASSOVER: THE LAMB'S ENABLING SACRIFICE

Shalom *Chaverim* (Friends) and Co-Laborers,

At this season, the Jewish people turn to a Scriptural promise that says *...I will redeem you with an outstretched arm...* (Exodus 6:6). Read every year as we celebrate Passover, this verse has helped preserve our people 'dor v'dor' – generation to generation – through great hardship. Indeed, it is a momentous event for all mankind, and I believe we cannot fully appreciate our redemption in the Messiah until we understand the ordinance of Passover. The parallels between the Passover Lamb and our Messiah are extraordinary! Passover is also *the* formative event in the memory of Jewish people, as the twelve Israelite tribes become one people. It is the birth date of a nation born out of Egypt.

As we begin our celebration of this Biblical festival Monday evening, March 29th, we will be led through the story in a structured way. Near the beginning of the Passover Seder, in the section in where we answer the 'Four Questions,' we are told, *"Even if all of us were wise, all of us people of understanding, all of us learned in Torah, it would still be our obligation to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Moreover, whoever searches deeply into its meaning is considered praiseworthy."* The more we delve into the Exodus, and the more we figure out what it has to do with our own life and times, the more we are considered to have understood the significance of Passover.

ADONAI, in His wisdom, prescribed festivals that keep memories alive to help nourish our souls and teach us His ways. He is not so interested in us purely recounting history sentimentally, but allowing these historical events to help us stay on course – if we remember their lessons. This can be a dynamic part of our spiritual lives. And so ADONAI began to prove His plan as we look at the Scriptures.

## What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

## National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Israel
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

In Exodus Chapter 3, verses 1, 2, 4, 7 to 10, 19 and 20, we learn of the appointment of a leader, as ADONAI chooses Moses to be the emissary of His divine will, the human instrument by which the redemption of Israel is to be carried through. ADONAI reiterates, as He had done 400 years earlier, that He will grant the Israelites their land (Gen. 15: 13, 14, 18).

Exodus 4 - ADONAI ropes in Aaron to be Moses' mouthpiece, and they show the Israelites the signs God had given them as proof that He cared about their plight.

Exodus 5 – Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and say *Let my people go so that they can celebrate a festival to honor the Lord* (vs. 5). Pharaoh hardens his heart and ADONAI does the same to Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh makes the Israelites' job even harder—instead of their foremen, the slaves are now forced to gather their own straw while having to yield the same quota of bricks.

Exodus 7 through 10 – Pharaoh will still not let the Israelites go, so Moses warns him about severe punishments coming to the Egyptians for his stubbornness. Nine terrible plagues ensue (river turned to blood, frogs, lice, insects, livestock illness, sores, hail with fire, locusts, and darkness).

Exodus 11:1, 4-7 – Here we find the announcement of the tenth and last plague. Pharaoh has closed the door on any further negotiations with Moses, and now, beyond nature or human experience, a final blow is about to descend on the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:3-5 - The preparation for the final plague. Here's where the similarities between the Passover Lamb and Yeshua (Jesus) come into play. On the tenth day of the first month, the children of each household of Israel were to choose lambs for the Passover sacrifice. According to Gospel

chronology and harmonization, Yeshua entered Jerusalem on a donkey on the tenth day of this first month. His disciples and the large crowds met Him as He crossed over the Mount of Olives into the old city of Jerusalem, hailing Him as their Messiah and King (Matt. 21:9; Mark 1:10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13). They were in retrospect, "choosing" their Passover Lamb, although they did not understand that He came to die on their behalf.

The Passover lamb had to be in the prime of life and without blemish, which represents sin. We are told that we have

been redeemed out of sin – not with corruptible things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of the Messiah – as a lamb "without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19). Why? Because *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God* (2Corinthians. 5:21).

Exodus 12:6-12 - The assembled Jewish nation slaughtered the lambs in a unified act "between the evenings," literally in the Hebrew – an idiom understood to mean mid-afternoon, the ninth hour after sunrise, usually around 3:00 p.m. (Tractate Pesachim 5:1). According to Mark's Gospel, Yeshua died during the ninth hour of the day, the same time the other lambs were slain. Yeshua hung upon the Roman execution-stake, yet did not die for many hours. Executioners typically broke the victim's legs to hasten death, yet the Passover lamb was not to have any broken bones. The Gospels tell us that the legs of the prisoners on either side of Yeshua were broken. But when the Roman soldiers came to Yeshua, they saw He was already dead, and did not break His legs (John 19:33). Do you see that even in this detail we have a record of Yeshua fulfilling the ordinance of Passover?

Exodus 12:13-15 – In each of the homes of the Israelites and Egyptians that first Passover night, an innocent life had to be taken to spare the life of the firstborn of each family. The lamb's blood was to be a token upon the houses. God promised *When I see the blood, I will pass over...* This is the very center of Passover, and sums up the Good News of the Messiah! Yeshua said *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...* (John 10:9). Yeshua is the Passover Lamb who has shed His blood. When we apply it to the doorposts of our heart, the Angel of Death passes over.

Exodus 12:29-36 – As a result of the final plague, the Exodus begins with Pharaoh's permission and his country's wealth.

Exodus 14:5-14 – Pharaoh realizes he's made a fool of himself, so he personally leads an elite corps of chariots after the Israelites. The Israelites self-assurance subsequently vanishes. Now only ADONAI can save them. They turn on their leader, but Moses ignores their rebuke and attempts to calm them and allay their fears.

Exodus 14:21 –We see the wipe out of the Egyptians as Moses fulfills ADONAI's supernatural instructions.

## Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian, and Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do. Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

