

Focusing on our Priest as we Prepare for Passover

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I hope that you all selected Yahushua as your lamb and invited Him into your home two days ago on Day 10 of Month 1.

We did this because we understand the Commandment that precedes the Passover, instructing us to select a lamb without blemish for our house. (Exodus 12:2-5)

This provision of a lamb by YHWH had previously been given to Abraham after he passed the test of faith. Abraham had been promised a son through Sarah, and that promise had been fulfilled through Isaac.

Abraham had also been given promises of great blessings through that seed. YHWH tested Abraham's faith by telling him to "*take now your et-son, your et-only that you love et-Isaac and go to the land of the Moriah and offer him there.*" Genesis 22:2

This event was filled with prophetic imagery and I broke down one sentence just to give you a taste of the Messianic nature of the event. It is a literal translation and I encourage you to delve into the text further.

The promises given to Abraham had to flow through the specific promised son. Even though Abraham might not understand how YHWH would fulfill those promises if Isaac was dead, he obeyed. That is a lesson for all of us as we consider when we rehearse the Passover. Are we willing to obey YHWH even when we do not understand why? Are we willing to head straight into a Land filled with giants when it looks like we will be killed? Are we willing to give up everything, including our lives?

Thankfully, Abraham had great faith and he obeyed, and so did Isaac. This is a point that so many miss. Isaac was not a little boy like the stories often depict. He was in his thirties and he could have ran away when he saw what was happening to him. Instead, as an obedient son, he placed his life into his father's hands and trusted that Elohim would provide the lamb. (Genesis 22:8)

YHWH stopped Abraham when He saw that Abraham feared Elohim because he did not "withhold" anything – even "*his et-son his et-only.*"
Genesis 22:12

When Abraham lifted up his "et-eyes" he saw a ram caught in the thickets and he "took the et-ram" and offered it "instead of his son."

From this event we understand that YHWH would provide the substitute offering for the firstborn son. (see Genesis 22:1-18)

So, Yisrael was waiting for a Promised Son to come as that Promised Lamb of Elohim, since YHWH was the One Who said He would provide One.

We know that Yahushua is the Lamb of Elohim that YHWH promised He would provide. How do we know this? Because we were told so by a Priest of YHWH.

Remember the declaration of John the Immerser?

“The next day he saw Yahushua coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of Elohim, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

This is an incredible statement on many levels. First of all, the blood of the lamb originally only saved the firstborn from death on the night of Passover.

John was stating that this Lamb of Elohim would take away the sin of the entire world. For those of us who grew up in Christianity, that’s not so profound. We were taught that since we were children. To the Yahudim of that time it was revolutionary. The promised Messiah was not just for Yisrael. He came for the Nations as well.

It is important to understand the source of that amazing statement. Remember that John was a descendent of Aharon, and likely from the Zadokite line.

We know he was a priest because of the genealogy found in Luke. In fact, it is interesting to note that the text of Luke begins with the genealogy of John’s parents who were both descendants of Aharon.

“⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Yudea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous (tzedakah) before Elohim, walking blamelessly in all the Commandments and statutes of YHWH.” Luke 1:5-6

So they both descended from the line of the High Priest, and the text states that they were both righteous (tzedakah) before YHWH. They walked blameless (tamim) before Elohim.

For this passage to be true, then it would seem that John's father, Zechariah, had to be a descendent of Zadok, the High Priest chosen by Solomon. The name "Zadok" comes from the Hebrew word "tzedoq" which means: "righteous."

While Zechariah served in the "division of Abijah" that was simply the time that he served in the Temple. It is possible that YHWH had actually hidden His "righteous" man in the midst of a corrupted Temple system for the appointed time.

History is clear that the High Priesthood had been corrupted during the period of the Hasmoneans and continued until the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE.

This was no different from the time when the Priesthood of Eli had been corrupted, prior to the destruction of the Mishkan in Shiloh. YHWH used that period to call and raise Shemuel. It resulted in a change in the High Priesthood leading to Zadok.

This is exactly what happened during the time of Yahushua. While the priesthood was corrupted, the House of Elohim was still standing and YHWH even sent His messenger to appear in that House to transmit a message to Zechariah while he was performing one of the most important services in the Temple.

"⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before Elohim when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the Temple of YHWH and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him a messenger of YHWH standing on the right side of the altar of incense." Luke 1:8-11

The Incense Offering was the job of the High Priest

“¹ You shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. ² A cubit shall be its length, and a cubit its breadth. It shall be square, and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. ³ You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns. And you shall make a molding of gold around it. ⁴ And you shall make two golden rings for it. Under its molding on two opposite sides of it you shall make them, and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it. ⁵ You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ⁶ And you shall put it in front of the veil that is above the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is above the testimony, where I will meet with you. ⁷ And Aharon shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, ⁸ and when Aharon sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before YHWH throughout your generations. ⁹ You shall not offer unauthorized incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering, and you shall not pour a drink offering on it. ¹⁰ Aharon shall make atonement on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations. It is most set apart to YHWH.” Exodus 30:1-10

According to the Mishnah, they had developed a tradition of casting lots, but that appears to be adding to the Torah. The incense offering was supposed to be made by the High Priest.

The fact that the messenger Gabriel chose the incense offering made by Zechariah to appear to him is significant. Gabriel could have just appeared to Zechariah in his house while he was sleeping. This event appears to be sending a powerful message, and an endorsement of the priesthood of Zechariah. That is what leads many to believe that Zechariah was the legitimate High Priest in the order of Zadok (Tzedoq).

His son John was therefore also a Priest and his name was likely chosen because John was in the lineage of Zadok. (See 1 Chronicles 6:1-9)

Therefore, as a High Priest John declared Yahushua to be the Lamb of Elohim. John then immersed Yahushua and instead of anointing Him with oil, which was symbolic of the Spirit, the Set Apart Spirit literally “anointed” Yahushua.

Here is the account from Matthew. *“When He had been baptized, Yahushua came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of Elohim descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.”* Matthew 3:16 (see also Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22)

The testimony of John elaborates further as follows: *“³² And John bore witness, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Set Apart Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of Elohim.”* John 1:32-34

So, John not only testified that Yahushua was the Lamb of Elohim. He also testified that He was the Son of Elohim. And he knew this from the fact that the Set Apart Spirit rested upon Him.

Remember the prophecy provided through Isaiah.

“¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of YHWH shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of YHWH. ³ His delight is in the fear of YHWH, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide

by the hearing of His ears; ⁴ But with righteousness (tzedoq) He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness (tzedok) shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.” Isaiah 11:1-5

This prophecy tells of one who would come from Jesse and it is important to discern the emphasis on righteousness – tzedoq.

Both Kings and Priests were anointed, which is “mashiach” in Hebrew. That is where we get the word “messiah” from. We understand that these roles are patterns, and Yisrael longed for the fulfillment of these patterns through The Messiah – the Rod and the Branch referred to by Isaiah.

After being immersed in water, Yahushua was anointed as The Messiah. He was already anointed as King when the “wise men” brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the King of the Yahudim.

Many people overlook the fact that He was also anointed as a Priest. They miss the priestly function of Yahushua, because they focus on his connection to the Tribe of Yahudah. While most focus on the lineage from David, He also descended from Aharon.

While Joseph, his adopted father, descended from David, Yahushua actually came from the womb of Miriam.

Miriam’s father was from David’s line, but her mother descended from Aharon. That is how Miriam was related to John’s mother, Elisheva. (see Luke 1:36)

Of course, the significance of these two women cannot be ignored.

Miriam was the virgin sister of Moses who placed him in the water and watched over him while in the water. She then cared for him after he was taken from the water.

This was a picture of how the Miriam, the mother of Yahushua would care for Yahushua while YHWH raised Him up.

Elisheva was the wife of Aharon, the first High Priest. (see Exodus 6:23) This is another clue that Zechariah was the true High Priest and therefore John was also a High Priest.

So, the emphasis of these two women surrounding the birth of Yahushua was purposeful. It is sending a powerful message that is important to the Passover at the time of the Exodus from Egypt as well as the renewal of the Covenant at Passover during the life of Yahushua.

Two tribes and bloodlines were brought together through Miriam for the birthing of the Messiah. This was how YHWH prepared a body for the Word to become flesh.

"⁵ Consequently, when Messiah came into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for Me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, Behold, I have come to do your will, O Elohim, as it is written of me in the roll of the Scroll." Hebrews 10:5-7

This passage is revealing how the word became flesh through the Messiah, and it is referring to the Messianic passage found in Psalm 40:6-8.

Yahushua came from both the line of David the King (melech) and the righteous priest Zadok (tzedoq) - melchizedek.

Remember that Abram met with Melchizedek and received the blessing from him. Many gloss over the blessing bestowed upon Abram because they do not understand the Hebrew.

Here is what we read in the English. *“¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor (qanah) of heaven and earth.” Genesis 14:19*

The Hebrew word “qanah” means “acquire” or “possess.”

Remember when et-Hawah bore et-Qayin and named him such because she “acquired” (qanah) a man from et-YHWH? Take a look at Genesis 4:1 in the Hebrew.

Remember also when Yahushua attended a wedding feast at Qanah (Cana)? That is where He performed His first recorded miracle of turning water into wine. Instead of water from a rock, He provided the best wine from water in stone vessels. Those stone vessels were used to hold the waters of purification for the bride. The message was loud and clear that Yahushua came to “acquire” (qanah) His Bride through His blood. (see John 2:1-11)

The text of Hebrews speaks much about the Melchizedek Priesthood being fulfilled through Yahushua, and it is critical that you understand the significance of Yahushua acting as our High Priest at Passover and during Unleavened bread.

A change in the Priestly line took place. The High Priest would now be through the line of Melchizedek. This would actually be a restoration of the position of Melchizedek lost by Adam.

“¹³ For when Elohim made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, Surely I will bless you and multiply you. ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently

waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷ So when Elohim desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for Elohim to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the nefesh, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Yahushua has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 6:13-20

There will still be a place for the sons of Aharon in the future, but they will be under the High Priest Yahushua, according to the Order of Melchizedek.

I see people twist the Scriptures in an attempt to have Yahushua die when a Priest in the Temple offered a sacrifice, but they are in error. The death of Yahushua did not have to coincide with a Temple sacrifice.

The Paschal sacrifice was a Melchizedek offering. It was an offering made in the home by the firstborn. That is exactly what happened in Egypt and that is exactly why we can observe the Passover now in Babylon, represented by Yahushua as our High Priest.

So, if you are trying to observe Passover based upon a fictitious story, you need to get straight now before it's too late. The point was not for Yahushua do die in synchronicity with the Temple and a Levitical sacrifice. The point was for Him to renew the Covenant at the Passover and then shed His blood for that Covenant.

Having said that, I hope that you all chose the acceptable Lamb of Elohim, and observe the Passover in remembrance of Him. As our

High priest He offered Himself up as the perfect Lamb, and as High Priest He was the “resheet” barley offering made by the Priest during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when no leaven is to be seen.

This is why He identified with the bread and the wine at the Passover meal before His death.

“¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. ²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” Luke 22:19-20

The focus at the beginning of the annual cycle of the Appointed Times is the Lamb and the subsequent Priestly offering of the “resheet” omer offering. As we continue to rehearse, Yahushua instructs us to do it in remembrance of Him.

Yahushua came as a High Priest in order to do the work of the High Priest - not in a Temple made by men or as a man tainted by sin. Yahushua our High Priest fulfilled the patterns of the Passover and Unleavened Bread by offering Himself as a Lamb without blemish and without leaven.

He was the fulfillment of the promise provided through Jeremiah.

“¹⁴ Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Yisrael and the House of Yahudah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous (tzedakah) Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the Land. ¹⁶ In those days Yahudah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: YHWH is our righteousness (tzedoq). ¹⁷ For thus says YHWH: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the House of Yisrael, ¹⁸ and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in My presence to offer burnt

offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever. ¹⁹ The word of YHWH came to Jeremiah: ²⁰ Thus says YHWH: If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, ²¹ then also My covenant with David My servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and My covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. ²² As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David My servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to Me. ²³ The word of YHWH came to Jeremiah: ²⁴ Have you not observed that these people are saying, YHWH has rejected the two clans that He chose? Thus they have despised My people so that they are no longer a nation in their sight. ²⁵ Thus says YHWH: If I have not established My covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth, ²⁶ then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David My servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.”
Jeremiah 33:14-26

Yahushua is the righteous Branch Who is seated on the Throne and remains in the presence of YHWH. How interesting that the Prophet Zechariah, the same name as John's father, speaks of the Branch building the Temple.

“¹² . . . Thus says YHWH of hosts, Behold, the Man whose name is the Branch: for He shall branch out from his place, and He shall build the et-Temple of YHWH. ¹³ It is he who shall build the et-Temple of YHWH and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on His throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” Zechariah 6:12-13

Did you catch that? The Temple will be built by Messiah the Branch, the Aleph Tau (et). Further, there will be a Priest on His Throne. Yahushua is the fulfillment of the Promises YHWH made concerning

the King (David) and the Priest (Levi). He is the Melchizedek High Priest.

At the time of writing this message, Passover is just a day away.

We have been counting the days since we sighted the first crescent of the renewed moon after sunset on March 11, 2024. That was Day 1 of Month 1. We selected our Lamb on Day 10 and invited Yahushua, the Lamb of Elohim, into our homes.

We are now preparing to begin our observance of the Appointed Time of Passover, which begins “between the evenings” on Day 14.

There is only one period of time per day that is considered to be “between the evenings” and that is referred to as twilight. It is at the very beginning of the day, immediately following sunset. That means you should be celebrating the Passover immediately after sunset on Sunday evening (March 24, 2024).

I would refer you to my article “[Between the Evenings Explained](#)” if you have trouble with that. It is important because that is when the Passover Lamb would be slaughtered and prepared, and the blood would be placed as a sign on your homes with hyssop.

Remember the Command: “*And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.*” Exodus 12:22

This is an important Command to understand, and it confirms that the Yisraelites did not leave Egypt on the night of the Passover. They needed to remain in their homes all night, protected by the blood. They left the following night on the first day of the Feast of

Unleavened Bread (Day 1 of Month 15), after they plundered the Egyptians, packed up and assembled in Ramses and went to Sukkot.

Passover all occurs in the night portion of Day 14 and the meal must be concluded before sunrise on Day 14. The covenant meal of Passover does not merge with Day 15, which is an entirely different Appointed Time – the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

Day 14 is the somber observance of Passover when we trust in the blood of the Lamb to cover us. We are reminded of when the darkness of death killed those in Egypt who were not under the protection of the blood at the right time.

Notice that they used hyssop to apply the blood. This was prophetic, so that we could understand what John spoke.

Hyssop was always connected with cleansing as we read throughout the text of Leviticus. This understanding was reinforced through the Psalms. *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”* Psalm 51:7

We understand that the blood of the Lamb is what washes us clean. It takes away the sins of the world.

Amazingly, while we remain in our homes during this Passover, there will be a partial lunar eclipse on the night of Passover that covers the entire area of North and South America. YHWH is sending a message to His people as the moon dims its light, that we must be under His covering at the proper time.

He will be sending a message to the Nation of the United States of America on April 8, 2024, immediately preceding the observance of a New Year for those following the barley and the Jewish calendar a month late.

I cannot help but point out the fact that a warning for the Nations awaits those who follow the traditions of men. So you want to be under the blood of Yahushua at the right time. Otherwise you will find yourself among the Nations. Outside the protection of the blood where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We can say without question that the observers of barley are wrong. The barley in the Land testifies against them. I have included some photos of ripe barley in the land of Israel below. Those photos were taken today, so there would be plenty of barley for the Priest to make the omer offering on the day after the first High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Day 15 of Month 1 is a High Shabbat and a Feast. It is when we celebrate the fact that we are saved and in the process of being delivered. That is when we celebrate. After we have acknowledged the death of the Lamb and the protection that the Blood provides. Again, those who follow Yahushua “do this in remembrance of Him.”

Day 15 of Month 1 is when the Feast begins and on the following day (Day 16 of Month 1) the Priest would make the first offering of barley and present an omer. That would begin the grain harvest.

I have seen some people teach that everyone would bring firstfruits of their barley crops to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That is absolutely wrong. The people could not start harvesting until the Priest made the “first” (resheet) offering. That would initiate the count to Shavuot called the Day of Firstfruits. (see Deuteronomy 16:9)

Shavuot was when all the people would bring their firstfruit (Bikkurim) offerings of wheat.

“¹⁷ You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits (bikkurim) to YHWH.” Leviticus 23:17

This is an important distinction with incredible significance. The focus during the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the Priest waving one omer of barley without leaven on behalf of the people.

“He shall wave the sheaf before YHWH, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the Priest shall wave it.” Leviticus 23:11

So again, the focus is on the High Priest and until He does his work, the harvest cannot begin. Can you see how this all relates to Yahushua the Messiah and His harvest at the end of the age?

As a result, the timing of the Passover meal is important, as is the timing of the “omer count” that leads to Shavuot. If you don’t start counting at the right time, you will end up observing Shavuot at the wrong time.

We know how they counted during the time of Yahushua. They started it on Day 16 of Month 1. That count was confirmed by Ruach Ha’Qodesh fifty days later on Shavuot. (see Acts 2)

Those who promote the barley typically also promote the Sadducean method of counting the omer which is not supported by history. While it may seem correct based upon a superficial reading of the Scriptures, it is not how Moses, Joshua or Yahushua counted the omer.

If you are having questions on when to begin the count I would refer you to a couple articles on the Shema Yisrael website. I wrote an article titled “[When Do We Celebrate Shavuot](#)” that explains some of the textual issues involved. There is also a very good article from

Torahcalendar.com titled “[How Yahushua Messiah Counts the Omer](#)” that provides Scriptural evidences and historical proofs.

Remember what we have talked about before. While rebels may make it into the wilderness, they won't make it out. Sadly, some may not even make it out of Babylon because they are following the wrong calendar.

The observance of Passover and the start of the Omer Count marks the beginning of our journey to the Mountain of Elohim where we take our marriage vows.

There will be tests along the way and one of the first tests involves showing up ready and on time.

The Bride of the Messiah must make herself ready for the High Priest who came to acquire (qanah) her through His blood.

That is why we must stay focused on the Lamb of Elohim and our High Priest Yahushua as we prepare for Passover.

