

## PASSOVER – A CHRISTIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Hannah Neshar [www.voiceforisrael.net](http://www.voiceforisrael.net)

Each year, Israel holds a special day called Yom Hazikaron, to remember the fallen soldiers of the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) who gave their very lives in serving their country. At a certain moment, a siren sounds in their honor all over the nation of Israel and people stop what they are doing wherever they are to observe a moment's silence. Many weep, for who hasn't been affected by all the wars and violence in this Land? We weep, not only for our own sons and daughters, but also for our neighbors'.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Canadians also observe a moment of silence and hold memorial assemblies to remember and honor all the soldiers who bravely sacrificed their lives in war for the sake of the peace and security that we enjoy in this country. Too often, we take these liberties for granted. We grumble about the cold Canadian winters, about having to scrape our windshields and navigate the icy roads.

The [Guard of Honour](#) (a member from the [Royal Canadian Navy](#) at left and from the [Royal Canadian Air Force](#) at right) at the [National War Memorial](#) in Ottawa, Remembrance Day, 2010



For those in the milder climates, we can complain about the rainy and cloudy days; or we can bemoan the crimes and tragedies that do occur here. It is far too easy to focus on these negatives of life and fail to remember the great privilege we have of living in a country where we have access to clean drinking water, ample food, shelter, clothing and medical care - where the majority of children come home to a parent and do not have to fear for their lives under some kind of tyrannical rule.

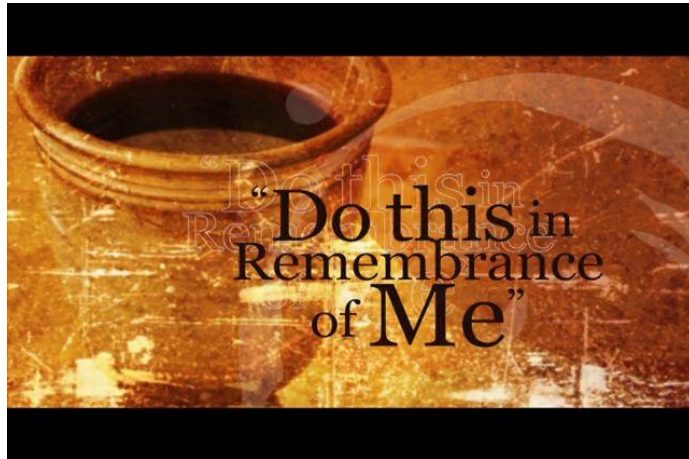
We do not worry, when we turn on our showers, that what comes out will not be warm water, but rather a lethal poisonous gas. It is because our soldiers gave their lives on the battlefield that we can live in relative peace. It is good that, at least one day in the year, we assemble to remember their sacrifice and to give them a place of honor in our minds and hearts.



Poppies are laid on the [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#) on Remembrance Day in [Ottawa](#)

As I watched the names and faces of our young Canadian men roll across the television screen, my heart broke to realize that these vital, handsome young men were cut down, most in the prime of their youth. They died so that we could live. Then I thought, “Do we, as followers of the God of Israel and His Messiah, Yeshua, observe the ‘Remembrance Day’ that He instituted?:

What is this remembrance day? On Pesach<sup>1</sup>, (Passover), Yeshua sat down at the traditional Jewish Passover Seder<sup>2</sup> with His disciples, held up a piece of matzah<sup>3</sup>, broke it, gave thanks and said, **“This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”** (Luke 22:19) Then, He held up the cup of wine and said, **“ This is the cup of the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”** (Luke 22:20)



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Yeshua knew that, as human beings, we would have a tendency to get lost in the mundane aspects of life and to forget the ultimate sacrifice He made to save us, not only from bondage and oppression in this lifetime; but more importantly, to save us from hell and from death. “No greater love is there that a man would lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) Yeshua said that no man took his life from Him, but that He willingly lay down His life for us (John 10:18)

Our soldiers showed great love for us and for our country by sacrificing their lives; but Yeshua’s sacrifice has gained for us eternal life – a life greater than we could ever imagine – where there is no sickness, no death, no pain; where finally God will wipe away every tear and finally our troubled lives here on earth will make sense; and we will receive our reward for all suffering done for His sake and all sacrifices made for the sake of others.

**“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”** (Matthew 16:27)

Passover is not a “Jewish holiday”; it is one of God’s moadim<sup>4</sup> - His appointed times to remember something significant that He has done and will do for His people. If we are God’s people then we are to commemorate the great things of God at His appointed times, not our own man-made inventions. For God’s ways are so much higher than ours.

Paul exhorted the Gentile Corinthian church to **keep the Feast** (of Passover), not in the old way (as an empty meaningless ritual) but in the new way, **with the matzah of sincerity and truth.** (1

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<sup>1</sup> Pesach – (Heb.) to pass over, commonly called Passover or the Feast of Unleavened Bread in English, one of God’s appointed times (Lev. 23), commemorating the exodus from Egypt, held in the month of Aviv (Spring)/Nissan

<sup>2</sup> Seder – (Heb.) order; the traditional meal held on the eve of Passover to retell the coming out from exodus

<sup>3</sup> matzah – unleavened bread – no leavened bread may be eaten for the seven days of Passover Most English bibles translate this as bread, showing contempt for and ignorance of Yeshua’s Hebraic identity. Churches using bread in communion violate scripture.

<sup>4</sup> Mo’ed (appointed time) mo’adim (plural form)

Corinthians 5:8) It is the day to remember the sacrificial death of our Savior and Messiah, Yeshua, as the Passover Lamb.

**“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”** (John 1:29)

Yeshua sacrificed His life as the Messiah, in order to bring us healing, peace, and wholeness, all derivatives of the Hebrew word, shalom. The Hebrew prophet, Isaiah, said of the Messiah, **“The chastisement for our peace (shalom) was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”** (Isaiah 53:5)

The Lord laid upon Him, who made Himself our scapegoat (Azazel) the iniquities of us all. (Isa. 53:6) How sad that even the most religious Jewish people, who daven (pray) each morning, noon, and evening, who go the synagogue every Shabbat (Sabbath) will most likely never read these life-giving words because they have been cut out of the scriptures given to the people in the synagogue. What a shame; what a crime – to deny our own people the knowledge of salvation in our Messiah!

So if Passover is the day that our Lord and Savior sacrificed His life and died for us, why don't the majority of His non-Jewish followers who call themselves by His name, keep His proclaimed 'Remembrance Day'? Ignorance, apathy, hostility towards the Jewish root of our faith.

I cannot judge another man's heart; I can only declare the truth of the Word of God. Yeshua (Jesus) declared a Remembrance Day for His disciples and trusted us to keep it – to remember Him until He comes back for us.

**“For as often as you eat this matzah and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”** (1 Corinthians 11:26)

It is good that the Church keeps this remembrance with a practice of Sunday 'communion' or 'mass'. But Yeshua's words to remember Him at our Passover Seder when we break the matzah and drink the wine, tell us that He simply assumed His followers would be keeping the Passover. Even the apostle Paul, in speaking to the Corinthian, mostly Gentile Church, exhorted them to keep the feast (of Passover) in sincerity and truth.<sup>5</sup>

Can we imagine the blood of all the fallen soldiers of the world crying out from the ground if we failed to live in the liberty and peace that they fought so valiantly and even died to give us? In the same manner, how the heart of God must grieve for those who fail to avail themselves of the freedom, peace, healing, mercy, grace and eternal life that the Messiah purchased for us with His very blood. Let's receive the abundant life that Yeshua sacrificed at the cost of His own life.

Thank you Lord for dying for me  
On the cross of Calvary  
Help me always to remember  
What You did to set me free

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<sup>5</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:7-8