

PASSOVER LAST DAYS

SEUDAT MASHIACH - FEAST OF THE MESSIAH

Eighth Day - A Future Passover (Pesach L'atid)

Deuteronomy 14:22 – 16:17, Numbers 28:19-25, Isaiah 10:32-12:6

By Hannah Nesher www.voiceforisrael.net

It has been a full week – seven days – of eating matzah (unleavened bread) and abstaining from all forms of leaven over the Feast of Passover. We are going through some serious 'bread withdrawal'! Yes, crunching dry matzah can get a bit 'old' after a week. :)



Like all major Jewish holidays, the last day is celebrated as a holy day with the lighting of 'yom tov' candles, recital of blessings, Kiddush (sanctified wine).

Jewish boy eating matzah and matzah ball soup



Special services are held in the synagogue usually followed by a festive meal. In addition, no driving or forms of 'work' are permitted. In fact, God says that all we can do is eat - halleluyah!

“On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.”
(Exodus 12:16)

The Torah readings for the seventh day of Passover are Exodus 13:17 – 15:26, Numbers 28:19-25, 2 Samuel 22. On this seventh night of Passover, some Jewish people observe the custom of staying awake all night, since this is when the Jewish people were believed to be crossing the Red Sea – an event which took all night and demonstrated the miraculous and awesome power of God.



The Crossing of the Red Sea", Nicholas Poussin

Jewish people then sing the Song of Moses – the same one sung by the ancient Israelites thousands of years ago when they rejoiced over their victory in safely reaching the other side. “Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.” (Exodus 15:1)



Crossing the Red Sea, a wall painting from the 1640s in [Yaroslavl](#), Russia

Outside of the Land of Israel, an additional eighth day has been added to the festival during which a special portion of Scripture is read, focusing on ‘Pesach l’atid פסח לעתיד (a future Passover) - a ‘new redemption and a new Exodus’. In this new Exodus, the Jewish people will not be delivered only from Egypt as in the past, but from all the lands of their dispersion, to be gathered finally into their own land.

For a second time, the Lord will reach out His mighty hand and outstretched arm to deliver His people.

“In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush (Africa), from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.”

(Isaiah 11:11)

The prophet Isaiah gives this amazing promise of a future redemption for Israel. The ingathering of the exiles of Israel has already begun, but in the future the Messiah will gather all the scattered people of Judah and bring them home from the four quarters of the earth. Photo: Two hundred new immigrants (olim chadashim) from Ethiopia participate in model seder at Jewish Agency Absorption center (mercaz klita) in Mevasseret Zion, Israel.



“He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:12)

A Greater Exodus

The Prophet Jeremiah also spoke about a coming exodus of the Jewish people from all the nations of the earth. This will be an even ‘greater exodus’ than that of the Israelites from Egypt and will be so awesome that it will completely re-frame how we refer even to God Himself!



Displaced Iraqi Jews arrive in Israel in 1951 during the Jewish exodus from Arab and Muslim countries

“However, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’; but it will be said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors.” (Jeremiah 16:14-15)

Jeremiah tells us that at first God will send fishermen to fish for His people in the nations; but after this time of grace, He will send hunters to hunt for them, to bring them out of the land of their exile to which they cling in false hopes of security and comfort. We see this already coming to pass as anti-Semitism increases in many nations of the world.

“But now I will send for many fishermen,” declares the LORD, “and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks.” (Jeremiah 16:16)

Just as God kept His word to ‘*pass-over*’ those who, as an act of faith and obedience, applied the blood of the lamb to their doorposts in ancient Egypt; there will come a time in the future when God will once again ‘*pass over*’ His people and rescue us from our enemies.

A sign held at a protest in Edinburgh, Scotland on January 10, 2009



“Like birds hovering overhead, the LORD Almighty will shield Jerusalem; he will shield it and deliver it, he will ‘*pass over*’ it and will rescue it.” (Isaiah 31:5)

This battle to protect Jerusalem and to bring the Jewish people out of the nations and back into our Land is believed to be one of the primary roles of the coming of the Messiah. This is the

image of Messiah ben¹ David – the ruling conquering king – of which most Jewish people are familiar. The concept that He would first come as a suffering servant, Messiah ben Yoseph, to sacrifice His own life to make atonement for our sins is not widely recognized in mainstream Judaism.

In fact, many Jewish people (except for certain sects of Judaism) are not even aware of the concept of the Messiah – who He is or what is written in the Torah about Him. Until I came to faith in Yeshua and read the Torah for myself, I never once thought about a ‘Messiah’, even though we sang about him every year at our annual Passover Seder that He would come with ‘Eliyahu Hanavi’ (Elijah the Prophet).

Feast of the Messiah (Seudat Mashiach)

Among some sects of Judaism, however; so great is their anticipation for the future coming of the Messiah that this added eighth day (called ‘Acharon shel Pesach’) is dedicated to the Messiah. A traditional ‘Feast of Messiah’ (Seudat Moshiach in Hebrew) is held, similar to the initial Passover Seder, including a festival meal, songs, matzah (unleavened bread) and four cups of wine in anticipation of a future redemption with the Messiah.

This Seudat Mashiach (Feast of Messiah) is a Hasidic Jewish custom, initiated by the founder of the Jewish Hassidic movement, Rabbi **Yisroel (Israel) ben Eliezer**, also called **Baal Shem Tov** or **Besht**, a Jewish mystical rabbi who lived from August 25, 1698 – May 22, 1760.

Why did the founder of the Chasidic movement institute a custom dedicated to the Messiah? ‘Just as the first days of Passover focus on Israel’s redemption from Egypt’, explained the Baal Shem Tov, ‘*so too should the last days center upon the ultimate redemption that is to come*’.



Baal Shem Tov

Throughout the festival of Pesach, we are made aware of our need of redemption. At the opening Seder meal, we focus on our enslavement in Egypt and how, against all odds, God delivered us as a nation. Therefore, Pesach reminds us that even in a world troubled by natural disasters, wars, famine, pestilence, injustice and corruption; with God there is always hope.

The Seudat Mashiach is only celebrated by Jewish people in exile (outside the land of Israel) with the hope of a future deliverance from this state of exile and the promise of a better world in the Land of Israel.

The irony here, of course, is that the door at this time remains open for any Jewish person in any nation of the world, to give up their place in exile and to come home to the nation of Israel – and

¹ Ben – son of

yet so many remain in their comfort zones outside the Land. Some religious Jews believe that they must wait for the Messiah to come and bring them home to a cleansed and holy nation that bows their knee to Adonai.

Celebrating this ‘Messianic Feast’ helps to raise Jewish awareness of the very concept of the Messiah, of which many are quite uninformed. Raising this eighth day from the mundane to the level of holiness can be a way of bringing an entire segment of the Jewish population to even being thinking about the coming of the Messiah.

Hebraic Concept of Messiah

Some Christians are unaware of the fact that the Messiah (Mashiach **משיח**) is a fundamental ancient concept in traditional Judaism. Indeed, it has been said, half in jest, that when Yeshua returns, the one question that will be asked of him by the Jewish people is whether or not it is his first or second visit to earth? When Yeshua returns, they will see and know that His coming was preceded 2,000 years ago as the Passover Lamb of God who was slain for our personal redemption.

Belief in an eventual coming of a Messiah is one of the thirteen foundational principles of the Jewish faith, according to **Rambam**, Hebrew acronym for "**Rabbi Mosheh Ben Maimon**", ("**Maimonides**") one of the most prolific and well respected Torah scholars of the Middle Ages.

These 13 principles of faith are considered a summary of required beliefs of Judaism. They are as follows:

1. The existence of God.
2. God's unity and indivisibility into elements.
3. God's spirituality and incorporeality.
4. God's eternity.
5. God alone should be the object of worship.
6. Revelation through God's prophets.
7. The preeminence of Moses among the prophets.
8. The Torah that we have today is the one dictated to Moses by God.
9. The Torah given by Moses will not be replaced and that nothing may be added or removed from it.
10. God's awareness of human actions.
11. Reward of good and punishment of evil.
- 12. The coming of the Jewish Messiah.**
13. The resurrection of the dead.



"Rabbi Mosheh Ben Maimon"

In a prayer called the 'Shemoneh Esrei' (also called the '*amidah*' – the '*standing prayer*') one of the things Jewish people pray for three times a day is for the coming of the mashiach (Messiah).

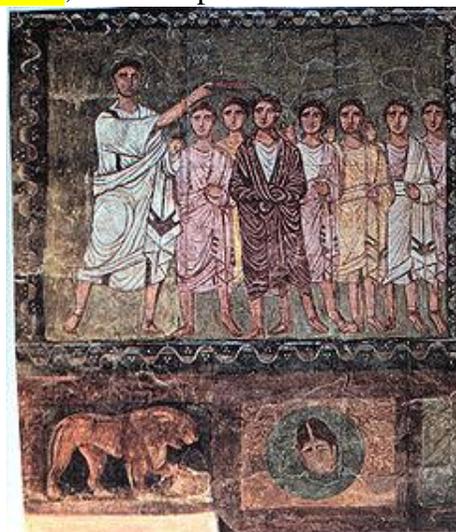
"Speedily cause the offspring of your servant David to flourish, and let him be exalted by your saving power, for we wait all day long for your salvation. Blessed are you, O Lord, who causes salvation to flourish." (*Excerpt of the Amidah*)

The term '*mashiach*' משיח in Hebrew means literally, '*anointed one*', from the practice of anointing the Kings of Israel with oil; therefore the 'mashiach' will be the one anointed as King of Kings in the end of days.

This word, Mashiach, is closely related in the Hebrew to the word, Moshiah, which means '*to save*'; therefore the Messiah can be both the Anointed One and Savior.

The Christian concept of the Savior (Christ) and the Jewish concept of Messiah differ in many ways. One primary difference is the issue of 'What will the Messiah do?'

According to Jewish beliefs, the Messiah will come after a time of war and suffering (Ezekiel 38:16); and there are several things that the Messiah, if he is genuine, must accomplish:



[Samuel](#) anoints David, [Dura Europos, Syria](#), Date: 3rd century CE

1. The Messiah will bring about spiritual and political redemption of the Jewish people. He will bring the Jews home to Israel and restore Jerusalem (Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 23:8; 30:3; Hosea 3:4-5).
2. The Messiah will establish and rule over Jerusalem as the center of all world government for Jews as well as Gentiles (Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:10; 42:1).
3. The Messiah will rebuild the Holy Temple and re-establish Temple worship and sacrifices (Jeremiah 33:18).
4. The Messiah will restore Jewish law (Torah) as the rule of the Land and establish a religious court system (Jeremiah 33:15).
5. The Messiah will bring peace to Israel and the world.

False Messiahs

Most Jewish people do not believe that Jesus (Yeshua) is the Messiah because he did not fulfill this mission. Besides the issue that a Savior who is both human and Divine who dies for our sins is a foreign concept in traditional Judaism, the fact that Yeshua has not accomplished most of these ideals or goals makes him unacceptable as 'mashiach' to most Jewish people. They lack the understanding of what the Messiah was truly sent to accomplish.

Many others throughout Jewish history, have either claimed to be the mashiach, or had followers who claimed him as the mashiach: Shimeon Bar Kokhba, Shabbatai Tzvi, and many others. Most were imprisoned, killed, or converted to various religions to escape punishment or death.

Even today we can see posters and signs all over Israel proclaiming a certain man as ‘*Melech Mashiach*’ (King Messiah):



The Chabad messianist flag. The Hebrew word is "Mashiach", meaning "Messiah".



Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, also known as the ‘Lubavitcher Rebbe’ or just the ‘Rebbe’ among his followers. Although he did not fulfill any Messianic prophecies, many from the Chabad movement still believe him to be the Messiah.

Rabbi Schneerson was born in the Soviet Union on April 5th, 1902, and became a prominent Chassidic rabbi – the seventh and last Chassidic leader (rebbe) of the Chabad-Lubavitch sect of Judaism. After the death of his father-in-law in 1951, Schneerson became the leader of the Lubavitch movement until he died in 1994.

Although he worked to promote traditional Judaism and moral values and contributed greatly to the world-wide Jewish community and beyond, he never announced himself as the Jewish messiah, as some of his followers claimed; and in fact Rabbi Schneerson discouraged all such talk as foolish and unfounded.

In contrast, Yeshua not only fulfilled many of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies; but He also clearly and openly proclaimed Himself to be the Messiah that the Jewish people were eagerly anticipating, patiently waiting and passionately longing for.

The True Messiah

When Yeshua met the Samaritan woman at the well, he spoke to her about the living water of the Spirit that would quench her thirst forever.

“The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Mashiach) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Yeshua declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am He.” (John 4:25-26)



The *Water of Life Discourse between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well* by Angelika Kauffmann , 17–18th century

Indeed, what the Bible has to say about the Messiah is quite different than what is commonly believed about the Messiah in traditional Judaism. With so many false Messiahs out there, how can we recognize the true Messiah? How can we be sure that Yeshua is truly the ‘moshiach’? How can we discern that someone like Rabbi Schneerson is not the true Messiah?

Yeshua Himself has warned us to beware of numerous false messiahs and false prophets that would arise in the last days, even performing signs and wonders to deceive people, even the very elect. **“Yeshua answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.”** (Matthew 24:4-5)

“At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time.” (Matthew 24:23-25)

The fact that so many people in Israel and around the world believe that the late Rabbi Schneerson is the Messiah is one more sign that we are truly in the end times. Jewish people have looked for centuries for a Messianic deliverer who would bring world peace.



A private sign in Crown Heights.

How can we distinguish the ‘real Messiah’ from all ‘pseudo-Messiahs’? Thankfully we have the answer in the Bible. His entire ancestry, birth, character, teaching, ministry, life, death, burial and resurrection have been written by 25 Jewish writers even 500 years before his birth.

There are at least 333 Messianic prophecies that complete the description of the real Messiah in Jewish Scriptures. The following is a list of just a few of these which point to Yeshua as ‘Mashiach’ and disqualify Rabbi Schneerson or other ‘false messiahs’.

1. He will be born to a virgin and will be called God With Us (Immau-El) (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23)
2. He will be born in Beit-Lechem (House of Bread - Bethlehem) (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1)
3. He will be despised and rejected by his own people (Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11, John 5:43)
4. He will suffer terribly (Isaiah 53:3, Matthew 26:38)
5. He will be pierced and wounded for our sins (Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 22:16, Luke 23:33)
6. He will take upon himself the punishment that we all deserve (Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24)
7. He will not open his mouth in his own defense (Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 27:12-14)
8. He will die a violent, premature death (Isaiah 53:8,12, Luke 23:46)
9. He will die with the wicked but be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 27:57-60)
10. He will be raised from the dead to life (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:29-32, Matthew 28:5-6)
11. He will sit on the throne of His father, David, ruling forever (Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:30-33)

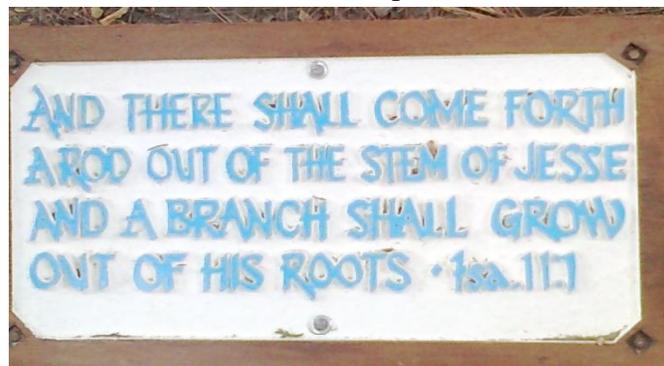
Many of these prophecies have already been fulfilled in the true Messiah, Yeshua Hamashiach. Others remain to be fulfilled at his second coming. However, throughout the Feast of Passover, and especially on the last day, Day of Mashiach, let us remember the Lamb of God, whose blood saves us from all sin and judgment.

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)

The Torah readings for this day are some of these Old Testament Messianic Prophecies and include the promise of a future Messianic era - of peace, justice and righteousness.

On this eighth day, we read from one of the most well known of the Messianic Prophecies in the Tanach (Old Testament), from the Prophet Isaiah:
“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”
 (Isaiah 11:1)

The connection between this Messianic prophecy and Yeshua is amazing when we look into the Hebrew. The word used here is **נֶצֶר** *netzer*, which can mean ‘*branch, shoot, twig, sprout or willow*’. The same exact word with different vowels **נָצֵר** *natzer* means to ‘*watch, guard, or keep*.’



Sign at Garden Tomb, Jerusalem

It can also be used, however, in the context of Christianity, which is called **נִצְרֻת** *natzrut* in Hebrew. To become a Christian is ‘*nitzer נֶצֶר*’. This related word, ‘*notzri*’, is used for a Christian – as someone who follows Yeshua of Natzeret **נִצְרַת** (Nazareth).

Even the very Hebrew language itself contains this secret knowledge that Yeshua of Natzeret came as the Netzer (branch) out of Jesse! From Jesse (Yishai) came the mighty King David and through the lineage of David came Yeshua, Ben (son of) David, who sits on his throne eternally. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Isaiah prophecies that the Spirit of the Lord would rest upon this branch: **“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD...”** (Isaiah 11:2)

When Yeshua entered the synagogue one Shabbat (Sabbath day), he stood up in front of the entire congregation, read this Messianic Prophecy from Isaiah; and declared it fulfilled in Himself.

“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on Shabbat, he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:16-21)



Yeshua unrolls the Scroll in the Synagogue Painting by James Tissot

Yeshua fulfilled these Messianic prophecies in His first coming; but when Yeshua returns a second time, we will finally experience that glorious ‘*peace on earth*’ under the righteous reign of the Messiah that we wait for with such longing.

Haftarat Eighth Day Pesach – Peace on Earth

The haftarah (prophetic portion of Scripture) for this eight day abounds with praise for the wonders that the Messiah will accomplish when He comes. Isaiah prophesied that animals will also live together in peace, and a little child would suffer no harm even by handling a dangerous serpent.

“The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.” (Isaiah 11:8)

In that wonderful day, the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea:

“They will neither harm nor destroy on all My holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of YHVH יהוה as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9)



Peace by William Strutt

When the Root of Jesse, the Messiah, returns as the Lion of Judah, all the nations will seek Him: **“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.”** (Isaiah 11:10)

What will there be left for God’s people to do but give thanks for His love and mercy which endures forever. This is how we end every Passover - with praise (hallel) for what He has done, what He is doing now and what He will do in the future!

What a great hope of redemption, restoration, rescue, and deliverance we have in God’s Word.

“In that day you will say: **“Behold God (El) is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. Yah יה YHVH יהוה is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation (Yeshuah).”** (Isaiah 12:2)

It is from this well of salvation (Yeshua) that we may draw living waters and rejoice: **“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”** (Isaiah 12:3)

May the people of Zion also shout aloud and sing for joy because of the glorious things God has done for us! **“Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”** (Isaiah 12:6)

Thank you for standing with us in prayer, love and support, to see God’s glorious purposes fulfilled for Israel and the Jewish people in this Land and in the nations of the earth.

Shalom and Blessings from Zion and Jerusalem.

About the Author:

Hannah Neshar grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home and received her education in a religious Hebrew school in Canada. During a crisis pregnancy, she came to know Jesus (Yeshua) as her Messiah and Savior. She now teaches about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith.

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