

Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day)

By Hannah Neshet www.voiceforisrael.net



A moment of silence: Israelis standing still while the siren is heard (Tel Aviv, 2007)

Each year, Israel holds a special day of remembrance called **Yom Hazikaron**, to remember the fallen soldiers of the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) who gave their very lives in serving our nation. At a certain moment in the evening and again in the morning, a siren sounds in their honor all over Israel. People everywhere (even motorists) 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 friends and neighbors. Other nations also hold memorial assemblies to remember and honor their soldiers who bravely sacrificed their lives in war for the sake of the peace and security of their country.



Remembrance Day in Canada. The memorial at the [McCrae House](#) two Canadian-style [poppy](#) pins can be seen resting on the Sculpture

Too often, we take these liberties for granted. 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 at least one parent and do not have to fear for their lives under some kind of tyrannical rule; or live off the meager pickings of a filthy garbage dump.

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 - as experienced by Jews in the Holocaust. 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 great sacrifice and to give them a place of honor in our minds and hearts.

As I watched the names and faces of our young soldiers roll across the television screen one remembrance day evening, my heart broke to realize that these vital young people were cut down, most of them 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 (Passover), Yeshua sat down at the traditional Jewish Passover Seder (special meal) with His disciples, held up a piece of unleavened bread called matzah, 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)



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. He delivered us, not only from bondage and oppression in this lifetime; but more importantly, from hell and death itself.

Yeshua said that there is no greater love than when a man lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13). He also assured us that no man took His life from Him, but that He willingly laid it down for us.¹

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. Yeshua’s sacrificial death made way for us to enter a place where there is no sickness, no death, and no pain; a place where finally God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Finally our troubled lives here on earth will make sense; and we will receive our reward for all our suffering that was done for His sake and all the sacrifices we have 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)

¹ John 10:18

Passover is not a “*Jewish holiday*”; it is one of ‘God’s appointed times’ (mo’adim) created to remember the awesome victories that He has won for our people in the past and those which are to come. If we are a member of God’s own family and a fellow citizen in the ‘commonwealth of Israel’²; then we are to commemorate the great things of God at His appointed times, and not of our own ‘man-made inventions’.

For God’s ways are so much higher than ours. Paul exhorted the largely 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 Corinthians 5:8)

Passover is God’s set day to remember the sacrificial death of our Savior and Messiah, Yeshua, as the Passover Lamb. When John the Baptist saw Him coming to the Jordan River, he said, “**Here is the Lamb of God** (*hinei seh ha’Elohim*) **who takes away the sins of the world** (*hanoseh hatat ha’olam*).” (John 1:29)

Yeshua sacrificed His life 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 in Hebrew), the iniquities of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

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 Christians by His name), keep His self-proclaimed ‘Remembrance Day’?

Yeshua (Jesus) declared a ‘Remembrance Day’ (Yom Zikaron) 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’ ceremony; but Yeshua’s words were to remember Him at our Passover Seder when we break the matzah and drink the wine. This tells us that He simply assumed His followers would be keeping the Passover.

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

² Ephesians 2:12-13

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 has already given us 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

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 lives in Israel with her children and grandchildren, teaching the Jewish roots of the Christian faith.

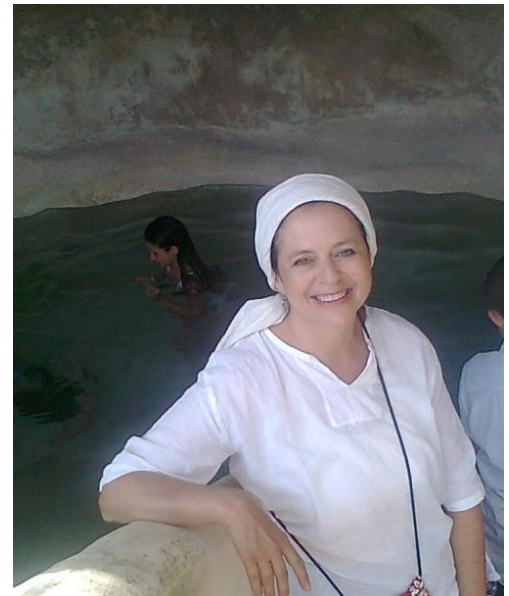
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