

April 8, 2020: From the Rabbi...

A Time of Remembrance: Mashiach Ben Yoseph to Mashiach Ben David

For most of us, this Pesach is unlike any other we have experienced. This year, we find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic, an event that has reached every corner of the world. Tonight, at this moment, we are in our homes, behind closed doors—not just by choice, but under a mandated Stay-at-Home Order that has been in effect for over two weeks. Outside, the atmosphere is unsettling; uncertainty looms as no one knows who may have already been infected or how severely the virus might impact them or those around them.

As we entered this Pesach season, it became easier than ever to relate to B'nai Yisrael during the time of the ten plagues in Mitzrayim (Egypt). Many of us have even wondered whether some of those ancient plagues are re-emerging in our time. How many similarities have you noticed? Even as I complete this message, the largest full moon of the year—SuperMoon 2020—has just appeared from behind the clouds. Meanwhile, we are being warned of severe overnight weather, including tornadoes, damaging winds, heavy thunderstorms—and yes, you guessed it: Barad (HAIL). Coincidence?

Brothers and Sisters in Yeshua, do not fall into the trap of dismissing these signs as mere coincidences. Pharaoh once dismissed the plagues of his time, and we all know how that ended. The circumstances surrounding this Pesach make it easier to imagine what it must have been like on that first Pesach night—at midnight—when the destroying angel passed through Mitzrayim, striking down the firstborn in every household that lacked the blood of the Pesach lamb on the doorposts and lintels, as G-d had commanded through Moshe.

We have just completed our remembrance of that first Pesach through our Seder. I believe that during this season, Elohim is calling the world to reevaluate its spiritual priorities. He is inviting those who have strayed to return to Him—to make teshuvah (repentance), turning back to Yeshua and away from apostasy, which leads only back to who we were before we accepted Him as Mashiach (Messiah). Why is this happening? Because He is reminding the world that His return is near! He desires for people to accept Him as their Savior, to renew their relationship with Him, and for others to deepen their faith. When this plague passes, let us not be like the Egyptians who ignored the signs. Instead, let us choose transformation.

Now, we shift our focus to the second part of Pesach—Tzafun (Hidden), commemorating Yeshua's Last Supper, where He instituted our communion as a lasting remembrance of His sacrifice. Rav Shaul (Apostle Paul) reinforced this practice in 1 Corinthians 11:24-25:

"And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Through our Messianic Jewish communion, we acknowledge Yeshua as Mashiach ben Yoseph (the Suffering Servant Messiah), who willingly gave His life as the ultimate atonement for our sins. His blood was shed so that we may have salvation and eternal life—not through our own works, but through faith in Him alone. Thank You, Yeshua! Let us give thanks with grateful hearts for His sacrifice, which spares all who believe in Him from the coming Day of Judgment.

As believers, let us take to heart the spiritual lessons of this season and remain close to Him. Jude 1:17-21 warns us of the times we are living in:

"But you, beloved, remember the words spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 'In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly desires.' These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

Romans 8:26-28 also reminds us:

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

One day soon, Yeshua will return as He left—but this time as Mashiach ben David (the Conquering King Messiah). The physical events we are witnessing point to the labor pains described in Matthew 24:4-8, signaling His return to establish His Kingdom on earth.

In the spiritual realm, Revelation 5:1-14 describes His transition from Mashiach ben Yoseph to Mashiach ben David, recounting His heavenly coronation:

"Then I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?' But no one in heaven, or on earth, or under the earth, was able to open the scroll or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed to open the scroll and its seven seals.'"

Finally, through our Messianic Jewish communion, we declare that we will always remember Yeshua as Mashiach ben David—the Conquering King Messiah—who will return to establish His Kingdom on earth, where we will reign with Him forever.

Yeshua HaMashiach—Jesus the Messiah—is the One who was, who is, and who is to come. We await no other.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Yeshua! Amen and Amen.