

# PURSUIT



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# PURSUIT

NEWSLETTER

Issue #3



## The Lord's Passover



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¾ cup water.

Combine all ingredients. Mix well. Knead the dough for three minutes. Form into 8 balls of dough the roll each ball of dough into a flat round. Pierce the dough with a fork. Bake at 500 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Before they completely cool, brush lightly with olive oil and sprinkle kosher salt on each round.

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loved him, His mother, family and his followers, would see Him die on the 14th. His disciples loved him dearly, just like the families that took the lambs into their homes on that first Passover night. He loves them and they love him. He washed their feet during the Passover. Just like killing the Lamb on the first Passover, this was going to be very hard on the people who loved him.

After his trial by the Sanhedrin, Jesus was taken to the roman governor to be killed. This took place on the 14th of Nisan. Pilate, the governor, then took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face. The initial scourging would weaken the victim, cause massive blood loss, and probably induce shock. By the time the victim had carried the cross bar to the crucifixion area, he would be exhausted.

Crucifixion was a method of capital punishment in which the victim was tied or nailed to a large wooden beam and left to hang, perhaps for several days, until eventual death from exhaustion and asphyxiation. Once up on the cross, the victim would have his body weight suspended by their arms. In this position, it is difficult to completely exhale. The victim could take shallow breaths for a while, but eventually would be forced to push himself up to take a full breath. But for Yeshua he died quickly and not one bone needed to be broken to make his death happen faster. "The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be

broken,' and, as another scripture says, 'they will look on the one they have pierced'" (John 19:35-37).

Our little lamb, da-veed, from that first Passover in Egypt was loved and his death traumatized the family back then. Here Yeshua's horrible death would do the same thing to his mother and brothers and disciples. A lamb for a House. Both the first Passover lamb and the Last, died horrible deaths in the presence Continued from page 8. of the families who loved them. Your have a savior that did that for you.

With everything we are facing and knowing the times in which we live, ask Yeshua to forgive you of your sins and accept the blood of the Lamb for your house. Celebrate Passover this year which is a memorial of his death. Not Easter, which has nothing to do with Passover. His

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*Bill Shults*

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## Why Unleavened Bread?

We are coming up on the season of Passover and Unleavened Bread. It is not too early to make plans to get ourselves and our homes ready. The Israelites didn't receive much time to get ready. After the night of the first Passover, God instructed Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt in a hurry. They did not have much time before Pharaoh realized what he had done by allowing the Israelites to leave. So, the people loaded all they could on donkeys, carts and what they could carry. The women carried their kneading bowls with unleavened dough.

Moses instructed the people to commemorate this day, the day they came out of the land of slavery in Egypt. He also instructed them to: "Eat nothing containing yeast. You are to observe this ceremony in this month, Aviv, for seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. Eat unleavened bread for seven days, nothing with yeast in it is to be seen anywhere within your borders" (Exodus 13:5b-7).

Leaven in the Bible is often used as a metaphor for sin. Paul says: "Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch. Therefore, let us keep the festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1Corinthians 5:6-7). Was God also telling the people to leave all of their sin back in Egypt and not bring their pagan practices with them into the Promised land? The Israelites were told by God that they were never return to Egypt. Was the Lord also telling them not to return back to their old ways?

What is unleavened bread? It is made with flour, water, salt and olive oil. It is mixed together, kneaded, and then rolled out; it is cooked at a high heat. The reason we use unleavened bread for communion is because it represents Jesus as the blameless, sinless Lamb of God. Leavening represents sin; like bread without leaven, Jesus was without sin. Unleavened bread represents Jesus' body when we take communion.

When we observe Passover and feast of Unleavened Bread, we are to come with a clean and pure heart, a circumcised heart. God told the Israelites: "A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the Lord's Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may it. The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you" (Exodus 12:48-49).

Paul took it further: "and when He, (Jesus) had given thanks, He broke the bread and said 'This is my body, which is 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, whenever you drink it in remembrance of me'" (1 Corinthians 11:23b-26). Paul continues: "So then whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1Corinthians 11:27-29).

God commanded the Israelites to remove all leaven from their homes and borders. Part of getting ready for the week of Unleavened Bread is cleaning out our homes, cars, and any area where we have control, remove any type of leavening from within our borders. This where the practice of Spring cleaning came from. We also spend time searching our hearts and minds to find those things which we need to confess and ask Jesus for forgiveness.

Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread are commanded by God to be observed. When we eat Unleavened Bread for a week, we are taking in the body of Christ all week. We should take part in the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, or communion with a circumcised heart. How do we circumcise our heart? First, get in the Word, specifically Leviticus, and find out what God considers sin. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you any sins which you have forgotten or were unaware of. Then pray to Jesus asking Him to forgive us of those sins. Stop doing anything that the Lord has shown you is a sin.

When you take the time to know what Jesus wants you to be and have repented of all your transgressions, there is such a weight lifted off you and an overwhelming joy fills you. Hungry Hearts is praying that you have a wonderful Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

This is my personal recipe for Unleavened Bread. Enjoy.

2 cups whole wheat flour  
2 tbsp olive oil  
½ tsp Kosher salt.



## Christ Our Passover Lamb

I am always surprised by how many people don't want to read the Old Testament. To quote the late Brad Scott: "Its not new its just true." People in modern America do not want to keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days. I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior in a church that kept those days. What could possibly be wrong with living by the Word of God? And yet...

In the book of Hebrews, in the New Testament, it says in chapter ten: "The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship." Many believers would add that the reality is found in Christ. I wholeheartedly agree. The Passover with Moses and Aaron is only a shadow of the reality to be found in Christ. The first Pentecost with God giving the Law to the Israelites is only a shadow of the reality to be found in Christ. And, on and on throughout the Holy Days. That doesn't mean not to keep the Holy Days, it means that we have a past example to explain a future reality in Christ. There is also a "right now" reality in Christ for each one of those days.

In ancient Egypt, the Israelites put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts. The death angel "passed over" them on that fateful night. Did you put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of your heart? Will the death angel "pass over" you? Did you put the blood of the lamb on your heart so that your angel will snatch you out of here when the Father blows the shofar? The reality of the Passover includes a lot of things in Modern America, which is only discerned from keeping the days.

After the death angel passed over them on that Passover in Egypt; they left Egypt the next night. After we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we have to leave our own personal Egypt of sin. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11 told us to "examine ourselves" before we take the Passover. That means every year before Passover we have to look at, and take into account, the sins we still have. This is what he means to "take it in a worthy manner." Passover today, rather than a get out of Egypt free card, is repent for my sins in order to receive the forgiveness from Jesus. Jesus changed both the symbols and the substance.

When Jesus kept the Passover with His disciples, (Luke 22:15) He changed the symbols from blood

and lamb into bread and wine. He said very plainly that the wine is symbolic of His blood poured out to forgive sins; and that the bread is symbolic of His body broken for us. In various places in the New Testament, the differing writers all give us insight as to the many benefits we get from taking His body (bread). Taking His body (bread) makes us one body with Him. It makes the church one body of believers. The breaking of His body is the source of Healing, the spiritual gifts and opens the deep secrets of worship.

In Isaiah 53 it says: "by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). The scourging that Jesus took is a big source of our healing. The agony that Jesus suffered in the garden of Gethsemane is a source of our healing. We have access to this healing when we pray. If our faith is not strong enough, then we can call for the Elders of the Church to pray.

In John six, Jesus said that His body was the bread from Heaven. He also told us that eating His bread would impart eternal life into the eater. He went on to say that He is the bread of life. He told them in John six that His flesh was that bread. He did not clarify that the Passover bread was His flesh until that last Passover with His disciples.

The writer of Hebrews wrote: that we have confidence to enter into the Most Holy Place by "a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is His body" (Hebrews 10:20). Because we are included in His body, by virtue of communion, then we have access to the Holy Spirit. Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure; by being included in His body, we have access to the Spiritual gifts that Jesus used.

We understand all of these blessings by keeping these Holy Days. "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:7-8).

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# Yeshua ben Avi, Our Conquering Hero

Jesus Christ, Yeshua ha Mashiach, is more than a good man. He is more than a person who died in our place. He is more than a Rabbi. We look at Him too often in human terms. Messiah and Christ both mean the same thing: anointed one. Saul was a Lord's anointed, David was a Lord's anointed, Aaron was a Lord's anointed, etc. Yeshua was much more than that. "But he continued, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins'" (John 8:23-24). The Greek word for "world" is kosmos. He is not from this kosmos; He is the, I Am; that is much more than a man! "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began" (John 17:5). He is returning to God Life. He is about to redeem the Children and then He is returning home.

The letter to the Colossians was written about 60 AD. In this letter Paul is clearly explaining that Yeshua is no mere man. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant" (Colossians 1:15-23). It took a while for this understanding to set in. Yeshua was God before His birth as a human; He is God after His resurrection from the dead. This means that the Father and Yeshua are both God. Yeshua chooses to be second to the Father. Yeshua chose to be the savior of mankind by death on a cross.

The Father has given Yeshua all power and authority

over both humanity and this earth. He has also put all of the angelic realm under Yeshua. "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way" (Ephesians 1:17-23). Authority, power and dominion are terms used of both humans and angels. They are also used of the angelic enemies of God. Yeshua has been given "authority, power and dominion" over angels, humanity and even His enemies.

In His life as a human being, Yeshua always obeyed the Commandments of God. All too often we say that we can't live by them, Yeshua lived by them to demonstrate to us that it is possible. "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous" Romans 2:13). Yeshua kept all of God's Law perfectly, which means that He is truly righteous. "Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation" (Romans 4:4). Since Yeshua obeyed perfectly, then the blessings from the Law are owed to Him as an obligation. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake" (1 Peter 1:18-20). Yeshua used His perfect obedience to redeem us from disobedience. Too many overlook the fact that Yeshua ben Avi kept God's Law. Yeshua never did away with His own law; rather He used the law, by keeping it, to ransom from its penalties those of us who believe.

They could not conceive of their God taking on life as one of them. In all fairness, it can be hard to un-

# A Lamb for a Household

During the pandemic in 2020, Passover took on a whole new depth for me. The things going on in the world had come to very similar circumstances as it was for the Israelites in Egypt on the first Passover. The world was shut down which reminded me of the silence there must have been in the land of Egypt on that night. I can even imagine the way the Hebrew children must have felt. So, this led me to this article about the first Passover night and a comparison with the day Yeshua became our Passover Lamb.

Before the Exodus, the Israelites were in Egypt and in bondage to cruel task masters. Daily they worked long hours; were beaten often; life was hard for them. They cried out for a deliverer. Daily they cried out to their creator to rescue them from their most miserable life. If you have seen the movie "The Ten Commandments" you can probably visualize the exodus. Usually, I try to watch that movie and the movie "The Passion of the Christ" to refresh my mind of just how important the Passover really is.

Moses was called by God from within a burning bush. He was chosen by the Lord to go and rescue His children from such hardships. Because the Lord heard their cries, he sent Moses to bring them out and to tell Pharaoh: "let my people go!" Even after nine different plagues, Pharaoh still hardened his heart. Not until the last plague, would Pharaoh relent, which plague was the death of the first born. Unless Pharaoh relented, the death angel would come thru the land, and kill the first born in every house without the blood of a lamb on the doorposts.

In Exodus 12 the Lord gave these instructions for the Passover. "The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the

meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire --head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt'" (Exodus 12:1-13).

So, on the 10th of the month of Nissan/Aviv they took the lamb and kept it until the 14th. Then they would slaughter it in the doorway of their home. Think about the father in each family, he is the one to go and choose the Lamb for the house. He selects a perfect little Lamb and brings it home. For the next four days this little, baby lamb, without spot or blemish lives in the house with you. Now for those who love animals, what is the first thing you do? You name it. I am going to use the word for Beloved son which is Dah-veed (beloved son) in English it is David. Let's pretend they name it this. So, here's Dah-veed in their homes and many homes had kids. I imagine that the kids called it by name and played with it, fed it, cuddled with it and slept with it. So how do you think they felt when the 14th came and papa had to drag this adorable little lamb away to kill it right there in the door way?

I'm going to share with you the story we all know about the Passover Lamb who came into Jerusalem on the 10th day of Nissan just like when the lamb was selected back then. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the 10th of Nisan --on Lamb Selection Day! He rode into Jerusalem, to be scrutinized by them for four days. How did the people respond to Yeshua at His arrival? "A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest!' When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee' (Matt. 21:8) So just like in Exodus where they selected the Lamb and brought it in for four days, here Yeshua rides in to Jerusalem and is met with love as the people cried out "Hosanna save us." What is most heartbreaking is that the people who

There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Rom 3:21-26). The sacrifice of atonement has been presented for those people who are in Covenant with the Living God, and for those who will enter into that covenant with the Living God. The atonement is for those in covenant, are you in covenant? Do you want to be? These are the last days, don't delay.

You can't prove the Grace of Yeshua Messiah with leniency towards God's Law. You prove the Grace of Yeshua Messiah by your proficiency in the gifts of the Spirit. The Greek word for gifts of the Spirit is charisma. Which means gracious gift, or gifts of Grace. Living by the Bible is our obligation under Covenant. Living by the Bible is how we show our love to Jesus. Grace is His unfailing love with a focus on the gifts of the Spirit we receive. Our use of the Spiritual Gifts is the demonstration of our faith, discernment, and understanding of His Grace. The gifts of the Spirit are also a demonstration of His gracious favor in our lives.

We can't find our own way to Christ; we must come to Him according to the instructions in the Holy Bible, all of it from Genesis to Maps. Playing in the Grace while we sin will never get us to Christ, because we lack the required repentance. "Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law" (Gal 3:21-25). Grace without Living by the Bible is a license to Sin, and it has openly been interpreted that way by some churches. But every New Testament writer asked the rhetorical question, "should we sin that grace may abound," they all answered God Forbid!

Many sin to prove they have grace and thereby renounce their covenant with Jesus. Grace under God's law leads us to repentance, which brings us to Christ. "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin

reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Rom 6:11-18).

The more that we understand covenant love and our part in His covenant, the more that we can appreciate His Grace. And, the more that we will desire to become proficient in His Gifts. Neither Grace, nor the Gifts of the Spirit are in conflict with God's Law. Rather, they compliment each other and build on each other to bring each Believer into the fullness of the maturity in Christ.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Eph 4:11-16) Every office in the church, every gift of the Spirit is given to help every Believer to understand how to live by the Bible. They are all given to enable the brethren to unlock the Spiritual gifts of Christ and to encourage their use in the church and at home and in private to build each Believer up in Christ. Many of the gifts manifest from the laying on of hands by the ordained ministry team. Proficiency in the gifts helps to bring a Believer into maturity. Because when we start using the gifts we begin to discern right use. While discerning right use of the gifts we will make mistakes. That is called humanity. Grace covers our mistakes while we learn how. Proficiency can not be learned by abstinence with the gifts.

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derstand that an Infinite God can take on humanity even for a season. On the other hand, an infinite God can do whatever pleases Him. "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man" (Jn 5:22-23, 27). The Father has remanded all of our cases to Yeshua. "For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him" (John 17:2). All authority. We've been handed over to Yeshua, Praise the Father! "This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares" (Romans 2:16). The Father judges us through Yeshua. This is really good news, because Yeshua takes us through life cleaning us up, washing away our filth, fixing our problems, ironing out our wrinkles and making us into the Children of God so that we can be presented to Avi.

Everything in the Bible is not all about people. Could these passages also include the angelic realm? "Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:8-11). "Manifold wisdom of God made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms?" They already knew the plan, they were sent to create it for us. "How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12). His name was Hallel and it means light bringer or shining one. I think that he was created to light Holy Spirit star fire within human beings. **What manifold wisdom do they need to know?** "Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.' He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die" (John 12:30-32). Was this only for the death that He would die? Is this not also how he will defeat satan and the fallen angelic realm? "I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the

world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me" (John 14:29-31). The prince of this world from the fallen angelic realm had nothing within Yeshua which could move Him to sin or break His loyalty to the Father. Which world needed to know that Yeshua ben Avi is completely loyal to Avi; the fallen angelic realm.

In a passage about the complaining Israelites, there is a curious passage with a hidden meaning. "Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived" (Numbers 21: 4-9). What does this mean? I understand the d'rash meaning of our sins on the cross. But, there is more. First of all the word for snake in vs 8 is seraph, not nachash, which is the usual word for snake. The extended meaning of nachash is the sea monster of chaos who opposes God. Why does it say to put a seraph on a pole? Why a seraph on a pole? Isn't a seraph one of those angels who serve God? "We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing" (1 Corinthians 2:6). Why are the rulers of this world coming to nothing? Does he mean human rulers who did not come to nothing; or, does he mean the fallen angelic rulers, who have come to nothing? We live in a time where paganism has been vanquished. Paul lived in a time where paganism was flourishing. Yeshua ben Avi vanquished the paganism when He died on the cross. From Paul's time the fallen angelic realm has been subdued. It was not subdued before Yeshua; it was powerful. We miss this because it has been a very long time since there was any power in paganism. The ancient system of paganism promoting demon possession of people is coming out of the Abyss very soon. Yeshua ben Avi put it in the Abyss.

Yeshua ben Avi is our conquering Hero. Yeshua ben Avi has conquered the rebellious angels. "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Corinthians 2:8). None of the fallen angelic rulers of this kosmos would have allowed Yeshua anywhere near that cross if they knew what He was going to do on it. They could not have known that His death on a

## Growing in Grace

cross would destroy their Kingdom. Further, the manifold wisdom of Avi to redeem the defiled human race by the death of Yeshua ben Avi is beyond their ability to understand. "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (John 12:31-32). Did Yeshua ben Avi drive the devil out by His death on a cross; I think that he did. "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15). A triumph is the parade given to a conquering roman general on his return to Rome with the spoils of war. The spectacle consists of the conquered officers and army. Is this one of the great Praise things we do at the beginning of the Millennium? Do we get to participate in the Triumph of Yeshua ben Avi with the fallen angelic realm in the spectacle?

During the temptation of Yeshua in the desert, satan is the ruler of this kosmos when he comes to Yeshua. Remember paganism was strong and the whole world was given over to it. "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me'" (Matthew 4:8-9). Satan showed Yeshua the pagan kingdoms in all of their depravity. Only the Jewish people in Yeshua's day were loyal to God. Demon possession was ubiquitous.

Satan showed Yeshua the world's kingdoms from a mountain. Is there another way to look at the snake on a pole incident? Did we miss something the first time that we looked at that passage of scripture. "The LORD said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live'" (Numbers 21:8). Could there be a remez, kingdom, level of interpretation that Yeshua took satan up on the cross? Did Yeshua ben Avi put satan on the cross with Himself, "seraph on a pole," and then show satan all of the splendor of the righteous angelic civilization? Satan showed his Creator the destruction and depravity which he had inflicted on humanity; did Yeshua show satan just how far that he had fallen? Did Yeshua also show satan the Kingdom that is coming? Did Yeshua also show satan His victory over satan's kingdom?

In this work, we are looking at deeper spiritual meanings behind the literal, or pshat meanings of prophecy. Is it possible that there is a remez, or kingdom, interpretation for the days of Awe and the days of Anticipation beyond the literal meaning? "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a

public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15). There is going to be a triumph with Yeshua leading His conquered enemies and a parade for His faithful disciples. A roman triumph was the parade by a Roman General with his victorious army and the defeated army along with the plunder. Think about the ticker tape parade of Dwight Eisenhower and the victorious army after WWII; only this one will travel the whole world.

Victorious Christians get to march in the triumph. The army of the conquering general got to parade around the city showing off their spoils of war. "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him" (2 Corinthians 2:14). We get led around the world and into the city of Jerusalem by Yeshua, along with our spoils of war and in front of our defeated adversaries. "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this" (2 Timothy 2:1-7). If we want the victor's crown, it was worn only on the day of the triumph, in this case 15 days. Right now we compete by teaching others today.

Yeshua ben Avi created everything that we know of both seen and unseen. He organized the angelic system before the rebellion. He formed humanity from the ground and gave us life. He is developing us into the Children of God through our obedience under duress. He defeated the demonic powers by His death on a cross. He will return soon to put down their rebellion. He will execute summary judgment on some of His enemies and He will put the others into His Spectacle. After His Triumph, we will judge some of the demons, while others are put into the abyss. Yeshua ben Avi is our conquering hero.

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We need grace. It is often misunderstood, but never duplicated. I have spent years teaching the brethren to do their due diligence in confronting their personal sins. Due diligence, taking a realistic view of how we behave, is crucial to attain repentance from sin. Today I want to focus you on the Grace, Mercy & Forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Your Repentance is how to access His grace. However, it is the grace I want to talk about. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:13). We can enter into the Manifest Presence of Jesus Christ because of His grace. It is grace that allows our worship to be accepted. I teach over and over again that we must perfect bodily holiness, because the Bible teaches that, but it is the grace that allows us to enter in. I taught many years ago on Covenant Love. It is the covenant that opens Heaven's doors. Are you in covenant with Jesus Christ? Do you know its terms? Do you know what you are required to do under His Covenant? Do you know what He will do for you?

Grace does not nullify your requirements under His Covenant; Grace is His obligation to you under His Covenant. Many fail to achieve grace, because they are taught to sin to prove His grace. You must loose the sin in your life to attain His grace. "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (Romans 6:1-2).

The Hebrew word for grace is chesed. "And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation'" (Ex 34:6-7). Chesed is covenant love. To enter into the Saving Grace of Yeshua Messiah, you have to enter into Covenant with Him. Love, mercy, kindness and grace are available to those who enter into covenant with Him. To those outside of the covenant, covenant love requires punishment to the third and fourth generations. "You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Ex 20:5-6). He gives to those outside of His covenant, Justice; to those within His Covenant, love and mercy.

Chesed means unfailing covenant love. When we enter into covenant with Him, He will never fail you, no matter what we do, as long as we return to Him, He will deliver us. "Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Tim 2:11-13). He will remain faithful; therefore, we must continually return to living by the Bible, so that we may stand in Grace. "Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love." "Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city" (Psalm 31:16, 21). When we fail Him, He will not fail us. Grace is all about Him: His strength, His Love, His wisdom, His Justice. We must return to the Bible because that is our agreement in His Covenant. It is not "works," it is the terms of our covenant.

Breaking His Law represents a repudiation of the Covenant. Grace is His demonstration of love to us. Grace is His provision for our weakness. Living by the Bible is how we show our love to Him. "If you love me, you will obey what I command." "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him" (John 14:15, 21)

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, 'This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known" (John 1:14-18). Grace is His Chesed towards us to make up for our failure. The Greek word for grace is Charis, which is the state of kindness and favor toward someone with the focus on a benefit to be given.

There is a benefit to be given as a result of having grace. The gifts of that grace are called charisma in the Greek; we know them as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is more than unfailing love, it is unfailing covenant love with a benefit to be given as a result of the covenant love. "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.