

## When Your Children Ask You

*“<sup>25</sup>When you come into the land which Adonai will give you as He has promised, you are to keep this ceremony. <sup>26</sup>Now when it happens that your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ <sup>27</sup>You are to say, ‘It is the sacrifice of Adonai’s Passover, because He passed over the houses of Bnei-Yisrael in Egypt, when He struck down the Egyptians, but spared our households.’” So the people bowed their heads and worshipped... This same night is a night of vigil for Adonai, for all Bnei-Yisrael throughout their generations” (Ex. 12:25-27, 42).*

In every generation the obstinacy and willfulness of parents result in a great price paid by their children. America is no exception – millions upon millions of innocent of unborn children pay with their life for our country’s promiscuity. I am a member of the generation that took off the bras, accepted all forms of contraceptives, legalized abortion, hailed the Beatles and the Rolling Stones (disregarding their immoral behavior), smoked pot and took hashish in brownies! Our children may be at risk and we might be responsible! Will our firstborn child be required of us?

So it was with pharaoh and the people of Egypt at that time – his and their stubbornness had resulted in the death of the firstborn of Egypt. The Lord had said to Moses: *“<sup>22</sup>You are to say to Pharaoh, This is what Adonai says: ‘Israel is My son, My firstborn. <sup>23</sup>So I have said to you, Let My son go, that he may serve Me, but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will slay your son, your firstborn” (Exodus 4:22-23).* Our God is just! He warns even Pharaoh (and Egypt) of the impending danger to their children and gives opportunity for repentance. Pharaoh refused and exactly what God had promised would happen did happen (See Exodus 12:28-36).

This stubbornness and willfulness is precisely the iniquity that the Lord states will be passed to our descendants down to the third and fourth generations: *“<sup>6</sup>Then Adonai passed before him, and proclaimed, “Adonai, Adonai, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, <sup>7</sup>showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, but bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, to the third and fourth generation” (Ex. 34:6-7).* We have also been warned. Have you repented of any past willfulness (e.g., willfulness with your parents in your younger days) and asked *Yeshua* to stop the visitation of iniquity (a form of death) on your children and your children’s children? If you notice this iniquity rearing up in your own life and maybe your parents are no longer available nor willing to ask the Lord for forgiveness, then I believe you can also ask *Yeshua* to heal your inherited iniquities and in doing so you can stop the cycle not only for you but for any of your future generations. The Lord said that He will show mercy to a thousand generations!

Delivered from the plague of death by the blood of the Passover lamb, the children of Israel greeted the morning of their redemption with new trust born of experience. The night before, they were timid slaves cowering behind locked doors. Now they threw open their doors and windows in the morning sun and rejoiced in their deliverance. Awed by the power of the Almighty that had protected them from the death angel, they were now ready to follow Moses, His servant, wherever *Adonai* said to. They were now ready to **BO** (go) and live in freedom.

Similarly if we resolve the self-will iniquity issue, we will also be ready to *Bo*. When this is done, our days will also be greeted with new trust born of experience. Our hearts will rejoice in such deliverance and we will be more than ready to follow our Deliverer, *Yeshua*. We will then experience so much more of the abundant life He came to give us.

One last point in this Torah Portion is that the word “*observed*” or “*keep vigil*” used in Exodus 12:42 (*Hu HaLaila Hazeh L’Adonai Shimurim*) comes from the Hebrew root *shamar*, and it translates as “*keep watch/guard*.” Even as the Lord kept guard over the blood-protected homes of the children of Israel on that first Passover, we, in turn, are to keep guarding the annual Passover night of remembrance. It is to be a memorial forever. He commanded the annual memorial of the Passover observance so that our Jewish people might reflect regularly upon all He has done on our people’s behalf. In all our comings and goings we are to remember the Lord, we

are to rehearse and retell what He has done for us, we are to “*relive*” the events of the great redemption He has done for our forefathers.

Remember what *Yeshua* said in Gethsemane: “<sup>40</sup> *Then He comes to the disciples and finds them sleeping; and He tells Peter, “So couldn’t you keep watch with Me for one hour? <sup>41</sup> Keep watching and praying, so that you won’t enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 27:40-41). *Yeshua* was keeping the vigil, just like His Father said to do in Exodus and on the very night of Passover, but His very own close circle of friends and disciples did/could not. I think we should also keep a vigil on our stubbornness and willfulness and be prepared to go into serious prayer and interceding mode to ask the Father to show us mercy – so the consequences of our iniquity-causing episodes (our bitter cup, so to speak) would now be taken from us. Unlike *Yeshua*’s cup, our bitter cup can indeed be taken away and I trust in this year we will surely intercede for its removal. Shabbat Shalom!*