

Who Hath Believed Our Report?

“³⁸This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet, who said, “Adonai, who has believed our report? To whom has the arm of Adonai been revealed?” (Isa. 53:1)

The anniversary of the greatest gift to mankind is approaching. What gift is above everything we might ever experience? In our day it is called salvation (*Yeshua* in Hebrew) or *“being born again to a living hope from imperishable seed”* (1 Peter 1:3, 23). This is the greatest thing in all my life. Is it yours? Am I to give this casual attention? Doesn't this deserve my time and attention – maybe even my entire effort and commitment? In six days, (*‘six days before that day was Aviv 9’* in *Events Surrounding Messiah's Passover*, from my message on April 11, 2017) this momentous and crucial season will arrive, and I wonder if I will be ready to offer my all.

On that day of *Aviv 9 Yeshua* came to Bethany where *“Miriam took a pound of very expensive oil of pure nard and anointed Yeshua's feet, and she wiped His feet dry with her hair. Now the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil”* (John 12:3). Then *Yeshua* said: *“Leave her alone! She set it aside for the day of My burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me”* (John 12:7) Today we are in identical timing. Should we not also give Him our most precious and expensive gift, our time? The next day (*in the Saturday/Shabbat of Aviv 10*) *Yeshua* made his entry into Jerusalem where a *“huge crowd that had come up for the feast”* took palm branches and greeted Him shouting: *“Hoshia-na! Baruch ha-ba b'shem Adonai! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Ps. 118:25-26) *The King of Israel!”* (John 12:13) Even Gentiles were caught up in the moment desiring to see Him: *“²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast. ²¹These came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in the Galilee. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we want to see Yeshua’”* (John 12:20). And then the Father speaks again: *“²⁷Now My soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour? But it was for this reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify Your name!’ Then a voice came out of heaven, saying: I have glorified it, and again I will glorify it!”* (John 12:27-28). We could call this day *Palm Shabbat!*

For this same reason we in *Kol Simcha* who have come to *this hour*, should also want to exclaim on this *Shabbat*: *“²⁸Father, glorify Your name”* in our midst! Are we ready to *believe His report*? Sometimes I am not so sure. We say we are, and we set out to do so, but how easily are we drawn away by the events, schedule, and living life in our day! Since Saturday January 1, 2022, I have been earnestly trying to shorten and expunge our services from any and all vestiges of time excess. While experiencing some success (Check out the messages section in our website. Since 01Jan22, the actual message times were: 49m, 47m, 25m, 36m, 46m, 26m, 47m, 38m, 47m, 46m, 25m, 78m {which included a few testimonies} and 22m respectively), in these last two weeks I have been having some deep discussions with the Almighty's Spirit about the fact that no matter how meticulously I have prepared and tweaked services trying to end by 12:15p, I have been quite unsuccessful in achieving peace about it. The truth is that I am not likely to achieve the **1.5 hour and done** *modus operandi* that is the norm in the greater Body of Messiah. In fact, my average for 2022 [I checked the eleven saved livestreams in *BoxCast* (minus two services in January that were discarded because the audio was bad) and the times were: 2:31, 2:15, 2:27, 2:01, 2:17, 2:24, 2:33, 2:55 (w/ videos), 2:42 (w/ testimonies & videos), 2:28 (w/ testimonies), 2:34] is 2:28, that means ending by 12:28pm. In order to trim services to less than 2 hours we would have to stop any moves by the Holy Spirit, prayers for people, *drashes* by Jackie and Marilyn, *Torah* Processional, greeting one another, testimonies, exhortations, and eliminate some of the prayers that include dancing before the Lord. I concluded before *Adonai* that if I did any of that, our identity would be destroyed. Let's face it rabbi, *Kol Simcha* is not going ever to be a church. We are Messianic Jews. Shabbat is not a service but instead it is a weekly High Holiday that lasts from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday. The fact is that many in *Kol Simcha* are still in the process of leaving their Christian identity and embracing a new more Biblical identity as a Messianic Jew. Live streaming does not change this identity, nor does it justify a change.

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41). And when it comes to the rest of His High Holidays, I know that it is time to pause, take inventory and *“...Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17).* With that thought embedded in my innermost being, I will attempt to give *Adonai* His due during the *Pesach* and *Shavuot* Seasons while honoring the commitment to time sensitivity I have made to myself and Him and indirectly to you. I am ready to *believe His report.*

We want to consecrate ourselves for *Pesach* – the festival of our freedom. Shouldn’t we be ready to observe the historical aspects of our Spring High Holiday Season and profoundly celebrate the renewal it brings us individually and collectively? It all begins on our *Memorial Yeshua’s Seder* celebration next Thursday April 14, 2022, at 7pm. How long does that take realistically? In the nearly two-thousand-year-old *Passover Haggadah* one finds the following major sections: (1) Greetings & *Lighting the Festival Lights*; (2) *First Cup* {*Urchatz, Karpas, Break the middle Matzah, The Passover Story(Magid), 4 Questions, The Answer, Dayenu*}; (3) *Second Cup* {*Bless Matzah, Bitter herbs, Korech*}; (4) the *Seder Meal* {*Barekh and Afikoman*}; (5) *Third Cup* {*Redeem the hidden Afikoman with 30 pieces of silver, Blessings, Communion*}; (6) *Fourth Cup* {*cup of Elijah and Hallel*}; and (7) *Conclusion.* We will not do the Seder meal choosing instead to focus on the other aspects of *Yeshua’s Seder* as described in the Gospels. Should we not do foot washing? *“¹³You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master’—and rightly you say, for I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example—you should do for each other what I have done for you” (John 13:13-15).* Reading the *Haggadah* (Jewish text that sets forth the order of the Passover Seder) in the Seder is a fulfillment of the *mitzvah* to each of the Children of Israel to *tell your children* the story from the Book of Exodus about *Adonai* bringing the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, *“with a strong hand and an outstretched arm.”* This is a once-a-year celebration and the prescribed time to take the *Meal of Messiah (Communion)*: *“¹⁹And when He had taken matzah and offered the bracha, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body, given for you. Do this in memory of Me.’ ²⁰In the same way, He took the cup after the meal, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you’” (Luke 22:19-20).* I have been doing Passover Seders since 1980, a year before I was ordained into the ministry. Seders are not short even when done at one’s home. It wasn’t short at my best friend Dr. Howard Rothman’s home (a member of *B’nei Israel*) nor in any of the Arroyo homes or when attending other public Messianic Seders. One needs to prepare oneself spiritually for this celebration and give it its gift of time on Thursday night.

The same mindset will be true for the first and last days of the Feast of *Matzot* (Unleavened Bread) on Saturday April 16, 2022, and Friday April 22, 2022. It is time to bless *Adonai* and thank Him with our entire being for our freedom in Him. This is *for us* a great *Mitzvah!* The days of His Passion and Resurrection are to be *forever* treasured. Turn the clock off! *Shabbat Shalom!*