

# Shoresh Update

*Nourishment from the Root ~ Romans 11:18*

## WHY CELEBRATE PASSOVER?

### Articles

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### NOT JUST A JEWISH HOLIDAY

Most Christians consider Passover to be strictly a Jewish holiday because it is the holiday that commemorates God's deliverance of Israel out of Egypt. Assuredly, Jewish

people around the world continue to celebrate Passover at its appointed time in obedience to God's Word. However, if we look closely we find that Passover holds the message of our salvation and is a feast we Christians should keep. So what is the Passover connection for Christians?

We begin with a look at Exodus 12. Here we have the account of the first Passover, as well as a very clear picture of the Messiah and what He would accomplish for us at this *same feast*. There is not enough space in this article to share all Exodus 12 teaches us, but we can scratch the surface and uncover a glimpse of what God accomplished through the Passovers in Egypt and on Calvary.

In Egypt God's plan was to free Israel from bondage and bring judgment on Egypt's false gods. Through Moses, God instructed each Israelite family to kill a spotless lamb and mark the doorposts and lintels of their homes with the blood of the lamb. They were to enter the house and consume the whole lamb. In this way, the children of Israel would be protected, and when the death plague came God would see the blood and His judgment would *pass over* that home.

At Calvary, centuries later (during Passover), Jesus gave His own life to free us from the bondage of sin and to defeat our enemy, the one who would seek to keep us in bondage ~ Satan.

Additionally, Scripture tells us that judgment is coming and there is only one way to escape it, just as there was only one way for Israel to escape the judgment on Egypt. Like the Israelites, if we want to be free from bondage and escape the judgment of God, we must come under the covering of the Blood of the Lamb. If we have put our *faith in God* through the blood of Jesus, then when God looks on us, He will see the Blood of the Lamb and His judgment will *pass over* us.

*The Passover Lamb frees us from bondage.*

### Feast Calendar

April 23  
Passover

May 1  
Feast of  
First Fruits

June 17  
Feast of Weeks

*\* Feasts begin at  
sundown*

*Continued...*

## Keeping Passover

In Egypt, God freed individuals and a nation came forth. Exodus 12:3 tells us that the Passover Lamb was killed for **the whole household**, just as Jesus died for the sins of **the whole world**. However, *individuals* had to enter the home and eat the lamb in order to be protected from death. Likewise, we must *individually* make a personal decision to come under the covering of the Blood of the Lamb. *Individuals* must put their faith in God by trusting the provision He offers through Yeshua.

While the Passover Lamb enabled the children of Israel to escape God's wrath, they had yet another decision to make. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb *opened the door* so they could **CHOOSE** to walk away from their old life as slaves in Egypt and **CHOOSE** to walk in a new life with God. **They did not know where they were going because they had never been to the Promised Land. All they knew was that they were leaving Egypt behind and starting a new life with God. It is no different for us today.** Trusting in God's provision for all in the death of Jesus, we come as individuals under the covering of His blood and escape the judgment of God. Then we must decide: Will we turn our backs on our old way of life, and walk into a new life with God? When we accept Jesus as our Redeemer, **we have no idea what lies ahead, only that God has promised to lead us safely in a new life with Him.** Truly Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the Feast! ~ Cheryl

***Will we turn our backs on our old way of life, and walk into a new life with God?***

### Note:

This year Easter falls on March 27 and Passover on April 24 (Passover actually begins at sundown on April 23). The reason for this separation is quite sad. Quoting from Derek White's booklet, *Replacement Theology: Its Origin, History and Theology*, White reminds us how this came about: "*The Council of Nicea (325 AD), the first ecumenical council of the Church, legislated that Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday and that it was never to coincide with, or be determined by the date of the Jewish Passover. Thus Easter became a movable feast, falling on the first Sunday following the first full moon after 21st March. The effect of this ruling was to de-Judaize Christianity by breaking the link between Easter and Passover.*"

Are we ignoring the Lord's appointed time of Passover? When Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, He said to them, "...this do in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19 May I recommend that after you have celebrated our Lord's resurrection with your church, make a point to celebrate Passover with your family at home, and remember Jesus. Celebrate what God did for your household during the last Passover of His earthly life. He desires that all who are called by His name keep his appointed times, so why not renew another ancient tradition this year and keep the feast of Passover? Jesus did.

- A large portion of this article appears in the March/April 2005 issue of *Lifeline Journal Magazine*. *Lifeline Journal* is a magazine for the encouragement of Christian family life. If you are interested in subscribing to *Lifeline Journal*, check out their website at [www.lifelinejournal.com](http://www.lifelinejournal.com)

## *Shoresh Calendar of Events*

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This calendar of events is updated from the last newsletter. Please pray for continued direction from the Lord as we seek to follow His direction. We hope you can join us for some of this year's programs.

### **Last Saturday of the Month**

#### **Havdalah service at the Shoresh Study Center ~**

Havdalah is the traditional ceremony for the close of Shabbat. This service is offered the last Saturday of every month from 5:00—7:00. In addition to regular Havdalah prayers, we pray for the work of Shoresh and the peace of Jerusalem.

### **Tuesdays at 10am**

**Torah Study Group** (no meetings June, July or October)  
All are welcome to this lively discussion of weekly Torah readings. Each week we discuss a particular passage of Torah and how it applies to our life as disciples of Yeshua.

### **April 23**

#### **Shoresh Community Passover Seder**

This event will be open to all, just like the Shoresh Shabbat Celebration. However, seating will be limited, so reservations are required. The cost is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. See the enclosed flyer for more details or call the Shoresh office with your questions or to reserve seating.

### **May 12**

#### **Clergy and Leaders Program**

The Galilee with Rev. Peter Pierson

### **May 30—June 11**

#### **Trip to Israel with Rev. Neil Lebhar**

Check out the details at [www.jaxredeemer.org](http://www.jaxredeemer.org)

### **September 8**

#### **Clergy and Leaders Program**

Jerusalem with Steve Engstrom

### **October 3**

**Rosh HaShanah Service** (location to be determined)

### **October 12**

#### **Yom Kippur Service**

Hosted by Church of the Redeemer  
Southside Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida

### **October 17**

#### **Sukkot (Tabernacles) Celebration**

Celebration service will be offered some time during this week. Location and date to be determined.

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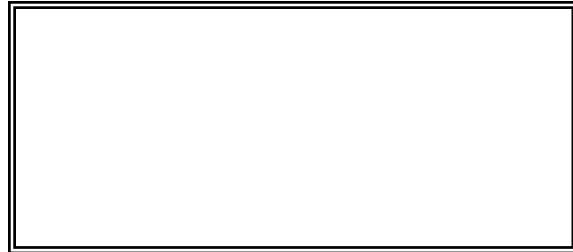


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## **2005 Shoresh Clergy and Leaders Program**

*Lessons from the Land and Our Lord*

February 17	May 12	September 8
The Wilderness	The Galilee	Jerusalem
David Miller	Rev. Peter Pierson	Steve Engstrom

On February 17th, we enjoyed an anointed time in the Word as we journeyed through the Wilderness with David Miller. Many were moved as the Lord spoke to their personal situations through David's message. Here's what some of the participants had to say: "Give us more!" "Wonderful teacher! Very engaging and intelligent and easy to follow. Very touching subject, especially applicable." "Finally a real meal from the Word, not snack food."

The conference in May promises to be just as fulfilling as Rev. Peter Pierson takes us around the Galilee of our Lord. Why don't you make plans to join us for this half-day conference? We begin at 8:45 with breakfast and conclude at 2:00 having had lunch and a Q & A session. We will again meet in the parish hall of All Souls Church ~ 10679 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, Florida. Call today for more details or to reserve your spot on May 12 for a biblical journey through *The Galilee*.

A fee of \$20 covers breakfast, lunch and the conference.  
Shoresh Office 646-1609