

APRIL 2024



# Messiah's House



Spring Feast  
Edition

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
**CONGREGATION BETH MESSIAH**  
A MESSIANIC JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

# APRIL

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- 4/14 KIDS PASSOVER EXTRAVAGANZA
- 4/20 TORAH CLUB
- 4/20 YOUTH "HIGH WAY" MEETING
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- 4/23 COUNTING THE OMER (APRIL 23-JUNE 11)
- 4/24 CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER
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- 4/27 ONE LEV-SPECIAL WORSHIP ARTIST
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- 4/30 FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD ENDS

**\*\*Offices are closed April 23, 24 & 30**

CBMHOUSTON.ORG





# APRIL

## *Sign-Ups*



### Echad Singles First Friday Shabbat Dinner

All singles are welcomed to  
join for dinner and  
fellowship

Sign up [HERE](#)

.....  
**05** 2024

6PM Friday

### Hineni Ministries Presents:

Kim Group, Director with  
Christian Friends of Israeli  
Communities

Here's a chance to  
understand Israel's right to  
the land.

Visit [Here](#) for more info

.....  
*Apr* **07** 2024

6PM Sunday



### Kids Passover Extravaganza

Kids 4-10 will love this time  
to celebrate the Passover  
and meet. Cost is \$8 per  
child

Register [HERE](#)

.....  
*Apr* **14** 2024

1:30PM Sunday

### Singles' Second Sunday Fellowship-Kemah Boardwalk

Singles, It's time for fun and  
fellowship in Kemah! Join  
the fun. Approx \$30

Sign up [HERE](#)

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*Apr* **14** 2024

3PM Sunday



### Foundations Course

Ready to become a member  
at CBM? Start here with this  
two week foundations  
course. Learn about CBM  
and the Messianic Jewish  
faith.

Register [HERE](#)

.....  
*Apr* **27** 2024

1PM Saturday



# The Measuring Rod

The Spring Feasts are here, and we will once again have the joy of celebrating Passover (Pesach) with our families and congregation. Maybe you have wondered at times how the Seder, the order of service for the Pesach meal, was established. What has been and should be The Measuring Rod for celebrating Pesach? Let's explore that here.

I grew up in Mexico. My mother was a Jewish believer in Yeshua, but at that time we attended an Evangelical church. It was a very wonderful place of worship and learning. However, with time, my mother, sisters and I wanted to discover our Jewish heritage, so we began to study.

As we learned about the importance of unleavened bread, as stipulated in Exodus 12:15 – 18, a very precious realization for us was the fact that at the Last Supper Yeshua Himself was eating matzah! This revelation and others like it opened our eyes to just how much we had to learn, so we pressed on!

My Jewish husband, Lou, was once Conservative but is now Orthodox. Since we have been surrounded by that community for many years, we both have learned a lot about how different communities celebrate this holy day and why. Not surprisingly, each group thinks their traditions are "The Measuring Rod" for celebrating Pesach; that theirs is the best way to do it.

One of the important ordinances pertaining to this season is removing all chametz (representing sin or false doctrine) from the house before Pesach. In my house, Pesach is announced (usually by me) early in the year, as early as January or February, depending on the date of Passover. Because my husband often finds deals, we buy many things in bulk, including leavened products. Therefore, I see it as my duty to begin managing the chametz in the house at that point. Since we have to finish it all or give it away, we are very disciplined. But I love this early preparation for Pesach because it keeps your mind ready to get rid of all "unwanted leaven" from your life!

As I began to joyfully celebrate Pesach, I also began to understand more clearly why HaShem gave us this feast: first, as a celebration of His rescuing His people from physical slavery, and also as a foreshadowing of Yeshua Himself rescuing us from the slavery of sin through His death and resurrection. And now this feast remains as a memorial until He returns. To help us celebrate this memorial, the Seder consists of many tangible elements which invite us to experience it with all our senses – the taste of matzah, the smell of herbs, the colorful elements, and, most importantly, hearing the retelling of the Passover story. Seeing this feast in context, both historically and prophetically, we are continually called to remember that Yeshua lived in a pivotal time in history, and of course, changed history.

At the time of Yeshua's birth in the land of Israel, the priests and Sanhedrin had already established the infrastructure of Judaism based on the Torah as it was passed down to them. In other words, the stage was set. God had prepared every detail that foreshadowed and explained Yeshua and how He would fulfill and live out all the prophecies and expectations found in the Torah.

Yet after Yeshua's death and resurrection, after the perfect Pesach was slain, unusual things began to happen in Jerusalem. As recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke, at the moment of Yeshua's death the curtain in the Temple was torn from the top to the bottom. The Talmud itself describes another very significant event concerning a scarlet thread. Every Yom Kippur, a scarlet thread was fastened to the Temple door or the Azazel scapegoat. After the sacrifices were completed, that thread would become white signifying that the sacrifice was accepted. However, around 30 CE (the approximate time of Yeshua's death and resurrection) until the destruction of the temple in 70 CE, the thread no longer turned white.



Without the Temple, the continuation of traditional Jewish life was severely challenged – they had lost The Measuring Rod, so to speak. Jewish leaders had to figure out how to proceed with their practices. Thus, many years after the New Testament was written, Rabbinical Judaism was born. It did incorporate some of the traditions of Judaism from before 70 CE, but also forged new ones that have nothing to do with acceptable practices before God. Rabbinical Judaism became a set of religious rituals not based on the ordinances directly from HaShem as before. But no doubt these Rabbis thought they held The “Measuring Rod” for celebrating Pesach.

However, after Yeshua’s death and resurrection, His disciples knew exactly how and why to continue celebrating Pesach based on what Yeshua had said. Interestingly, there are Jewish scholars who agree that the oldest record of the Seder for Pesach is in the New Testament in Luke 22. And we can be sure that many Jewish believers in Yeshua went on celebrating Passover with great joy, unencumbered by the confusion in traditional Judaism. When Rabbinic Judaism arose years later, it’s possible those rabbis found traditions still alive in the communities of Jewish believers that they incorporated into their Seder, as we shall see next.

Possibly the most unusual of those traditions, and one precious to us as believers, is the tradition of the Afikomen. This practice was unknown before Yeshua, and it is not clear how it became incorporated into the Seder. Here is the tradition as it is practiced in all Jewish Seders today as well as our own:

- First, 3 pieces of matzah are placed in a Matzah Tosh, a special circular fabric pouch with three compartments, each big enough to hold a piece of matzah.
- Early in the Seder, the middle piece is removed and broken in half. One half is returned to the Matzah Tosh, but the other half is wrapped in a napkin and hidden.
- At the end of the Seder, the children are sent out to find it. Once it is found, it is brought back and shared with everyone at the meal as a kind of dessert.

So, how have the Rabbis tried to explain this tradition in the Seder? The Mishna says it is a substitute for the Passover sacrifice. The Talmud states it must be the last thing eaten so the taste of matzah stays in the mouth. But essentially the meaning is unclear. However, for early Jewish believers and for us now, this tradition seems to point clearly and beautifully to a meaning only Yeshua can give it! He is the “middle piece,” the Second Person of the God-head. While remaining God, He became a man. This God/Man dies, is wrapped in a burial shroud and “hidden” in the grave. Then He comes forth, risen from the dead and becomes the source of life and nourishment for us! Surely this is clearly reflected in Yeshua’s statement in Luke 22:19. “And 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.”

Yeshua is the reason we celebrate; He is the fulfillment of all that the Patriarchs, godly Priests and faithful people longed for over the centuries as they obeyed the ordinances of God in celebrating this feast. Yes, the context of the Passover Seder is Jewish. Yes, the matzah foreshadowing this moment was an element that was included for centuries. Yet the words of deliverance and hope and salvation spoken over them - “This is My body given for you” - are the words that only Yeshua could speak and fulfill. He is, therefore, The Measuring Rod, the standard we always use in accepting traditions. He IS the reason we celebrate.



By Milka Diamond



# FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD/PASSOVER (HAG MATZAH/PESACH)



*“Pesach”  
To spring,  
jump or  
pass over*

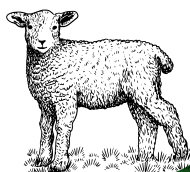


## QUICK FACTS

- 14th - 22nd of Nisan (April 22 - 30, 2024)
- Passover was a pilgrimage holy day, where men were required to go up to Jerusalem
- The Passover lamb represents Yeshua's sacrifice
- Eight day feast where no leavening agents are eaten
- Holy Day Theme is “redemption”
- One should feel as if personally freed from Egypt
- Traditionally, homes would be cleaned with a feather, scooped with a wooden spoon and the crumbs burned
- Traditionally, only the lamb, herbs, and matzah were eaten. Eggs, matzah tosh, charoset and the four cups were added later

## RELATED READINGS

- (Day 1) Exo 12:21-51, Num 28:16-25
- (Day 1) Joshua 5:2-6:1
- (Day 1) Luke 22:7-20
- (Day 2) Lev 22:26-23:44, Num 28:16-25
- (Day 2) 2 Kings 23: 1-9, 21-25
- (Day 2) 1 Cor 15:20-28
- The Hallel: Psalm 115-118
- Lev 23



## PASSOVER SEDER 2024

*GSH Event Center  
Wed Apr 24, 2024  
6:30 PM - 10:00  
PM CDT*

*Tickets are sold  
out!  
Join the waiting  
list [HERE](#)*





# FIRST FRUITS (BIKKURIM)

He is risen...the  
firstfruits of those  
who have fallen  
asleep



## QUICK FACTS

- Sometimes called Sfirat HaOmer (counting the sheaf)
- Sheaves waved in the air commemorates thanksgiving for the early first barley, fig, olive, and pomegranate harvest of the year
- Begins 49 day counting of the Omer to Shavuot
- Points to the resurrection of Yeshua and resurrection at the end of the age
- Holy Day Theme is: resurrection
- Some see this as a time of semi mourning because of the second Jewish revolt (132-135 AD)
- Rabbinical omer count starts 16 Nisan,
- Others start count after the weekly Shabbat in the Passover week

## RELATED READINGS

- 1 Cor 15: 20-23
- Lev 23: 9-24
- John 12:23-24, 32

## TRADITIONAL BLESSINGS

Baruch atah Adonai Elohenu melek ha-  
olam, asher kidshanu b'mitvohtav v'tzi-vanu  
al sfirat haomer

Blessed are thou, O Lord our G-d, king of the  
universe, who has set us apart by your  
commandments and has commanded us  
concerning the counting of the sheaf.



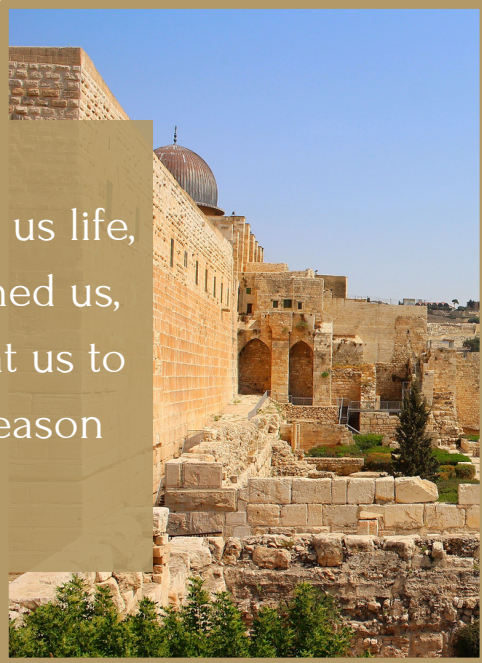
BIKKURIM  
SERVICE &  
BRUNCH

APRIL 28 @ 10AM



# FEAST OF WEEKS (SHAVUOT)

...Given us life,  
sustained us,  
brought us to  
this season



## QUICK FACTS

- It's customary to stay awake the entire night to study Torah
- It's customary to eat dairy products
- Celebrates the offering of the late first fruits like wheat
- This is a pilgrimage feast where men were required to go to Jerusalem
- Believed to be the day the 10 commandments were spoken on Sinai
- One fulfillment occurred in Acts 2
- Traditional to decorate the synagogue in greenery to represent how Sinai may have looked in the Spring

## RELATED READINGS

- (Day 1) Exo 19:1-20, 26, Num 29:1-6
- (Day 1) 1 Sam 1: 1-2:10
- (Day 1) 1 Thess 4:13-18
- (Day 2) Deut 14:22 - 16: 17, Num 28:26-31
- (Day 2) Habbukuk 2:20-3:19
- (Day 2) James 1: 12-18
- Lev 23:15-21
- Acts 2
- 1 Cor 16:8

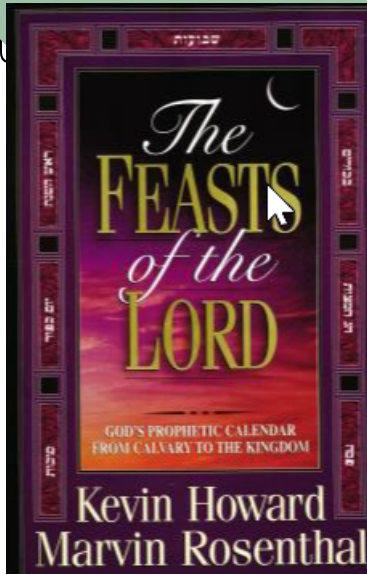


SHAVUOT  
JUNE 11-13, 2024



# REFERENCE BOOKS

\*Available in the CBM resource center



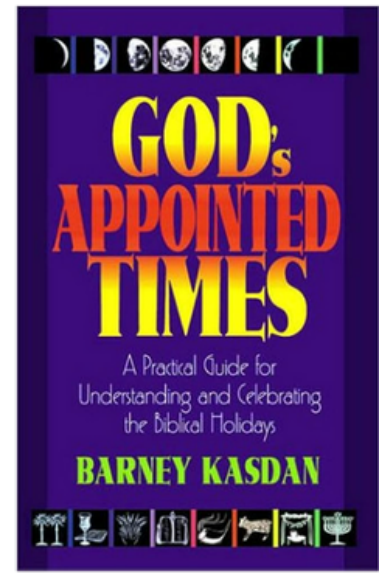
## The Feasts of the Lord

Kevin Howard  
Marvin Rosenthal



## Messiah in the Feasts of Israel

Sam Nadler



## God's Appointed Times\*

Barney Kasdan

Dear Rabbi,

Many people say "we're living in the time of Messiah's return and a time of persecution against the body of Messiah." How can we, as the body, best prepare for the end times?

It is interesting to talk about living in the time of the Messiah's return. Yeshua's disciples believed they were in that time too, as all generations faithfully following Yeshua have since the first century. From a perspective of eschatology (last things) we have been in the last days since Yeshua's ascension into heaven. That may sound crazy, but we finite people think in terms of generations where G-d's last things are about longer periods of time. The shortest answer I can give to this complex topic would be for us to live like He is returning tomorrow. Honor Adonai, share Yeshua with others, love your enemies, and know that persecution brings endurance which allows us to have His perfect will be done in us!

# 4 QUESTIONS WITH...

CBM PRAYER MINISTRY LEADER  
& INFORMATION DESK HOST

**Rita Gallegos**



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



### 1. You are the prayer ministry team leader, why is this role so important?

To pray for our Congregation is an honor. We must pray for the *preservation* and *protection* of CBM and others through prayer. Adonai can protect us, after all He is a G-d of the Impossible. He protected David and the patriarchs in times of war. I believe that it is all about the relationship that develops between the intercessor and Adonai during prayer. I know that G-d's Presence, Anointing, Glory, Revelation, Protection, Preservation, Assignments, and answered prayer at CBM are a result of the prayers of the Kedoshim and the *relationship*.

### 2. You also work at the information desk, tell us about that.

It's about serving! Providing information to those who need: dates on classes, info for Passover, prayer, giving, list of ministry activities, nursery, and last but not least, "where are your restrooms.?" My personal blessing, comes from praying for those that will be coming through the doors on Shabbat. I ask Adonai to prepare me for first time visitors or anyone that walks through the doors and is seeking Him.

### 3. What has G-d been teaching you lately?

It is a season of intercession for a more intimate relationship with Him, support for Israel, and awakening of the nations...We must pray and encourage one another for a hunger and a thirst for Him, to seek His Presence, and study His Written Word. The intimacy starts with *praise* and *worship*. Praise Him and give Him glory you and He will draw near to you.

***Psalm 22:4 TLV: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.***

### 4. If you could visit any time period, what would it be? What is the first thing you would eat?

The 60's - Faith, family, rock and roll, sock hops, football games, cool cars, drive-ins, great clothes, The Beatles! First thing I would eat would be a Prince's Hamburger w/onion rings and a strawberry malt.

Do you have a prayer request? We'd love to pray with you! Send your prayer requests to:  
**[prayer@cbmhouston.org](mailto:prayer@cbmhouston.org)**



"It's like I was transported to Susa"

"Kudos"

# REVIEWS ARE IN!

"Bravo!"

"Fantastic"

"Remarkable"

# IT'S A SMASH!





April 2024

# MJAA Bible Readings

*These readings are from the MJAA Bible reading plan for 5784 (2023-2024). They are available on our Beth Messiah app on Apple and Google devices as well as on our website at <https://www.cbmhouston.org/daily-bible-readings/>*

4/1	Mon	Zechariah 4-6; Romans 5:12-21
4/2	Tue	Zechariah 7-9; Romans 6:1-14
4/3	Wed	Zechariah 10-12; Romans 6:15-23
4/4	Thu	Zechariah 13-14; Romans 7:1-13
4/5	Fri	Torah Portion: Leviticus 9:1-11:47
4/6	Sat	Haftarah: II Samuel 6:1-7:17
4/7	Sun	Malachi 1-4; Romans 7:14-25
4/8	Mon	Psalms 1-3; Romans 8:1-17
4/9	Tue	Psalms 4-6; Romans 8:18-39
4/10	Wed	Psalms 7-9; Romans 9:1-13
4/11	Thu	Psalms 10-12; Romans 9:14-33
4/12	Fri	Torah Portion: Leviticus 12:1-13:59
4/13	Sat	Haftarah: II Kings 4:42-5:19
4/14	Sun	Psalms 13-15; Romans 10:1-13
4/15	Mon	Psalms 16-18; Romans 10:14-21



April 2024

# MJAA Bible Readings

4/16	Tue	Psalms 19-21; Romans 11:1-21
4/17	Wed	Psalms 22-24; Romans 11:22-36
4/18	Thu	Psalms 25-27; Romans 12:1-8
4/19	Fri	Torah Portion: Leviticus 14:1-15:33
4/20	Sat	Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-20
4/21	Sun	Psalms 28-30; Romans 12:9-21
4/22	Mon	Psalms 31-33; Romans 13:1-7
4/23	Tue	Psalms 34-36; Romans 13:8-14
4/24	Wed	Psalms 37-38; Romans 14:1-12
4/25	Thu	Psalms 39-41; Romans 14:13-23
4/26	Fri	Exodus 33:12—34:26 PASSOVER; Numbers 28:16-25
4/27	Sat	Ezekiel 37:1-14
4/28	Sun	Psalms 42-44; Romans 15:1-21
4/29	Mon	Psalms 45-47; Romans 15:22-33
4/30	Tue	Psalms 48-50; Romans 16