



Intermediate Shabbat of *Pesach*

April 8, 2023

*Torah*: Exodus 33:12-34:26 Numbers 28:19-25

*Haftarah*: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14

*Ketuvim Sh'lichim*: Romans 6:1-11

*Shabbat shalom Mishpacha!* Last *Shabbat*, my message was about Yeshua's death on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Today, I am speaking about His resurrection. Some of you remember an old television show called *Dragnet*. The star was Detective Sergeant Joe Friday. His famous line was "just the facts, Ma'am." In detective work, the facts are important. Sergeant Friday didn't go beyond the facts, but in Bible study, we also must understand the spiritual message. Both "the facts" and the "spiritual message" are important and we will look at both today.

This past Wednesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023 was the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month *Nissan*, the day that the lambs were to be slain for Passover. ADONAI said to Moses: 3 *"Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb for his family one lamb for the household. 4 But if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor are to take one according to the number of the people. According to each person eating, you are to make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb is to be without blemish, a year old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You must watch over it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight."* (Exodus 12: 3-6 TLV). Verse 2 established that the month ADONAI was talking about was the month of *Nissan*, our current Hebrew month. That was the pattern which He established. The Passover lambs in Egypt died on *Nissan* 14. If Yeshua properly fulfilled *Torah*, and He did, He also would have to have died on *Nissan* 14. And, He did. To establish the facts about His resurrection, we have to look back at His death today.

This past Wednesday would have coincided with Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of *Nissan* in the year 30 CE. At about 3 PM on that day, Yeshua died on the stake for our sins. Years ago, I searched for Hebrew calendars that depicted the years of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the time in which Yeshua lived. I found two, one of which I had on an older computer version and it is now lost. But, the two calendars agreed on days and years. Knowing that according to Scripture, Yeshua had to die on 14 *Nissan*, I searched for that date, but not just for that date, but for 14 *Nissan* on a Wednesday. I searched from the year 26 to the year 34, but in that span, there was only one year in which 14 *Nissan* was on a Wednesday. It was the year 30 CE, the thirtieth year of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Here is the month of *Nissan* from that year.

**30 CE Nisan 3790**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	<b>14</b>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

In the year Hebrew year 3790, 14 *Nisan* was on a Wednesday. Our present Hebrew year is 5783. Yeshua died 1,993 years ago for our sins. But, He is coming back soon as our King and Messiah! The signs are unmistakable.

Yeshua died on Wednesday, 30 CE at about 3 PM and was placed in the tomb before sundown that same day. The Passover meal was to be eaten after sundown that evening, the 15<sup>th</sup> of *Nisan*. *Nisan 15*, was, and is an especially holy day, a special Sabbath. *6 On the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Matzot to Adonai. For seven days you are to eat matzah. 7 On the first day you are to have a holy convocation and you shall do no regular work.* (Leviticus 23:6 TLV). Both the first and seventh days of *Chag HaMatzot*, the Festival of *Matzah* are ADONAI's Sabbaths. If Yeshua was placed in the tomb just before sundown on Wednesday, it was then that our count-down to His resurrection from the dead began.

Can we take Yeshua's words about when He would rise from the dead literally or are they figurative, spiritual, words? That is what we have to decide. Sometime before Yeshua's death, a group of *Torah* scholars and Pharisees heard Him say that there was a coming judgment day, a day when every man would have to give an account of every careless word he had spoken. That's in Matthew 12. They asked Him for a sign about that judgment day, but He refused to give a sign and said: *39 ...., "An evil and adulterous generation clamors for a sign, yet no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 40 For just as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights"* (Matthew 12:38b-40 TLV). Yeshua prophesied His death and that He would be dead in the tomb for three days and three nights just as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights (Jonah 2:1). My belief is that He was being very specific about His resurrection when He said that (also in Luke 11), and He meant an actual three days and three nights, not some part of three days and nights. If He was placed in the tomb late Wednesday afternoon just before sundown, Thursday just before sundown would have been one day and one night. The same time Friday would be two days and two nights and then, Saturday, *Shabbat*, would be three days and three nights. That would mean that sometime before sundown on *Shabbat*, Yeshua rose from the dead and ascended to His Father. There is no direct evidence in any of the Gospels which tells us when Yeshua rose from the dead. ADONAI has left it for us to figure it out ourselves, a mystery, for now. Matthew wrote this: *1 Now after Shabbat, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Miriam of Magdala and the other Miriam came to look at the tomb* (Matthew 28:1 TLV). We are only told that when the women arrived on Sunday, the tomb was empty. Yeshua had risen sometime before.

Is it important when Yeshua died and when He rose from the dead? I would say yes! It is very important that we understand, because all of these things have to do with His

fulfillment of Scripture, Scripture which tells exactly how these events have to occur. And that is what we find regarding the Scriptural events of that Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread. Even though the High Priest was corrupt and in cahoots with Rome, he did carry out the events of the season according to Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23.

Three days and three nights means three twenty-four days and nights and there is evidence to support it. First, we know that to fulfill prophecy, Yeshua had to die on 14 *Nissan*, the day that lambs were to be slaughtered according to Exodus 12. And, He did, on a Wednesday, and was placed in the tomb before sundown. According to Leviticus 23, *Chag HaMatzot*, the Festival of *Matzah*, began at sundown, which was 15 *Nissan*. We read that a moment ago. The Passover meal was eaten that night with Yeshua in the grave. The Gospels tell us either directly or indirectly that the day after Yeshua's death was a *Shabbat*, a Sabbath. (Matthew 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, John 19:42). But, which *Shabbat*. There are two possibilities, either the weekly Sabbath or a special Sabbath, seven of which ADONAI has placed throughout the twelve months of the Hebrew calendar. Regarding the Festival of Unleavened Bread, ADONAI told Moses: *16 The first day is to be a holy assembly for you as well as the seventh day.* (Exodus 12:16a TLV). "Holy assembly" is translated from the Hebrew. מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, *mikra kodesh*, the same two words which ADONAI uses to describe the weekly Sabbath in Leviticus 23:3. From this, we know that a *Shabbat* was approaching, but which *Shabbat*? We aren't told specifically, but we are given a clue. The New International Version puts it this way: *31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath.* (John 19:31a NIV). The day of preparation is the day before a Sabbath. In Israel today, it is taken very seriously and even the stores close early on Friday in preparation for the seventh day Sabbath, Saturday. The NIV tells us that this was an especially important Sabbath, so we know that it wasn't the weekly Sabbath. Which Sabbath was it? The Tree of Life Version interprets it for us: *31 It was the Day of Preparation, and the next day was a festival Shabbat.* (John 19:31a TLV). It was a festival *Shabbat* of the festival which they were celebrating. That next day was the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread and according to Exodus 12, a Sabbath.

We are not told when Yeshua died, but we are told when the women went to His tomb. The accounts in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are not all the same, but they do not disagree. However, there is one Gospel account which gives more information regarding the days of the week. It is Mark: *1 When Shabbat was over, Miriam of Magdala, Miriam the mother of Jacob, and Salome bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Yeshua's body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they come to the tomb.* (Mark 16:1-2 TLV). The *Shabbat* referred to in verse 1 was the special Sabbath of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, 15 *Nissan*, which began at sundown Wednesday evening. When that *Shabbat*, Thursday, was over, they bought spices. They bought them on the next day, Friday. Then, the next day, Saturday, they observed the weekly Sabbath and on Sunday, the first day of the week, they went to the tomb. We also must consider the possibility that they bought spices on Sunday, a business day in G-d's calendar. But, did they?

We read a moment ago from Matthew: **<10>** *1 Now after Shabbat, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Miriam of Magdala and the other Miriam came to look at the tomb.* (Matthew 28:1 TLV). Other Bible versions agree with this translation and read: "after the Sabbath." But, that is not what the Greek text says. The Greek word, σαββάτων, *sabbaton* is plural. The English translation of Strong's online concordance translates it this way: "After then [the] Sabbaths,.." "After then Sabbaths." "The" is not in the text, but understood. Why is this word in the plural and to what Sabbaths is it referring? It's in the plural because

there were more than one. There are two, the first Sabbath of the Festival of Unleavened Bread on the 15<sup>th</sup> of *Nissan* and the weekly Sabbath, which would have been on the 17<sup>th</sup> of *Nissan* that year. There were two Sabbaths involved. After the first Sabbath on Thursday, the women bought spices and after the second Sabbath, the weekly Sabbath, the seventh day, they went to the tomb on the first day of the week, a Sunday.

We are not told specifically that Yeshua rose on the seventh day Sabbath, but the clues add up. One Sabbath when Yeshua and His disciples were walking through a field of grain, they began to pick the grain and eat it. Some Pharisees saw them and accused them of doing what was not permitted on *Shabbat*. Yeshua entered into a discussion with them about what is permitted on *Shabbat*, but He did not condemn His disciples. He allowed them to continue picking and eating the grain. What is permitted on *Shabbat* is not our discussion for today, but Yeshua's last statement to the *Torah* teachers and Pharisees is interesting. He said: 8 "*For the Son of Man is Lord of Shabbat*" (Matthew 12:8 TLV). We find this same event in Mark 2 and Luke 6 with Yeshua making the same statement in those verses. There is nothing in Scripture which tells us that Yeshua would rise on *Shabbat*, but I think it's a nice touch by ADONAI that the Lord of *Shabbat* would rise from the dead on *Shabbat*! What does Lord of the *Shabbat* mean? It obviously means that He has authority to interpret what can be done on the Sabbath, but doesn't it also mean that He as Creator, created the Sabbath? John 1 says: 3 *All things were made through Him, and apart from Him nothing was made that has come into being* (John 1:3 TLV). Colossians 1 says: 16 *For by Him all things were created—in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen, whether thrones or angelic powers or rulers or authorities. All was created through Him and for Him* (Colossians 1:16 TLV). Yeshua, the Lord of *Shabbat* is the Creator of *Shabbat*! Others may interpret the events of His crucifixion and resurrection differently. And, some of you do. In Yeshua's body, we are all free to do that and we honor the different opinions of others. There can be unity and love within His body without uniformity. We must learn how to go beyond our small differences to achieve the love for each other which Yeshua has commanded us to have.

The most important thing is that Yeshua did rise from the dead. If He had stayed dead in the tomb, He would have been just another dead person. But, because Yeshua rose and ascended to the Father, we can have our sins forgiven and the promise of eternal life. Because of what He did for us, when our earthly body dies, our spirit goes immediately to be with Him and eventually when Yeshua comes back for us, our body joins our spirit as a glorified body. In His death on Passover, Yeshua was and is "the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). If He had not risen from the dead, He could not have placed His own blood on the Mercy Seat of the Ark in the Heavenly Tabernacle. And, if He did not do that, if He did not place the *Yom Kippur* blood offering before the Father in heaven, then we are all still dead in our sins. But, He did rise from the dead. According to Hebrews: 12 *He entered into the Holies once for all—not by the blood of goats and calves but by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption* (Hebrews 9:12 TLV). Because Yeshua conquered death, He rose from being a lifeless human body. The living Son of G-d took His own blood and presented it to His Father, ADONAI, in heaven. By doing this, He paid the sin price forever for anyone who trusts in Him and His sacrificial death.

Can we believe in Yeshua's resurrection? He said we could, Scripture supports it, and we do. We believe it by faith, the same way we believe that the Bible is true. Certain *Torah* teachers and Pharisees challenged Him about driving the money changers and sacrifice

sellers out of the Temple. Responding, Yeshua said: 19 *“Destroy this Temple,”* ..., *“and in three days I will raise it up”* (John 2:19a,c TLV). He was speaking about the Temple of His body, another reference to His time in the tomb. We, His followers, believe without a shadow of a doubt, that Yeshua has been raised from the dead. But, at this time, many do not, including many Jews. There are many Scriptures in the *Tanakh* which speak to resurrection. David said: 10 *For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol nor let Your faithful one see the Pit* (Psalm 16:10 TLV). We believe this was a reference to the resurrection of Yeshua. Hosea prophesied: 2 ..... *On the third day He will raise us up, and we will live in His presence* (Hosea 6:2b TLV). Hosea believed in the resurrection. Job had an even greater revelation: 25 *“Yet I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end, He will stand on earth”* (Job 19:25 TLV). That’s amazing. Job saw all this in his spirit. He saw that his Redeemer was alive then, in his own day, and of course, Yeshua was. He even saw His life as a man on the earth. The more religious sects of Judaism believe in the resurrection of the dead and that they will be with the Messiah. Right now, they do not believe that Yeshua is G-d’s Son and the Messiah. They believe that the Messiah is a Jew, alive on the earth today, who will soon announce himself.

We are living in the days of this prophecy: 2 *“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of reeling to all the surrounding peoples when they besiege Jerusalem as well as Judah. 3 Moreover, in that day I will make Jerusalem a massive stone for all the people. All who try to lift it will be cut to pieces. Nevertheless, all the nations of the earth will be gathered together against her”* (Zechariah 2:3-4 TLV). We see Hamas shooting rockets from the south and their terrorists attacking and killing Jews throughout the nation. Now this week, during Passover, we have seen rockets fired from Lebanon by Hamas there. It’s also a political conflict. Russia is aligned with Iran and now Saudi Arabia is tending toward Iran. And, we don’t exactly know where China is in all this. The wicked of the world are besieging Israel today and almost all the nations are gathered against her. Our current government is a friend of Israel in some ways, but against her in other ways. ADONAI said that “all nations would be gathered against her.” We pray that our nation will stand with Israel, but it may not.

Those earlier verses are the preparation for this prophecy of Zechariah: 10 *“Then I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, when they will look toward Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son and grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for a firstborn”* (Zechariah 12:10 TLV). This is a picture of the “salvation of all Israel.” We are in that season, seeing the signs which lead up to that great event. The rabbis are looking for signs that they believe show the nearness of Messiah. Thirteen years ago during Israel’s terrible drought, someone asked Rabbi Dov Kook when the Sea of Galilee will again be full. He said that when the Messiah arrives, the Sea of Galilee will be full. Some of the rabbis even believed that the difficulty in forming a new government after three elections was a sign of the nearness of Messiah. We see today that the new government is now formed, but there is still political upheaval. Thirteen years ago, the rabbis also pointed out that two rabbis, Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri, the rabbi who had the name of the Messiah revealed to him as Yeshua and also the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, who proclaimed himself the Messiah, both predicted that Benjamin Netanyahu would be the State of Israel’s last prime minister prior to the Messianic Age and many of the ultra-Orthodox Jews continue to believe that.

Those of you who read my weekly emails know that I track the water level in the Sea of Galilee. After the water level falling for most of 2022 and early 2023, it began to rise again on February 5<sup>th</sup> this year. It has risen a little more than one foot since then and continues to rise. It is now about four feet from being full. Three years ago, it was just a few inches

from being full and then began to fall again. It is now getting some help from the Mediterranean Sea with desalinated water being piped in.

Is Messiah Yeshua at the door? I don't know, but do believe that He's closely approaching it. My interest in the water level of the Sea of Galilee has more to do with when we will receive the outpouring of ADONAI's Spirit than when Yeshua will return. I see the water level of the Sea of Galilee as a spiritual indicator of G-d's Spirit. Historically, ADONAI sent rain on the land of Israel in two stages. The early rains, the *Yoreh*, came in the fall and softened the ground for plowing. The latter rains, the *Malkosh*, came just before springtime to ripen the barley and later the wheat.

*Shimon Kefa*, Simon Peter, gave a powerful sermon on the Day of *Shavuot*, Pentecost, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Referring to the Holy Spirit being poured out on those who were speaking in tongues, he said: *16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: (Acts 2:16 TLV). Joel spoke about the restoration of Israel in chapter 2 and then about ADONAI's Ruach, His Spirit, being poured out on all flesh in chapter 3. The outpouring of the Spirit at the Temple Mount on Shavuot in the year 30 CE, about ten days after Yeshua ascended to His Father, can be looked upon as Yoreh, an early rain outpouring of the Spirit. But, in Kefa's day, the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the nation of Israel was not restored. It was under the control of Rome and only became an independent nation again in this century, in 1948 to be precise. So, we know that Israel's spiritual restoration according to Joel is still future, as is the malkosh, the latter rain outpouring of G-d's Spirit. We can understand the outpouring of the Spirit in the year 30 and in all the years up until now as the early rain, the Yoreh, which softened the spiritual ground in preparation for the outpouring of the latter spiritual rain, the malkosh, which will water the spiritual crop of people at the end of days.*

Some may ask, Why bother with all this detail? But, truth does matter and whether or not Yeshua died on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday and rose on a Saturday or Sunday does matter. None of us knows the complete truth, but we will learn it when Yeshua returns. But right now, many Jewish people are seeking truth regarding their Messiah. Even though they are looking for a human Messiah, ADONAI will point them in the right direction - to Yeshua. They know the Scriptures regarding the Passover lambs. And, they will eventually recognize that in order to be the Messiah, Yeshua had to die on Nisan 14 and not Nisan 15 or Nisan 16. And, they will mourn.

*Sha'ul prophesied: 25 For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes—that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; (Romans 11:25 TLV). Only G-d knows when the fullness of the Gentiles will be complete, but when it happens something else will happen. Sha'ul continues: 26 and in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer shall come out of Zion. He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. 27 And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins” (Romans 11:26-27 TLV). “The Deliverer shall come out of Zion” is not a reference to Yeshua's coming back from heaven. The Deliverer shall come out of Zion is a reference to Yeshua's death on the stake in Zion, Jerusalem, and His resurrection. He has already come out of Zion as we have just proclaimed in our Passover seder and in our message today.*

We are in the midst of a beginning revival, one slowly growing. But, I believe that one day soon it will begin to increase as Jewish revival breaks out. As *Sha'ul* prophesied: Yeshua made a covenant with them, the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31), a covenant which ADONAI made with physical Israel, the Jews. Yeshua's death on the cross cut the covenant on 14

Nissan in 30 CE for them and also for us Gentiles. Their mourning as for an only son, their repentance, will lead to His saving them. What might lead up to their repentance? Possibly the latter rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The coming salvation of “all Israel” will be a sovereign action by ADONAI. *Sha’ul* wrote: 26 ...and in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer shall come out of Zion. He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. 27 And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” (Romans 11:26-27 TLV). He said that the Deliverer Himself shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. I believe he was referring to this Scripture, Ezekiel’s prophecy: 24 “For **I will** take you from the nations, gather you out of all the countries and bring you back to your own land. 25 Then **I will** sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. 26 Moreover **I will** give you a new heart. **I will** put a new spirit within you. **I will** remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 **I will** put My Ruach within you. Then **I will** cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:24-27 TLV). There are seven “I wills.” ADONAI said: “I will do it.”

*Sha’ul* also said: 16 If the firstfruit is holy, so is the whole batch of dough; and if the root is holy, so are the branches (Romans 11:16 TLV). The branches are the re-grafted Messianic Jews and the grafted in believing Gentiles. And this great spiritual awakening among the Jews of the world will bring about an even greater revival of the people of the nations. Many unsaved, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, other religions and Atheists, will be saved. And then, Israel’s long awaited *Mashiach*, Yeshua, will return! This is the promise of His death and resurrection. *Sha’ul* said: 4 Therefore we were buried together with Him through immersion into death—in order that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4 TLV). We walk in newness of life as we await Him!

Through our Messiah’s love for us, we can now be members of G-d’s family and live holy lives while eagerly awaiting His return for us. Yeshua lives! He is coming soon! *Shabbat shalom!*