

Should New Covenant Believers Slaughter a Passover Lamb?

Discussion Format

Shalom, Seekers of Yahweh's Truth,

The following is a discussion that took place in December of 2005. It addresses the oft discussed topic in Sacred Name and Messianic circles concerning the validity of observing Passover by slaughtering a literal lamb. My hopes is that this discussion gives more insight to those who may not be persuaded one way or another. I also pray that this will further unify in the body of Messiah on this matter, and cause all of us to realize that our brethren, whichever way they believe, are seeking with open hearts and open minds. May we all seek Yahweh's will in much prayer, fasting, meditation, and study of His holy Word.

In Yeshua Messiah,
Matthew Janzen
770.860.0705 / www.ministersnewcovenant.org

PS: All names but my own have been replaced with a number. This was done so as not to offend anyone who may not wish for their personal name to be placed in such an article. The interest of the author is not to degrade anyone, but rather use the discussion as a tool for study of the subject.

Greetings #2,

Yes we keep the Passover just as commanded in Ex.12

Not only do we kill and roast the lamb, we also eat it with our shoes on our feet and our staff in our hand.

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to YHWH throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. (Exodus 12:4)

#1

So #1,

I guess that means that you don't believe that Yeshua is the Messiah?

Because he is the Passover Lamb, he fulfilled that and so if you kill the lamb during Passover this means you deny that Yeshua was the ultimate and final sacrifice necessary for the remission of sins.

I mean you can look that up easily in your Bible and I am sure many here will tell you that Yeshua is the Lamb. Hence why it is no need to kill a lamb any more during Passover. But considering what you have stated because I am guessing that would be moot since you obviously don't accept the validity of the Brit Chadasha (New Covenant Scriptures).

Oh and by the way, thanks for the verse you gave but notice it says to keep the feast throughout your generations... it doesn't say that will always have to be done by the sacrificing of a lamb.

Shalom,
#2

Shalom, All,

#2 stated:

So #1,

I guess that means that you don't believe that Yeshua is the Messiah?

Because he is the Passover Lamb, he fulfilled that and so if you kill the lamb during Passover this means you deny that Yeshua was the ultimate and final sacrifice necessary for the remission of sins.

- 1) How does killing a literal lamb at Passover make a person deny the spiritual Lamb of Elohim, Yeshua Messiah?
- 2) Yeshua is not only the Passover Lamb (John 1:29), he is also our rest (Matthew 11:28-30). Does that mean the Sabbath day is fulfilled now? Do we have to keep the Sabbath day?
- 3) The Passover was not a sacrifice for the remission of sins, nor was it commanded by Yahweh to only be done by a Levite priest.
- 4) I slaughter a lamb every year for Passover, instead of buying one from the Jewish market, and eating a lamb who's bones have been broken in disobedience to Yahweh's ordinance (Exodus 12:46). I've been doing this since 1998 and have not ever denied Yeshua as my ultimate sacrifice for sin.
- 5) Apostle Paul evidently did not consider sacrificing animals to be a denial of Yeshua, or else he wouldn't have done what he did in Acts 21:24, 26.
- 6) There is no doubt that sacrifices do not now, nor ever did, take away sin (Hebrews 10:1-4), but they did cleanse people as pertaining to the flesh (Hebrews 9:13), and were a way in which people worshiped and thanked Almighty Yahweh (Genesis 8:20-21).
- 7) We should not attempt to offer a sacrifice that only the Levite priests were commanded to offer, this would be akin to the strange fire of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-3). Any other sacrifice would be perfectly acceptable under the New Covenant. I see absolutely nothing that has abolished their observance.

Love you friends,
Matthew Janzen

Hi Matt,

Had you ever slaughtered an animal before? How do you do it?

How does it make you feel to befriend the lamb and then have to kill it?

What do your kids think about it?

I'm not saying that it is wrong, I just want to know what kind of experience it has been for your family and what kind of lesson you get from it.

#3

Shalom, #3,

You wrote:

Hi Matt,

Had you ever slaughtered an animal before? How do you do it? How does it make you feel to befriend the lamb and then have to kill it? What do your kids think about it? I'm not saying that it is wrong, I just want to know what kind of experience it has been for your family and what kind of lesson you get from it.

#3

- 1) Yes, I have slaughtered animals before. I've been killing a lamb for Passover every year since 1998, and I have also slaughtered a few goats for meat, and we always offer them to Yahweh in thanksgiving when we slaughter.
- 2) We basically kill the animal by cutting his throat without damaging the wind-pipe. If you cut the vein in the animals neck the animal dies pretty speedily.
- 3) It is very hard killing an animal. Especially the Passover lamb. My children and I go to buy a lamb prior to Passover, and he is ours for a while. We put him in a separate pen on Aviv 10 and make sure he is taken care of. It is sad to see him die on Aviv 14.
- 4) My children have never known anything different. They believe we can still offer up animal sacrifices to Yahweh in thanksgiving and worship because they've not been traditionalized like I was in the past, and as many are now. Sure, it's definitely sad for them, but I always teach them about Yeshua's death at Passover. My oldest daughter (8 now) always cries.
- 5) Just as the OT saints sacrificed animals looking toward the Messiah's death, we now sacrifice looking back to the Messiah's death. I look forward to the day when I can offer up more sacrifices to Yahweh than just the Passover lamb. I want to let Him know that I appreciate Him in the same manner as Noah (Genesis 8:21-22). No doubt, I can show Him I appreciate Him in other ways too (Honoring my Parents, not stealing, not committing adultery, etc.) but I can also worship him in offering up a sweet savor to Him, who is in heaven.
- 6) I normally do not discuss this with people in the world, nor newcomers to our local assembly, because people automatically turn you completely off. It is strong "meat" and is to be explained to people who are ready for it. However, I could not help but respond to the response given to #1; I feel it was very unfair.

In Yahweh,
Matthew Janzen

Shalom Matthew,

Thank you for sharing. I feel that if most people had to raise and slaughter their meat, they would be more thankful to Yah for the life.

#4

Hello Matthew, I will answer each of your questions below:

1) How does killing a literal lamb at Passover make a person deny the spiritual Lamb of Elohim, Yeshua Messiah?

Because Yeshua is the Passover Lamb. If you act like you need a animal lamb, then what need did you have for Messiah? And Yeshua was more than just a "spiritual lamb". He was an actual human sacrifice that symbolically represents the lamb. Hence why he is referred to as "The Lamb" in Scripture in certain areas. He became the lamb symbolically.

2) Yeshua is not only the Passover Lamb (John 1:29), he is also our rest (Matthew 11:28-30). Does that mean the Sabbath day is fulfilled now? Do we have to keep the Sabbath day?

If you already know Yeshua is the Passover lamb then you don't need to kill one. It's already been done. Of course we keep the Sabbath because the Sabbath was never fulfilled or said to have been over. On the other hand, when Yeshua made the FINAL sacrifice during Passover there was no longer a need for an animal. I Corinthians 5:7 - "Therefore cleanse out the old leaven, so that you are a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Messiah our Passover was offered for us."

3) The Passover was not a sacrifice for the remission of sins, nor was it commanded by Yahweh to only be done by a Levite priest.

Yeah, and I know what Passover is. Yeshua's death was the sacrifice, not Passover. But animals' blood was IN FACT used for atonement. And you already know this so why play dumb? (and no I am not saying you are dumb, I am saying stop pretending you are because it's obvious you are intelligent). I said Yeshua was the high priest. And he is. Nothing wrong with that statement.

4) I slaughter a lamb every year for Passover, instead of buying one from the Jewish market, and eating a lamb whose bones have been broken in disobedience to Yahweh's ordinance (Exodus 12:46). I've been doing this since 1998 and have not ever denied Yeshua as my ultimate sacrifice for sin.

The New Testament proves that Yeshua is our Passover Lamb. As I said above, if you know full well Yeshua the ultimate sacrifice for sin. There is no need for you to kill a lamb during the Passover. The feasts are a shadow of things to come. And Passover when Yeshua was slaughtered made those things come concerning the Passover lamb. Hence why Yeshua was without blemish (no sin), and killed at the same time the normal Passover lamb was to be killed. He was the ultimate sacrifice so there is no need to keep killing lambs for Passover anymore. Yearly, we should remember this time with the keeping of the feast with unleavened bread, wine, and the honoring of the LIVING Yeshua's sacrifice during Passover.

John the Baptist refers to Yeshua as "The Lamb", "Behold the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). 1500 years before that Israel understood that statement. In Isaiah 53 prophetically records the suffering the human lamb. "7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. 8 From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people realized that he was dying for their sins - that he was suffering their punishment? 9 He had done no wrong, and he never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. 10 But it was Yahweh's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and Yahweh's plan will prosper in his hands."

I am not suggesting that you verbally deny Yeshua, but one's actions can be an indirect denial of it, even if they don't realize it or think of it that way. Hence it is with Christians that keep Easter and Christmas... they don't think of it as a pagan day and think they are celebrating Yeshua when in fact they indirectly deny him by their frolicking with paganism. *(And no, I am not saying you are a pagan, it's obvious to me that your belief in Yahweh and Yeshua is sincere, I have read many of your posts. I am just making a point about intentions.)*

5) Apostle Paul evidently did not consider sacrificing animals to be a denial of Yeshua, or else he wouldn't have done what he did in Acts 21:24, 26.

Um.. once again you are saying things I didn't say. Sacrificing animals is not the denial. But sacrificing a lamb during Passover is an indirect denial if you say you believe in Yeshua. Acts 21:24, 26 has NOTHING to do with Passover whatsoever and you know that... so why you tried to use that like it was some proof for something is beyond me. As I said, Paul said Yeshua is our Passover Lamb in I Corinthians 5:7. The scriptures verses you gave have to do with purification.

There is no doubt that sacrifices do not now, nor ever did, take away sin (Hebrews 10:1-4), but they did cleanse people as pertaining to the flesh (Hebrews 9:13), and were a way in which people worshiped and thanked Almighty Yahweh (Genesis 8:20-21).

The fact remains Yeshua fulfilled the using of a lamb for Passover. And yes, the Torah sacrifices didn't ever actually take away the sins but they were in fact used as such. Yahweh said this : Leviticus 17:11 "...for the life of any creature is in its blood. I have given you the blood so you can make atonement for your sins. It is the blood, representing life, that brings you atonement."

And we know now from the New Testament Scriptures that Yeshua is the ultimate sacrifice. The only REAL cleansing is done through Yeshua, not some animal. The only one that can "cleanse" us is Yeshua. Either a person accepts that or they don't.

7) We should not attempt to offer a sacrifice that only the Levite priests were commanded to offer, this would be akin to the strange fire of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-3). Any other sacrifice would be perfectly acceptable under the New Covenant. I see absolutely nothing that has abolished their observance.

I am not saying that if you really just must kill an animal because you feel like you want to sacrifice to Yahweh is a negative thing. What I am saying is that since Yeshua is our Passover Lamb, hence why he is called THE LAMB OF ELOHIM, there is no logical reason to keep making that sacrifice when everything it stood for has been fulfilled in Yeshua. It's like saying, "Yeah, I know Yeshua died and all but it didn't mean what the Bible says it does, so I am going to keep killing Passover lambs." The blood of the Lamb has been spilled already once and for all

through Yeshua. It has been rubbed on the door posts of our hearts already.. and if one accepts Yeshua.. they understand his blood is why death will pass us. Death meaning eternal separation from Yahweh, some call it "Hell".

Shalom,
#2

Shalom #2,

Correct me if I'm wrong but does not Paul state in his letter that it does not make any difference on how you keep the feast but as long as you do keep it. I cannot remember the scripture that it is found in but I seem to remember the gist of it. I think that this was probably what the argument was about whether they were to keep the whole feast (slaughtering the lamb etc.) or just part of it. Paul stated that it did not matter as long as they remembered why they were doing it or something like that.

#5

Hi Matt,

Thanks for answering my question. I don't kill any lambs myself, but I do suspect that we are supposed to continue doing that. Yahshua replaced the sin sacrifice. The Passover lamb didn't atone for any sins as far as I can tell, and the first Passover is the only one that really accomplished anything. All the rest are basically a memorial of the first one.

I can see why you don't share the fact that you slaughter a Passover lamb very often because you have to put up with all kinds of grief from well meaning know it alls who talk to you like you are ignorant. Well, we are all learning, aren't we. Paul was once a well meaning know it all too as I recall, and in a flash, his whole perception of things was changed, so we should all be a little slower to judge each other.

Exodus 13:

12 that thou shalt set apart unto Yahweh all that openeth the womb, and every firstling which thou hast that cometh of a beast; the males shall be Yahweh's. 13And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break its neck: and all the first-born of man among thy sons shalt thou redeem. 14And it shall be, when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand Yahweh brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: 15and it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that Yahweh slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both the first-born of man, and the first-born of beast: therefore I sacrifice to Yahweh all that openeth the womb, being males; but all the first-born of my sons I redeem. 16And it shall be for a sign upon thy hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand Yahweh brought us forth out of Egypt.

I don't see how Yahshua's sacrifice replaced this either.

#3

Shalom, #2,

I hope that I did not upset you in anyway, that was not my intention. I will do my best to explain further why I feel the way I do below.

You wrote:

If you already know Yeshua is the Passover lamb then you don't need to kill one. It's already been done. Of course we keep the Sabbath because the Sabbath was never fulfilled or said to have been over. On the other hand, when Yeshua made the FINAL sacrifice during Passover there was no longer a need for an animal.

I Corinthians 5:7 Therefore cleanse out the old leaven, so that you are a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Messiah our Passover was offered for us.

The first sentence is an assumption based upon Yeshua being called the lamb of Yahweh. There is nothing in the Bible that says that since Yeshua is called the lamb of Yahweh, that means we should not slaughter a lamb at Passover.

As I pointed out Yeshua said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) By using your exact logic, one could teach that since Yeshua himself gives us rest, we longer are required to keep the Sabbath day, literally the "Rest day". Honestly, can you see my point?

I agree completely with you when you said we should still observe the Sabbath, but my point was on Matthew 11:28. There are many things in the Bible that are spiritual, but have an obvious literal counterpart. Their is a spiritual water that if we drink we will never thirst again (John 4:14) and their is a spiritual bread from heaven that we must eat of (John 6:51) but neither of these negate our partaking of literal bread and water for the nourishment and sustenance of our physical bodies.

You also wrote:

Yeah, and I know what Passover is. Yeshua death was the sacrifice, not Passover. But animals blood was IN FACT used for atonement. And you already know this so why play dumb? (and no I am not saying you are dumb, I am saying stop pretending you are because it's obvious you are intelligent). I said Yeshua was the high priest. And he is. Nothing wrong with that statement.

My point was that the Passover sacrifice was not one which was done to remit the sins of the people of Israel. Reading Exodus 12 will show this to be true. It was a deliverance sacrifice in obedience to the command of Yahweh, so that the Israelites would not have their firstborn's killed that night. I realize you know this, but I write for the sake of others who may be reading the posts. I think it was #3 that made the point about the first Passover was the one in which the lamb's blood was effective in not allowing the destroyer to come into the homes of the Israelites. All other Passovers, subsequent to it, were done as a memorial of the first one. Such would be the case with the Passover celebration in the wilderness in Numbers 9.

I realize that it was animals blood that was used in atonement for sins. However, animals blood never permanently took away sins (Hebrews 10:1-4) yet the OT saints still offered up sacrifices. Certain sacrifices had different reasons though. Noah's sacrifice (Genesis 8:21-22) certainly was

not one in which he was making an attempt to cleanse his sins, and then we have sacrifices of the firstborn of the flock and herd (Genesis 4:4; Exodus 13:12-13)

You also wrote:

Um.. once again you are saying things I didn't say. Sacrificing animals is not the denial. But sacrificing a lamb during Passover is an indirect denial if you say you believe in Yeshua. Acts 21:24, 26 has NOTHING to do with Passover whatsoever and you know that.. so why you tried to use that like it was some proof for something is beyond me. As I said, Paul said Yeshua is our Passover Lamb in I Corinthians 5:7. The scriptures verses you gave have to do with purification.

In Acts 21:24, 26 Paul was in on offering sacrifices at the fruition of a Nazarite vow for four men (Acts 21:23-24). If you read Numbers 6 concerning this type vow, one will see that the sacrifices offered at the end of the vow, upon the shaving of the head, included sacrifices for sin. If Paul could partake in sacrifices that were meant for sin, a cleansing of the flesh but not of the conscience (Hebrews 9:13-14) then a person ought to be able to kill a lamb at Passover, and neither in their mind nor actions be denying the one true Passover lamb, Yeshua Messiah. That was my purpose for using Acts 21. I think it makes a logical point.

You concluded by saying:

It's like saying, "Yeah, I know Yeshua died and all but it didn't mean what the Bible says it does, so I am going to keep killing Passover lambs." The blood of the Lamb has been spilled already once and for all through Yeshua. It has been rubbed on the door posts of our hearts already.. and if one accepts Yeshua.. they understand his blood is why death will pass us. Death meaning eternal separation from Yahweh, some call it "Hell".

I fully believe in Yeshua's death, burial and resurrection for the removal of my sins and also for declaring me innocent and holy in the sight of a Holy Creator, Yahweh. That is something I teach my children often. As the OT saints sacrificed animals (including the Passover) looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, I now (and others in the faith) sacrifice the Passover looking back to the Messiah. Every year it keeps me in great memory of what Yeshua did for the entire world. My children especially take it to heart, it allows them to understand and comprehend better as children about the death of Yeshua.

No doubt, the blood of Yeshua has been spilled and has been applied to the "door post of our hearts" to all those who have accepted him as Master and Savior. As I've said before, I do not see this to be a reason for discontinuing a memorial that Yahweh said reminded us of the deliverance of His people from Egypt, and now in turn reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice of His only begotten Son.

Your friend,
Matthew Janzen

First of all Matt let me say that you have not offended me at all. I do not let discussions like this offend me in the first place because I realize they are nothing more than opinions...and everyone has one. And most are worthless including my own.

I will say that while I can appreciate your love for Yeshua, your love for Yahweh and your OBVIOUS love for the commands of Yahweh, I don't agree that sacrifices still need to be made

today, and that includes killing a Passover lamb. I suppose I just see Scripture saying that Yeshua fulfilled sacrificial law when he died. To me Scriptures points out that he is the only atonement that is sure, not killing animals.

I do believe in the validity of the Law. And I do believe that Moral Law still stands in this age. But I believe Yeshua broke up sacrificial law when he died and while he was on earth he showed us the proper way of keeping Moral Law, and the Apostles furthered this when he died and went to be with his Father after his ascension. I believe in keeping the feasts, I believe in the Sabbath, and I believe the only way to Yahweh is through the Messiah, which is Yeshua.

I do have a question though: What of your brothers and sisters that don't make sacrifices? Meaning people that believe everything that you believe basically but don't kill animals as sacrifice. Do you think we are directly disobeying the commands of Yahweh and will suffer eternal damnation? Meaning thrown in Gehenna? Or do you think it's a personal choice issue?

In conclusion, I would like to say that you have definitely shown yourself as a true believer here toward me. You and I are the ones actually having this dialogue and you are the ONLY person that HAS NOT been rude, disrespectful, and crass in your comments toward me. And I certainly find that amusing among professed believers. That out of every person that commented toward me, the one that probably should have been most offended handled himself with the love of Yahweh. And I don't just mean in this thread either. There was a whole other thread opened up about this very subject and I am certain it's simply because of my opinion. Frankly, I wouldn't waste my time getting up in arms about some woman over the net comments... but to each his or her own I suppose.

Thank you for your kindness and showing the love of Yahweh even though you may not agree with me. You made some comments about what you teach your children, I can say if you teach your children this same attitude that you display here you are doing them a great service and I certainly hope you and your wife are well blessed because of it.

You, out of everyone here has actually convinced me that perhaps I should look at the sacrificial law idea again from another perspective. And I am willing to do that and I would be honored if you had any literature or something you have written on this subject that I could read via email. Let me know if you are willing.

Be blessed in all you do,

#2

Matthew,

In addition to wanting to know your reply to #2's question, "What of your brothers and sisters that don't make sacrifices? Meaning people that believe everything that you believe basically but don't kill animals as sacrifice. Do you think we are directly disobeying the commands of Yahweh and will suffer eternal damnation?"

I would also like to know if you obey the other aspects of Passover such as eating it with your loins girded, staff in hand, in haste, etc. Do you apply the blood to your doorpost? Do you roast it? Do you kill it at exactly 3:00pm? etc.

Shalom,
#6

Shalom #2 and #6,

I'm sorry I miss read the post last night I was just replying to something I had seen #2 write to Matthew and I should have been in bed asleep and not browsing this site.

One of the quotes was;

I am not suggesting that you verbally deny Yeshua, but one's actions can be an indirect denial of it, even if they don't realize it or think of it that way.

Like I said in a roundabout manner if you wish to keep the Passover feast as a child of Israel I cannot see that Yahweh will condemn you for this it is supposed to be an everlasting memorial to Yahweh's deliverance of Israel from Egypt.

Now if we were to start making sacrifices for sin and atonement that is totally different.

#5

Shalom Brethren,

Reading through this post I see where misunderstandings come from. Most of us were taught in the Christian realm that Our Messiah's death at Passover was the blood shed for our sins, so thus we don't have to slaughter a lamb. As it has been said here, the Passover lamb was never slain as an atonement for sin. Last year it really struck me at Passover why the lamb was slain. If we reread the passages... any home of the children of Yisrael, that had placed the blood on the doorposts, etc... was passed over by the death angel. It was not to save the lives of all inside... this specific command had to do with the firstborn. Our Messiah, is that firstborn. Yes through His blood we have remission of sins, but as the Passover Lamb, His broken body and shed blood, was symbolic of He being the firstborn, laying down His life for us. In that death, and ultimate resurrection, came the grace and favor of YHWH, that whoever truly believed on Him, would have everlasting life. No more death. I don't always have the best way to explain things... but perhaps if someone could touch more on the reason that lamb was slain at Passover....to the reason a lamb could be slain today showing that this lamb per household, was never a sin atonement?

Heb 11:28 Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

I do believe also though, that should someone simply continue to keep the Passover with the sprinkling of blood, that simple obedience to this command will not keep the destroyer away, rather it is through the blood of Yahushua that He has given us power against the destroyer. Hope some of this makes some sense to a brother to teach, rather than me a sis to share her thought on.

Blessings,
#7

Shalom, #2,

I feel that I should briefly address some of the things you wrote.

You said,

TO me Scriptures points out that he is the only atonement that is sure, not killing animals.

I am in full agreements with you here. The sacrifice of the Messiah is better than the animal sacrifices (Hebrews 9:23).

You also wrote:

What of your brothers and sisters that don't make sacrifices? Meaning people that believe everything that you believe basically but don't kill animals as sacrifice. Do you think we are directly disobeying the commands of Yahweh and will suffer eternal damnation? Meaning thrown in Gehenna? Or do you think it's a personal choice issue?

I believe that a person who has accepted Yeshua as his or her Messiah is required to obey the commandments of Yahweh (1 Yohanan 2:3-5; Revelation 22:14). This includes any commandments that are applicable to us under the New Covenant, as either males or females. Therefore, if there are commandments that include us partaking in animal sacrifices (Passover), and these are applicable to us, then for us not to observe them is disobedience to Almighty Yahweh.

Seeing I believe that the Passover sacrifice is still for us today, then I have to believe that those who do not observe it are in disobedience to Yahweh. Obviously, most everyone that is not keeping Passover this way, is doing so, not in direct defiance of Yahweh, but because they either (1) do not have any idea about it, or (2) they honestly think that it is not a requirement for them any longer because of the blood of Yeshua. Nevertheless, in my humble opinion, I believe such people are in ignorant sin.

Concerning *Gehenna* that is a question I sure do not like to be asked. I like to approach the issue on the basis of everyone doing their best to submit to and give honor to Almighty Yahweh. I do believe that sin separates us from Yahweh (Isaiah 59:2), but I do not feel comfortable placing eternal judgment on a person. Even Apostle Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 4:3-4, "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is Yahweh."

If Paul did not judge his own self (eternally) I do not think he would take it upon himself to judge others (eternally).

I do not believe, though, that the Passover sacrifice is a personal choice. I believe it is a command of Yahweh that is to be obeyed. It is not a suggestion, but a commandment.

You also wrote:

Thank you for your kindness and showing the love of Yahweh even though you may not agree with me.

I appreciate your kind words.

You then wrote:

You, out of everyone here has actually convinced me that perhaps I should look at the sacrificial law idea again from another prospective. And I am willing to do that and I would be honored if you had any literature or something you have written on this subject that I could read via email. Let me know if you are willing.

This paragraph is exciting to me! At the present time I have not written anything in particular on the subject, but I am moved now to do so. Please send an email to emjanzen@yahoo.com and as soon as I complete the essay, I'll send it to you.

Shalom,
Matthew Janzen

Shalom, #6,

You wrote:

In addition to wanting to know your reply to Missy's question, "What of your brothers and sisters that don't make sacrifices? Meaning people that believe everything that you believe basically but don't kill animals as sacrifice. Do you think we are directly disobeying the commands of Yahweh and will suffer eternal damnation?"

Please see my post before this one for my answer to this.

I would also like to know if you obey the other aspects of Passover such as eating it with your loins girded,

Yes. The meaning of this is with your belt on your waist, or in a broader sense, clothed and ready to depart.

...staff in hand,

Yes. I usually partake in the Passover with anywhere from 50 to 60 people every year. I am usually the only one who actually holds a staff, cut from a tree, while I eat the Passover.

...in haste, etc.

Yes. I recall this last Passover, that I kept telling my oldest daughter to try to eat quicker than she was. She is a slow eater!

Do you apply the blood to your doorpost?

Yes. While I do not believe that "the destroyer" (Exodus 12:23) is going to slay my firstborn if I do not apply the blood to my doorpost, I do not want to break any aspect of the memorial. Seeing it is a memorial (Exodus 12:14) we need to copy what went on at the first Passover, so as to memorialize it properly.

Do you roast it? Do you kill it at exactly 3:00pm? etc.

Yes, I roast it, whole (Exodus 12:8-9), and we kill it right around 3:00 p.m. I do not see where we have to kill it at exactly 3:00 p.m., but just "between the evenings" anytime after the sun starts its going down, between that time and sunset.

Your friend,
Matthew Janzen

Shalom all,

We don't sacrifice a literal lamb at Passover.

Remember the command:

Deuteronomy 16:5-7 Thou mayest not sacrifice the Passover within any of thy gates, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee: 6 But at the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the Passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt. 7 And thou shalt roast and eat it in the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose: and thou shalt turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents.

The initial Passover was killed by the children of Israel, but the memorial Passover was to be done by the priests, as we see in 2 Chronicles 35:6..

2 Chronicles 35:1-6 Moreover Josiah kept a Passover unto Yahweh in Jerusalem: and they killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of Yahweh, 3 And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto Yahweh, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now Yahweh your Elohim, and his people Israel, 4 And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son. 5 And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites. 6 So kill the Passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of Yahweh by the hand of Moses.

The priests had the duty of killing the Passover. The book of the law was just found (in its purest form) and this is how it was understood to keep the Passover. I would not be quick to dismiss it.

2 Chronicles 35:7 And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the Passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these were of the king's substance. 8 And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of Elohim, gave unto the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen. 9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for Passover offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen. 10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment. 11 And they killed the Passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them. 12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the

families of the people, to offer unto Yahweh, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen. 13 And they roasted the Passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people. 14 And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.

According to Josephus, the priests also were the ones slaying the Passover in the first century:

The Jewish War 6:423 So these high priests, upon the coming of that feast which is called the Passover, when they slay their sacrifices, from the ninth hour till the eleventh, but so that a company not less than ten belong to every sacrifice, (for it is not lawful for them to feast singly by themselves,) and many of us are twenty in a company.

Many times the common people tried to kill Yahushua by taking up stones to stone Him or even throwing Him off a cliff, but it was not to be. It was the High Priest who tore his clothes and sentenced Yahushua (our Passover Lamb) to death. And He indeed died at the ninth hour (Luke 23:44-46). To me, the message is clear: when we partake of His body, we are partaking of the Passover...killed in the place Yahweh chose, by the ones appointed to do it.

As for Matthew 11:28-30, Yahushua says that He will give us rest for our souls, but it doesn't say He is our Sabbath. But even if it did, is the Messiah being "our rest" really comparable to him being "our Passover Lamb"? If I said to you "Yahushua is our sin offering", is it really the same as saying "Yahushua is our peace"? I say no.

In His love & service,
#8

Greetings #8,

These are the verses that caused me to come to the conclusion that my family should be observing the Passover in the original way.

20 When YHWH thy Elohim shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after. 21If the place which YHWH thy Elohim hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which YHWH hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after. 22Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat of them alike. 23Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh. 24Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water. 25Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of YHWH. (Deuteronomy 12:20-25)

I am reluctant to turn away from clear, specific, instructive commands just because my "Reasoning" tells me that I no longer need to practice these things.

In a recent study about the Sabbath, I was reading an article written by the pope (The last one, not

the one in power now) where he writes that by reasoning we should understand that the "Sunday" sabbath in the natural fulfillment of the original seventh day Sabbath.

I think my own nature has a leaning toward this kind of fuzzy logic, so I tend to shy away from the "Reasoning" approach.

#1

Shalom, All,

Deuteronomy 16:5-6 reads:

Thou mayest not sacrifice the Passover within any of thy gates, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee: But at the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the Passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

This verse has been misunderstood by many well meaning brethren because of not taking the context into serious consideration. We must recollect that Moshe here is speaking to the nation of Israel on the 1st day of the 11th month in the 40th year of the wandering in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 1:3). Many of the instructions given to the Israelites in this "new moon sermon" were specifically to be carried out "in the land" Yahweh was going to give them, the land of Canaan. Deuteronomy 12:1 emphatically states:

These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which Yahweh Elohim of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.

What continues is a list of things for the children of Israel to do in the land Yahweh was giving them to possess. They were to destroy all the pagan places of worship (12:2), as well as destroy the heathen altars, pillars, groves, idols, etc. (12:3). Verses 5-7 of this chapter then read:

But unto the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: And there ye shall eat before Yahweh your Elohim, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein Yahweh thy Elohim hath blessed thee. {Deuteronomy 12:5-7}

Notice that the Israelites were told that when they entered the land, they were to seek out the place Yahweh chose out of all the tribes. This would be a central location, a location of worship and service for the children of Israel, towards Almighty Yahweh. Even their very tithes were to be brought to this place. Deuteronomy 12:8 then has Moshe telling them that they are not to do as they did at that time, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes. We often think of every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes is a bad thing, and certainly there are times in which it was mentioned with a negative connotation. Such is not the case here. The issue is that whilst in the wilderness, things were carried out differently than they would be when entrance into the land of Canaan was accomplished. Commentator Albert Barnes, in his *Barnes' Notes* states of Deuteronomy 12:8 the following:

Moses points out that heretofore they had not observed the prescribed order in their

worship, because during their migratory life in the wilderness it had been impossible to do so. During their wanderings there were doubtless times when the tabernacle was not set up for days together, and when the daily sacrifice Num. 28:3, together with many other ordinances, were necessarily omitted (compare Josh. 5:5). This consideration must be carefully borne in mind throughout Deuteronomy. It illustrates the necessity for a repetition of very much of the Sinaitic legislation, and suggests the reason why some parts are so urgently reiterated and impressed, while others are left unnoticed. Moses now warns the people that as they were about to quit their unsettled mode of life, God's purpose of choosing for Himself a place to set His Name there would be executed, and the whole of the sacred ritual would consequently become obligatory. The "rest and safety" of Canaan is significantly laid down Deut. 12:10-11 as the indispensable condition and basis for an entire fulfillment of the Law: the perfection of righteousness coinciding thus with the cessation of wanderings, dangers, and toils. {*Barnes' Notes on the Old Testament*, Electronic Edition STEP Files Copyright © 1999, Findex.Com. All rights reserved.}

Before Canaan land, the Passover was sacrificed first outside of the land of Canaan (Exodus 12) and then in the second year was sacrificed in the wilderness (Numbers 9) with no inclination that only the priests were allowed to offer the sacrifice. I believe it is safe to assume that the Passover was kept during every year of the 40 year wandering of the children of Israel, seeing we have concrete evidence that it was observed in the wilderness in Numbers 9. If it could be observed outside of the land of Canaan then, there is no reason why this would not be the same today. We are not in the rest of the land of Canaan, thus we keep the Passover as first prescribed in Exodus 12 and followed in Numbers 9.

Seeing that a quote was made of Flavius Josephus concerning the use of the Priesthood in sacrificing the Passover, I will make one quote from a historical source that implies that the heads of the households, even in the 1st century A.D. did indeed sacrifice the Passover, and not only the Priesthood.

...the Hebrews call in their native language, pascha, on which the whole nation sacrifices, each individual among them, not waiting for the priests, since on this occasion the law has given, for one especial day in every year, a priesthood to the whole nation, so that each private individual slays his own victim on this day. {*The Works of Philo*, translated by C.D. Yonge, THE DECALOGUE, XXX (159), pg. 532}

I personally believe we can ascertain the above information given by Philo, without even going to Philo, but I quoted him so as to give a historical reference in response to the one given by Flavius Josephus.

There were many sacrifices offered up prior to entering the land of Canaan and prior to a central place of worship. Such is the case with Abel (Genesis 4:4), Noah (Genesis 8:21-22), Abraham (Genesis 22:13), Ya'acov (Genesis 31:54; 35:14), and the Passover (Exodus 12). If the saints could legitimately offer up sacrifices, including the Passover, outside of the land of Canaan then (before entering a central place of worship) why should not we be allowed to now, seeing that we are not set up under a central "Jerusalem" now?

#8 also stated:

Many times the common people tried to kill Yahushua by taking up stones to stone Him or

even throwing Him off a cliff, but it was not to be. It was the High Priest who tore his clothes and sentenced Yahushua (our Passover Lamb) to death. And He indeed died at the ninth hour (Luke 23:44-46).

It seems the parallel here, trying to be made, is that only the Priesthood is allowed to offer up the literal lamb at Passover, thus the “anti-type” is that it was the High Priest that sentenced Yeshua to death. What we find in the Bible, however, is that it was the entire Jewish nation that sentenced Yeshua to death. Luke 23:1 speaks of a multitude leading Yeshua to Pilate, and Pilate did not find fault in him (Luke 23:4). The Jewish nation insisted from the start to release Barabbas (Luke 23:18), and insisted upon this at a later time that day as well, crying out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” (Luke 23:21). Therefore if there is an antitype to be seen here (which I’m not saying there is) it was the nation of the Jews that sentenced him to death, not merely the high priest.

Yes, Yeshua did die at the same time the Passover lambs died. He is indeed called “The Passover” in Scripture (1 Corinthians 5:7-8), and the lamb of Elohim as well (Yohanan 1:29). But seeing that there is nothing in these texts telling us this means we longer are required to kill a literal lamb at Passover, the argument is lacking in substantial proof.

He (#8) also wrote:

As for Matthew 11:28-30, Yahushua says that He will give us rest for our souls, but it doesn't say He is our Sabbath. But even if it did, is the Messiah being "our rest" really comparable to him being "our Passover Lamb"? If I said to you "Yahushua is our sin offering", is it really the same as saying "Yahushua is our peace"? I say no.

The word Sabbath, literally means “rest”. Technically, Sabbath is a transliteration and not a translation of the Hebrew word *Shabbat*. Had it been properly translated into our English Bibles, we would read something like, “The seventh day is the rest of Yahweh.” The point is still to be made then, that Yeshua said, “I will give you rest” and one can be for sure that there are folks in the religious world today that will use Matthew 11:28 as grounds for doing away with a literal rest day because of Yeshua’s words. Taking this approach we could do away with many literal things in the Scripture such as a literal father, literal bread, literal water, literal lamb, etc.

Love you friends,
Matthew Janzen

Shalom Matthew,

As an interesting side note, the futuristic Passover service described in Ezekiel does not mention a Passover Lamb for each household. Neither are evening sacrifices mentioned. Yahushua died at the time of the Passover and Evening sacrifice. See Ezekiel 45.

I looked up the context of the Philo quote and it appears that Philo was not correct (or at least scriptural) in his Pesach statements since he calls Pesach a "day of fasting". We also know that in the Torah each individual didn't offer his own sacrifice. In the Torah, Yahweh said that there should be one lamb for each household, and sometimes other households would join together with those that had a lamb. Maybe his hellenized mindset threw him off a bit. Josephus' mention of 1 lamb for 10 or more people seems more correct. At any rate, looking at the scriptures is certainly the best method of understanding these things.

If I understand you correctly, you see the commandments prohibiting the sacrificing as only being

applicable to those dwelling in the land of Israel with a temple or tabernacle standing. Therefore, these commandments do not apply to us.

You asked,

"If the saints could legitimately offer up sacrifices, including the Passover, outside of the land of Canaan then (before entering a central place of worship) why should not we be allowed to now, seeing that we are not set up under a central "Jerusalem" now?"

Years ago, I had an email discussion with a man who believed this as well. He did offer sacrifices to Yahweh and claimed that he was being just like Abraham, Noah and other patriarchs. Where might one draw the line with this? For instance, part of the feast of unleavened bread celebration:

Leviticus 23:7-8 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. 8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

And then the wave sheaf offering:

Leviticus 23:11-12 And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto Yahweh.

Of course, there are required sacrifices for other feasts as well. So I would be interested in knowing where you draw the line with this, and why.

The point I made with the High Priests sentencing Yahushua to death was to show that many times the common people tried to kill Yahushua but He always was able to escape or somehow prevent it. It was ultimately the High Priest's decision that Yahushua was guilty of blasphemy that finally brought about His death. The Apostles also regarded them to be at fault:

Acts 5:27-30 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey Elohim rather than men. 30The Elohim of our fathers raised up Yahushua, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

In this, we realize that while it was also the will of the people to slaughter Yahushua the Passover Lamb, but it required the actions of the priests. Even when they shouted "Crucify Him!", it was instigated by the priests:

John 19:6-7 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. 7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of Elohim.

Mark 15:11-14 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. 12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? 13 And they cried out again,

Crucify him. 14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.

Therefore, in addition to the other scriptures this does indicate the way Passover was expected to be observed in Israel with the priests playing a part of the role in offering the Lamb. To some, perhaps this is just "reasoning" which isn't based on scripture. But to me, it is being the "Berean" and seeking out the scriptures to see why Paul said Yahushua is "our Passover sacrificed for us". The salvation of Israel on that night of Passover and their trek into the Promised Land is often communicated as a picture of our salvation throughout the writings of the apostles. I believe the entire reason why Yahweh chose the time He did for the children of Israel to offer their Passover Lambs in the Torah was so that it would coincide with the timing of Yahushua's death.

In my mind we are "eating the Passover" when we partake of Him so I see no reason to look for a second lamb. Yahushua is our Passover, sacrificed for us. I want to always keep an open mind, but at this time I believe I am indeed keeping the command to eat a slaughtered Passover Lamb when I partake of Him, in the place Yahweh chose to slaughter the Lamb, and by those appointed in the Torah to offer sacrifices.

1 Corinthians 5:7b For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us:

In His love & service,

#8

Matthew wrote;

...Seeing that a quote was made of Flavius Josephus concerning the use of the Priesthood in sacrificing the Passover, I will make one quote from a historical source that implies that the heads of the households, even in the 1st century A.D. did indeed sacrifice the Passover, and not only the Priesthood.

...the Hebrews call in their native language, pascha, on which the whole nation sacrifices, each individual among them, not waiting for the priests, since on this occasion the law has given, for one especial day in every year, a priesthood to the whole nation, so that each private individual slays his own victim on this day. {The Works of Philo, translated by C.D. Yonge, THE DECALOGUE, XXX (159), pg. 532}

...Yes, Yeshua did die at the same time the Passover lambs died. He is indeed called "The Passover" in Scripture (1 Corinthians 5:7-8), and the lamb of Elohim as well (Yohanan 1:29). But seeing that there is nothing in these texts telling us this means we longer are required to kill a literal lamb at Passover, the argument is lacking in substantial proof.

Each individual Israelite or head of an Israelite household historically killed their own Passover lamb. This was true even in the days of Hezekiah. The priests in that day only killed the Passover for those that were unclean (2 Chr.30:17). The Mishnah confirms this practice as well. After the individual killed the Passover, the priests would pour the blood at the base of the altar. At this time in history, the blood was not applied to any doorposts.

1 Cor.5:7b says, "For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us:" Who sacrificed OUR

Passover for US? Yahweh - "...yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of Elohim, and afflicted...Yet it pleased Yahweh to bruise him; He has put him to grief:" (Isa.53:6b;10a). Was Messiah sacrificed as our Passover only for that Passover in which he died or for every Passover in the future as well? For every future Passover. Every year we are to observe Passover by bringing OUR personal Passover lamb before Yahweh. I do not believe we are to bring animal blood before Yahweh on Passover; blood that He did NOT sacrifice for us. In the past, we (Israel) brought such blood that we sacrificed ourselves, but now, we bring the lamb and the blood that Yahweh provided and shed for us. Yahweh provided the lamb. To bring anything less than what Yahweh provided is deficient. Under the New Covenant, we are not to eat animal flesh to fulfill Yahweh's command in Ex.12, but we are to eat the flesh of Messiah (figuratively). We are not to apply the blood of a carnal animal to our doorposts, but the shed blood of Messiah to our hearts. We are not to eat the lamb in haste in preparation for our impending deliverance, but we are to celebrate Passover with leisure as we look back at the deliverance that has been accomplished for us; not only our deliverance from Egypt, but our greater deliverance from slavery to sin.

Matthew, you said in another post that the Passover lamb was a "memorial" which is why we should offer it each year. You referenced Ex.12:14 to support that belief; "And this DAY shall be unto you for a memorial: . . ." The lamb is not the memorial, the day is. We are repeatedly told to remember the day Yahweh brought us out of Egypt. As I understand types and shadows, once they are fulfilled we live under the reality and do not continue to live under the shadow. Yahshua is the reality, the true Passover lamb. To remember Passover by offering an animal is to continue living under the shadow.

Shalom,
#6

Shalom, #8,

You wrote:

As an interesting side note, the futuristic Passover service described in Ezekiel does not mention a Passover Lamb for each household. Neither are evening sacrifices mentioned. Yahushua died at the time of the Passover and Evening sacrifice. See Ezekiel 45.

Ezekiel 45:17 mentions, "...in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel..." This would cover everything, including the offerings. If we only go by what is specifically mentioned then Shavuot, Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur, etc. would not be kept.

In addition to this, there are numerous sacrifices mentioned in Ezekiel 45, including sin offerings (vs. 17, 19, 22, 23). To say that the Passover sacrifice or the evening sacrifices are not specifically mentioned would not be properly exegeting the passage. If the Passover sacrifice was "done away" because Yeshua was our Passover, then why wouldn't the sin offerings be "done away" here too, seeing Yeshua was our sin offering? (Hebrews 10:12)

It is also quite possible that when Ezekiel 45:21 specifically mentions the Passover, he is mentioning the lamb, as the Hebrew word is *pesach*.

You continued:

I looked up the context of the Philo quote and it appears that Philo was not correct (or at least scriptural) in his Pesach statements since he calls Pesach a "day of fasting". We also know that in the Torah each individual didn't offer his own sacrifice. In the Torah, Yahweh said that there should be one lamb for each household, and sometimes other households would join together with those that had a lamb. Maybe his hellenized mindset threw him off a bit. Josephus' mention of 1 lamb for 10 or more people seems more correct. At any rate, looking at the scriptures is certainly the best method of understanding these things.

I definitely believe the Scriptures will give us sufficient information on this issue, but I just wanted to match your one historical quote with one of my own. Please allow me to explain Philo, as I do not believe he was advocating fasting on either the 14th or 15th of Aviv.

Just above the passage I cited in Philo, he writes, "...for the lawgiver refers to the term, the sacred festival of the new moon, which the people give notice of with trumpets, and the day of fasting, on which abstinence from all meats and drinks is enjoined..." Philo here, is certainly referring to the 7th new moon, *Yom Teruah* as well as the 10th day of the 7th moon, *Yom Kippur*. Scriptures are evident that there is only one day that Israel is commanded to fast, i.e. afflict the soul, and that is on the 10th day of the 7th moon (Leviticus 23:27). Philo, then does not go on to speak about this day of fasting being the day the Passover lamb is killed, but rather we have here something lost in the C.D. Yonge translation of Philo.

My Father-in-law owns the Colson's translation of Philo, based upon comparative texts, and the passage at hand separates the day of fasting, from the day the Hebrews call *pascha*. Philo, was not confused about this. At this time (early in the morning) I do not want to wake him up and get the translation, but I will later today, and post it for you.

I might also add that when Philo said that each individual among them slays his own victim that he had in mind that same thing you said when you spoke of each household slaying the lamb. Saying "each individual" he meant, "each individual household", and this is the point I was attempting to make. In Exodus 12 we have a clear indication that each individual (household) was in charge of slaying their lambs. If the lamb was too big for one household, the neighbors could partake with that particular household (Exodus 12:4) and I would assume that the heads of each household partook in some way to help in the slaughter.

You also continued by saying:

If I understand you correctly, you see the commandments prohibiting the sacrificing as only being applicable to those dwelling in the land of Israel with a temple or tabernacle standing. Therefore, these commandments do not apply to us.

I tried to explain this to the best of my ability in my post before this one, concerning the issues of Deuteronomy 12, 16 about only sacrificing in the place Yahweh placed His name. Your summary above is an accurate one portraying what I believe, but I urge anyone who hasn't read the explanation to read it.

You also stated:

Years ago, I had an email discussion with a man who believed this as well. He did offer sacrifices to Yahweh and claimed that he was being just like Abraham, Noah and other patriarchs. Where might one draw the line with this? For instance, part of the feast of unleavened bread celebration:

Leviticus 23:7-8 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. 8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

And then the wave sheaf offering:

Leviticus 23:11-12 And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto Yahweh.

Of course, there are required sacrifices for other feasts as well. So I would be interested in knowing where you draw the line with this, and why.

Both of the above verses are seen to be sacrifices which the Levite priests where specifically commanded to offer. Reading Numbers 28-29 will provide a commentary on Leviticus 23's "offerings by fire" and any other offerings mentioned in Leviticus 23, with the exception of the Passover. The Passover was never commanded to only be offered by the Priest.

Other sacrifices, like the ones Noah made (Genesis 8:21-22), and he was not a Levite, are acceptable. Noah was giving thanks to Yahweh in the way Yahweh desired to be worshiped. Also, the first man to ever be rejected (Cain) was rejected because he would not sacrifice an animal (Genesis 4:2-4; Hebrews 11:4).

You continued:

Therefore, in addition to the other scriptures this does indicate the way Passover was expected to be observed in Israel with the priests playing a part of the role in offering the Lamb. To some, perhaps this is just "reasoning" which isn't based on scripture. But to me, it is being the "Berean" and seeking out the scriptures to see why Paul said Yahushua is "our Passover sacrificed for us". The salvation of Israel on that night of Passover and their trek into the Promised Land is often communicated as a picture of our salvation throughout the writings of the apostles. I believe the entire reason why Yahweh chose the time He did for the children of Israel to offer their Passover Lambs in the Torah was so that it would coincide with the timing of Yahushua's death.

I do see your point on the parallel, even as I did before, that it was the chief priests who put Yeshua on trial from the "get go" so they had a primary hand in his death. As I said before as well, I am not trying to make a parallel out of this, I was just trying to show that the entire nation of Israel wanted Yeshua crucified. Inevitably, it was the Romans who literally killed him, but in the whole plan of things, it was Yahweh that slaughtered him as the lamb of Yahweh (Isaiah 53:4).

You ended by saying:

In my mind we are "eating the Passover" when we partake of Him so I see no reason to look for a second lamb. Yahushua is our Passover, sacrificed for us. I want to always keep an open mind, but at this time I believe I am indeed keeping the command to eat a slaughtered Passover Lamb when I partake of Him, in the place Yahweh chose to slaughter the Lamb, and by those appointed in the Torah to offer sacrifices.

1 Corinthians 5:7b For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us.

I have a hard time seeing this as I believe the Master's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20) is to be eaten in the same night Yeshua was betrayed (1 Corinthians 11:23), which is definitely not the time he was put to death on the tree. Yeshua did not die until around 3 p.m. the next day, the 14th day of Aviv. So when a person partakes of Yeshua's body and blood it is not even on the night of Passover. The Passover eating does not come until after the Passover is killed. If you believe Yeshua was killed at the same time the Passover lambs were killed then the eating of the Passover did not take place until the night after Yeshua was killed, but yet the wine and bread was partook of the night before Yeshua was killed.

At any rate, the fact that Yeshua is our Passover, once and for all time, proves nothing in regards to whether or not we should slaughter a literal lamb at Passover. As I said before, Yeshua is our rest, our water, our bread, but it does not do away with the literal counterpart. Yahweh is also our father and teacher, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't honor our literal fathers, as well as have teachers of the Bible.

The same type of reasoning being used here is the type of reasoning people use to not keep the Sabbath, or annual festivals. "They were fulfilled in Messiah" they say. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 has been used towards me to "do away" with the entire Feast of Unleavened Bread. People say, "We are keeping the feast of unleavened bread" when we put away malice and wickedness and walk in truth. That's what Paul meant when he said 'keep the feast'." Should we use the same reasoning to remove one aspect of the feasts?

Your friend,
Matthew Janzen

Shalom, #6,

You wrote:

Each individual Israelite or head of an Israelite household historically killed their own Passover lamb. This was true even in the days of Hezekiah. The priests in that day only killed the Passover for those that were unclean (2 Chr.30:17). The Mishnah confirms this practice as well. After the individual killed the Passover, the priests would pour the blood at the base of the altar. At this time in history, the blood was not applied to any doorposts.

Good point concerning 2 Chronicles 30:17, I had forgotten about that passage. I looked it up in my KJV, I most normally read out of, and I had written beside the verse, "Heads (of household) normally killed".

I'm not sure about the part you mention concerning the blood on the doorpost. I don't see anything in 2 Chronicles negating the blood upon the doorpost.

You also wrote:

1 Cor.5:7b says, "For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us:" Who sacrificed OUR Passover for US? Yahweh - "...yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of Elohim, and afflicted...Yet it pleased Yahweh to bruise him; He has put him to grief:" (Isa.53:6b;10a). Was Messiah sacrificed as our Passover only for that Passover in which he died or for every

Passover in the future as well? For every future Passover. Every year we are to observe Passover by bringing OUR personal Passover lamb before Yahweh.

Yes, Yeshua is our Passover, meaning that it is by his blood that Yahweh does not eternally kill us.

Yes, it was Yahweh that "smit" him.

The Messiah was sacrificed not only for us on the Passover he died, but he is our Passover, forever. He is the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and the ultimate sacrifice for everything else as well, and, yes, we are to bring our personal Passover lamb, Yeshua, during Passover every year. This is obviously not done literally, but in remembrance of his sacrificial death. I have no disagreements with anything you've stated here.

I do not believe we are to bring animal blood before Yahweh on Passover; blood that He did NOT sacrifice for us. In the past, we (Israel) brought such blood that we sacrificed ourselves, but now, we bring the lamb and the blood that Yahweh provided and shed for us. Yahweh provided the lamb. To bring anything less than what Yahweh provided is deficient.

Yet, Yahweh has commanded us to kill a lamb of the first year at Passover (Exodus 12:3-6) and nothing you said about Yeshua negates this command. Never does Yahweh tell us that because an ultimate lamb has been offered (Yeshua) it negates killing a literally lamb as a memorial of leaving Egypt as well as a remembrance of Yeshua, the lamb of Yahweh.

You are correct in saying that anything less than Yeshua is now deficient in Yahweh's eyes, but that point would be for anyone who didn't believe Yeshua was the lamb of Yahweh. I believe Yeshua is the lamb of Yahweh, so I am bringing Yeshua at every Passover I observe, it's just that I also do as Yahweh commanded in Exodus 12.

You continued:

Under the New Covenant, we are not to eat animal flesh to fulfill Yahweh's command in Ex.12, but we are to eat the flesh of Messiah (figuratively). We are not to apply the blood of a carnal animal to our doorposts, but the shed blood of Messiah to our hearts. We are not to eat the lamb in haste in preparation for our impending deliverance, but we are to celebrate Passover with leisure as we look back at the deliverance that has been accomplished for us; not only our deliverance from Egypt, but our greater deliverance from slavery to sin.

The flesh of Messiah is not to be eaten on Passover night. The Master's Supper is to be eaten the night of Yeshua's betrayal (1 Corinthians 11:20-23), not the night of Passover, that is to be much observed, that comes the following night.

You make it sound so awful by saying "carnal animal" but Yahweh's loves animal sacrifices. They were the reason He said He would never flood the earth again (Genesis 8:21-22). He commanded them and chastised Israel for not bringing them (Isaiah 43:22-24). Of course, they are secondary to the sacrifice of Yeshua, but that's not the issue here. The issue is that Yahweh has commanded us to kill a lamb at Passover, and no one wants to obey His command. How do you think He feels?

Also, there is no reason why we cannot remember our spiritual deliverance from sin, and our physical deliverance from Egypt as well. There is no reason why we cannot seriously look to

Yeshua's sacrifice on the night he was betrayed with bread and wine, and then the following night recognize the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt, by doing what Yahweh has commanded.

You then concluded by saying:

Matthew, you said in another post that the Passover lamb was a "memorial" which is why we should offer it each year. You referenced Ex.12:14 to support that belief; "And this DAY shall be unto you for a memorial: . . ." The lamb is not the memorial, the day is. We are repeatedly told to remember the day Yahweh brought us out of Egypt. As I understand types and shadows, once they are fulfilled we live under the reality and do not continue to live under the shadow. Yahshua is the reality, the true Passover lamb. To remember Passover by offering an animal is to continue living under the shadow.

My exact statement was, "Yes. While I do not believe that "the destroyer" (Exodus 12:23) is going to slay my firstborn if I do not apply the blood to my doorpost, I do not want to break any aspect of the memorial. Seeing it is a memorial (Exodus 12:14) we need to copy what went on at the first Passover, so as to memorialize it properly."

It is "this day" that is to be kept as a memorial, but does that mean we just remember the day when it rolls around by doing nothing? If that were the case we wouldn't have to eat bitter herbs or unleavened bread either, we could just remember the day without them. Clearly, what is meant by Exodus 12:14 is "this day" with all it's "trimmings" so to speak. Yahweh is saying that everything he is telling us to do for Passover is to be done in the future as a memorial. In other words, the first Passover had to do specifically with the Israelites leaving Egypt, and the firstborns being slain. All subsequent Passovers to that, no one literally left Egypt, and no firstborns were killed, but we still observe the ordinances of the Passover as a memorial to the first one. It doesn't just mean, let the day go by in remembrance while doing nothing.

Concerning the statements you make on shadows, I do not see it that way. There is nothing in Scripture insinuating that just because Yeshua became our spiritual lamb, that means a literal lamb should not be killed. Even Paul understood there was nothing wrong with sacrifices, as he partook in them in Acts 21. If Paul could partake in sacrifices that concluded a Nazarite vow (which included a sin offering) why can't we slaughter a lamb for a meal at Passover?

I realize there are certain sacrifices and even laws we cannot keep in the time in which we live. We are not under a theocracy, so that keeps us from enacting Yahweh's judgments or cities of refuge, etc. No one can trace their lineage to Levi, and the priesthood has currently been transferred to Melchizedek, so the Levite sacrifices aren't presently being done. However, why would we not want to partake in something that has no basis for being done away with? They offered sacrifices under the Melchizedek priesthood before, in Genesis, why not now?

Love you friend,
Matthew Janzen

Shalom Matthew,

We partake of the Passover (Yahushua) on the 15th since Yahushua was offered on the 14th 'between the evenings' (the ninth hour). This also is more in line with Josiah's Passover which was offered late on the 14th. I would view Yahushua's statements "do this in remembrance of me" and "do as I have done to you" as indicators of what they would be expected to do the following evening after the Passover was offered. However, I don't have time to discuss the 14th/15th issue

at this moment.

Regarding Ezekiel, there are a number of differences in the offerings given in Ezekiel as compared to the Torah. I did a comparison several years ago:

DAILY OFFERINGS:

Torah:

- * 2 male lambs of the first year, one for the morning burnt offering and another for the evening burnt offering.
- * 1/10th ephah of fine flour mixed with 1/4th hin of pressed oil and 1/4th hin drink offering.

Ezekiel:

- * 1 lamb of the first year as morning burnt offering. No evening offering mentioned.
- * 1/6th ephah of fine flour & 1/3 hin of oil with the lamb.

SABBATH OFFERINGS:

Torah:

- * 2 lambs of the first year for a burnt offering
- * 2/10ths ephah of fine flour mixed with oil with its drink offering

Ezekiel:

- * 6 lambs without blemish along with as much as he wants to give for the grain offering
- * 1 ram without blemish along with 1 ephah grain offering
- * 1 hin of oil for each ephah of grain offering given

NEW MOON OFFERINGS:

Torah:

- * 2 young bulls without blemish as a burnt offering with 3/10ths ephah fine flour mixed with oil and 1/2 a hin of wine for each bull
- * 1 ram without blemish as a burnt offering with 2/10ths ephah fine flour and 1/3rd hin of wine
- * 7 first year lambs without blemish as a burnt offering with 1/10th ephah fine flour mixed with oil and 1/4 hin of wine for each lamb
- * 1 male goat as a sin offering

Ezekiel:

- * 1 young bull without blemish with 1 ephah grain offering and 1 hin of oil
- * 6 lambs without blemish with as much grain offering as he wants for each lamb, though 1 hin of oil is to be offered for each ephah.
- * 1 ram without blemish along with 1 ephah grain offering and 1 hin of oil.

Passover:

Torah:

- * Each household brings 1 lamb of the first year to be sacrificed at the place Yahweh chooses.

Ezekiel:

- * 1 bull offered as a sin offering for the prince and for all the people of the land.

I can't say that I am sure why Yahweh made these changes to the offerings, but it is evident that

there are changes and that it is quite probably related to what Yahushua has done. It appears that one of those changes involves how Passover is observed. In my mind, the feasts have always been observed by Yahweh's people but as we can see from this example, the exact way in which they are observed is subject to change per Yahweh's desire.

On the offering of the Passover Lamb, how can you offer it without defiling it? We read that it was against the Torah for a person to partake of the Passover Lamb while he was unclean:

Numbers 9:1-14 And Yahweh spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, 2 Let the children of Israel also keep the Passover at his appointed season. 3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it. 4 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the Passover. 5 And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that Yahweh commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel. 6 And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the Passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day: 7 And those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of Yahweh in his appointed season among the children of Israel? 8 And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what Yahweh will command concerning you. 9 And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, 10 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the Passover unto Yahweh. 11 The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 12 They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it. 13 But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the Passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of Yahweh in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin. 14 And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the Passover unto Yahweh; according to the ordinance of the Passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.

Numbers 19 mentions a person defiled by the dead body of a man was unclean for at least seven days and he defiled anything he touched. Therefore, there would be some who were not able to be clean for the slaying and eating of the Passover. In many instances, the only way to be cleansed from a fleshly defilement is to offer some kind of animal sacrifice. Since you agree that those cleansing sacrifices are only to be done by a Levite, how do you become physically cleansed so that you can eat the physical Passover Lamb without sinning against Yahweh? As you mentioned before, the Passover in Numbers 9 was not a Passover kept in the land of Israel so the precept here would need to apply to everyone.

After reviewing 2 Chron 30:17, it does seem to indicate the people normally killed the lambs. And I can see where this would fit since the people were also responsible for killing Yahushua the Messiah. I had previously thought that 2 Chron 30:17 spoke of the Levites slaughtering the Passover because of an insufficient number of cleansed priests. But verse 18 helps to clarify who the unclean were. However, as John mentioned the blood was sprinkled on the altar by the priests rather than it being placed on the doorposts of their homes. Thus, the priests (literally with blood on their hands) were involved in the offering of the Passover Lamb. These verses in 2 Chron 30

also further illustrate that it is wrong to slay or eat the physical Passover while being unclean and it was for that reason the Levites needed to take the place of the common people. The Levites (assistants to the priests) were used to bring the Passover Lamb to the priests because the people would have otherwise defiled the offering while bringing their lambs to be "sanctified unto Yahweh". Eating the Lamb was still a transgression against Yahweh but slaying it and offering it up while being unclean was a more serious offense since the temple, the altar and blood of the Lamb would have been defiled.

With love in His service,
#8

Shalom, #8,

I apologize that I've not responded sooner than now, but I sometimes find it hard to find time for every thing "on the table". I appreciate the discussion, as well as the kind spirit you portray in what you write. I would like, however, to address a couple of things you wrote.

SUBJECT 1: You had written:

We partake of the Passover (Yahushua) on the 15th since Yahushua was offered on the 14th 'between the evenings' (the ninth hour). This also is more in line with Josiah's Passover which was offered late on the 14th. I would view Yahushua's statements "do this in remembrance of me" and "do as I have done to you" as indicators of what they would be expected to do the following evening after the Passover was offered. However, I don't have time to discuss the 14th/15th issue at this moment.

I partake of the Passover on the 15th as well, I just see the Master's Supper and the Passover as two separate events. The Apostle Shaul admonished us to keep the Master's Supper on the same night that Yeshua was betrayed (1 Corinthians 11:20-23). Each year I participate in drinking wine and eating bread (and also literal foot washing) at the beginning of the 14th of Aviv. The next day (on the 14th) I slaughter a lamb for Passover, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs at the beginning of the 15th.

My point for bringing this up in the first place was because of you using the argument "The Messiah is now our Passover, therefore we do not have to kill a literal lamb, but partake of him through the cup and the bread." I was showing how that partaking of Yeshua through the cup and bread was not done on Passover night, but the night before the Passover. I've got some CD teaching sermons on this subject if you are ever interested. I realize that there are many spheres and we could both spend ample amount of time discussing why we believe the way we do.

SUBJECT 2: You then mentioned the differing offerings according to the Torah juxtaposed to the book of Ezekiel. I've got no problem at all with Yahweh choosing to differ on the subscribed offerings in the future. His thoughts are above mine, and He has the right to do as he pleases. Either He is going to change the prescribed offerings *or* we are missing something we have not seen yet in the Scriptures.

Your first point on Ezekiel was that you felt the Passover was not mentioned, and this may have had something to do with the sacrifice of Yeshua fully replacing it. I pointed out that many other offerings were mentioned, even sin offerings, and therefore I think the point that you made was inadequate in the fact that blood sacrifices were spoken of in Ezekiel 45. This was even to the point of offerings for the purpose of removing sin or transgression (Ezekiel 45:22-23). If

Yeshua's sacrifice removed the Passover in Ezekiel 45 (because he is the Passover), why didn't his sacrifice remove the sin sacrifices of Ezekiel 45, seeing he is our sin sacrifice? (Hebrews 10:12)

SUBJECT 3: You also wrote:

On the offering of the Passover Lamb, how can you offer it without defiling it? We read that it was against the Torah for a person to partake of the Passover Lamb while he was unclean: Numbers 9:1-14...

Numbers 19 mentions a person defiled by the dead body of a man was unclean for at least seven days and he defiled anything he touched. Therefore, there would be some who were not able to be clean for the slaying and eating of the Passover. In many instances, the only way to be cleansed from a fleshly defilement is to offer some kind of animal sacrifice. Since you agree that those cleansing sacrifices are only to be done by a Levite, how do you become physically cleansed so that you can eat the physical Passover Lamb without sinning against Yahweh? As you mentioned before, the Passover in Numbers 9 was not a Passover kept in the land of Israel so the precept here would need to apply to everyone.

I think that you've made a fairly good point here, but allow me to interject a few thoughts into this.

Exodus 12 gives no inclination that anyone in the land of Egypt, of the people of Israel, refrained from killing the Passover because of an uncleanness. Out of all those thousands of people, surely some of them had become unclean by way of a dead body, yet they were presumably able to keep the Passover without the aid of a red heifer's ashes. This would be akin to the age in which we live. Furthermore, the Levitical priesthood is not active in this day and time (Hebrews 7:12) so we are most likely exempt in having to cleanse ourselves from a dead body in exactly the same fashion that Numbers 19 speaks of. We should do everything we can possibly do in obedience to what this passage speaks of, but anything not in operation cannot be accomplished by us in this current age.

There were some people who partook in the Passover otherwise than prescribed, that is, they partook in a unclean state. Consider 2 Chronicles 30:15-20:

And they killed the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were put to shame, so that they sanctified themselves, and brought burnt offerings into the house of Yahweh. They took their accustomed posts according to the law of Moses the man of Elohim; the priests sprinkled the blood which they received from the hand of the Levites. **For there were many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves;** therefore the Levites had to kill the Passover lamb for every one who was not clean, to make it holy to Yahweh. For a multitude of the people, **many of them** from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, **had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, "The good Yahweh pardon every one who sets his heart to seek Elohim, Yahweh the Elohim of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness."** And Yahweh heard Hezekiah, and healed the people. {RSV}

We, like those mentioned above, are in a restoration period in re-learning how to keep the Passover properly. It is very likely that Yahweh is giving us a grace period seeing that (1) the

Levite Priesthood is not active under the New Covenant, and (2) the truths of Yahweh have been lost for a long while and are being restored in these last days. We should accomplish things the best that we know how, and the best that we are able. In this case, if we have to be cleansed by the red heifer and Levite priest, we must pray the “Hezekiah prayer” for pardon from Yahweh until such time that we are able to accomplish the cleansing according to the manner prescribed in Numbers 19 - if it is in actuality still applicable today.

Your friend in Yahweh,
Matthew Janzen
