

## **What to Do? What to Do?**

I want you to pause for a moment and imagine as we are going through this challenging time of a worldwide pandemic how you would respond if you were not a believer in Yeshua. I don't usually do "what ifs" or hypotheticals, but I am breaking my own rule here because it is important to realise what you have during this challenging time.

How would you be responding if you did not know Yeshua?

### **DO NOT PASS GO UNTIL YOU STOP FIRST!!!**

Try to imagine what that may look like as we are now, by executive order of the Governor not permitted to meet. A Pastor in Tampa, Florida was arrested for having a church service this past Sunday. Your rights are being subordinated in the name of "the greater good for the community" This is the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution.

Amendment I.

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

What the Federal Government won't address is given to the States to handle. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment:

*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*

As our rights as a people are suspended, is this a preview, a test case to justify later actions taken by our Government as they respond to another "emergency"? I put quotes around this word, not minimising what is happening now, but pointing to an event wrapped up and presented as an emergency in order to justify the prohibition of our God given rights of Life and Liberty which includes the freedom of religion.

Do you remember a time not so long ago where the response to a national emergency prompted a response where churches were flooded with people in search of hope, in search of answers. This moment was 9/11 and I was a fairly new believer. Yes, your Rabbi at one time was a "babe in Messiah"

As a believer, I had a better understanding of what was happening. I heard those who were not believers and their take on our nation's attack. I also heard many endtime messages as we had just come out of Y2K. Needless to say, nearly 20 years has brought even greater clarity and understanding to Adonai and His message. This is further emphasised by what He conveyed to Isaiah...

[Isa 55:8](#) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," says Adonai.

[Isa 55:9](#) "As high as the sky is above the earth are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

So, as we are now firmly in the throws to the response of Covid-19, I am reminded of Psalm 23...

**Psa 23:1** [*A psalm of David:*] Adonai is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

**Psa 23:2** He has me lie down in grassy pastures, he leads me by quiet water,

**Psa 23:3** he restores my inner person. He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name.

**Psa 23:4** **Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me.**

**Psa 23:5** You prepare a table for me, even as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil from an overflowing cup.

**Psa 23:6** Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life; and I will live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.

Adonai through Isaiah conveys to us...

**Isa 59:1** Adonai's arm is not too short to save, nor is his ear too dull to hear.

Some will take this verse or another verse such as Matthew 7:7 - 8

**Mat 7:7** "Keep asking, and it will be given to you; keep seeking, and you will find; keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

**Mat 7:8** For everyone who keeps asking receives; he who keeps seeking finds; and to him who keeps knocking, the door will be opened.

On their own, isolated from the context of verses preceding or following them, They are most certainly verses that convey hope. Yet, there are conditions to these promises. If you continue on in Isaiah, Adonai's ability to save is based on the following...

**Isa 59:2** Rather, it is your own crimes that separate you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he doesn't hear.

**Isa 59:3** For your hands are stained with blood and your fingers with crime; your lips speak lies, your tongues utter wicked things.

**Isa 59:4** No one sues with just cause, no one pleads honestly in court, they trust in empty words and say worthless things; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

**Isa 59:5** They hatch viper eggs and spin spiderwebs; whoever eats their eggs dies, and the crushed egg hatches a snake.

**Isa 59:6** Their webs are useless as clothing, their deeds are useless for wearing; their deeds are deeds of wickedness, their hands produce violence.

**Isa 59:7** Their feet run to evil, they rush to shed innocent blood, their thoughts are thoughts of wickedness, their paths lead to havoc and ruin.

**Isa 59:8** The way of shalom they do not know, their goings-about obey no law, they make devious paths for themselves; no one treading them will ever know shalom.

A litany of offences that separate us from Adonai. Yet even in spite of all these offences what does Adonai do...

**Isa 59:16** He saw that there was no one, was amazed that no one interceded. Therefore his own arm brought him salvation, and his own righteousness sustained him.

**Isa 59:17** He put on righteousness as his breastplate, salvation as a helmet on his head; he clothed

himself with garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in a mantle of zeal.

**Isa 59:18** He repays according to their deeds — fury to his foes, reprisal to his enemies; to the coastlands he will repay their due;

**Isa 59:19** in the west they will fear the name of Adonai, and likewise, in the east, his glory. For he will come like a pent-up stream, impelled by the Spirit of Adonai.

**Isa 59:20** "Then a Redeemer will come to Tziyon, to those in Ya`akov who turn from rebellion." So says Adonai.

**Isa 59:21** "And as for me," says Adonai, "this is my covenant with them: my Spirit, who rests on you, and my words which I put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth or from the mouth of your children, or from the mouth of your children's children, now or ever," says Adonai.

So, Adonai's arm is not too short to save if we return to Him. He will return and bring forth a revival of His people that will be unlike any revival of the past in that this revival will lead to as Sha'ul says "life from the dead" Resurrection.

**Rom 11:15** For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead!

Likewise Matthew 7:7 - 8, what is the key verse that offers us this authority to even believe in such a promise?

We are to seek the Kingdom...

**Mat 6:33** But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Mat 6:34** Don't worry about tomorrow — tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough tsuris already!

In seeking the Kingdom we are to be persistent, we are to "keep on keeping on" so to speak.

What do these two aspects (Isaiah 59 and Matthew 7) have in common?

One word – PASSOVER!!!

All the messages in Scripture point to Yeshua – THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD!!!

Therefore Passover is the connective tissue that brings us together with Yeshua.

The message conveyed by Adonai to Israel when they were in the throes of bondage, absent of any liberties. (Could we be heading in that direction as we speak?)

In the throes of bondage Adonai conveys to Moshe...

**Exo 6:5** Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Isra'el, whom the Egyptians are keeping in slavery; and I have remembered my covenant.

**Exo 6:6** "Therefore, say to the people of Isra'el: 'I am Adonai. **I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their oppression, and redeem you with an outstretched arm and**

**with great judgments.**

**Exo 6:7** I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am Adonai your God, who freed you from the forced labor of the Egyptians.

The basis for the four cups of wine / grape juice during the Seder. A covenant that brings forth Adonai's Liberty.

I bring you to this point because we are coming into the Passover Season. This Shabbat is Shabbat Ha Gadol (The Great Shabbat), the last Shabbat before Passover. This year, Shabbat Ha Gadol also happens to fall on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan. The day that begins the Passover Season with the selection of the Passover Lamb and its separation from the herd. I had much planned for this Shabbat, including a message that I would rather convey in person rather than in writing.

So this Shabbat is a time of preparation, bringing us into the time when the Passover Lamb would have been sacrificed. This would include Yeshua as well. For His death occurred prior to sunset just as the lambs were to be killed at dusk, prior to evening.

Even though we will not be able to have our congregation seder on April 11<sup>th</sup>, Passover still goes on. Nothing can stop this time from occurring nor can you be stopped from honoring it yourself. The Seder is more of a home gathering, so for now, we will do so in smaller numbers, but just as with the Parsha, we are connected when we are all doing it together, no matter where we are.

Something else I wanted to reveal during our seder was our revised Passover Haggadah. I have added more for additional context. As many of you know, I have been in the process of writing a book about Passover, so I have had Passover on the brain for the better part of three years.

You can fully prepare your home for Passover. Pages 6 & 7 offers preparation information for both your home and your seder. When to begin will depend on how much you have to do in preparing. The primary challenge is removing the leaven from your home. This would include vacuuming, dusting, etc...

There is hope for a congregational seder. No other Moad (Appointed Time) has a second opportunity built into Adonai's Word. A second opportunity when you couldn't observe it the first time. This second opportunity further conveys just how foundational and important Passover truly is.

We read in B'midbar (Numbers) 9:

**Num 9:9** Adonai said to Moshe,

**Num 9:10** "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'If any of you now or in future generations is unclean because of a corpse, or if he is on a trip abroad, nevertheless he is to observe Pesach.

**Num 9:11** But he will observe it in the second month on the fourteenth day at dusk. They are to eat it with matzah and maror,

**Num 9:12** they are to leave none of it until morning, and they are not to break any of its bones — they are to observe it according to all the regulations of Pesach.

**Num 9:13** But the person who is clean and not on a trip who fails to observe Pesach will be cut off from his people; because he did not bring the offering for Adonai at its designated time, that person will bear the consequences of his sin.

**Num 9:14** If a foreigner is staying with you and wants to observe Pesach for Adonai, he is to do it according to the regulations and rules of Pesach — you are to have the same law for the foreigner as for the citizen of the land.' "

Keeping in mind we have neither come in contact with a corpse nor have been travelling, yet it is Adonai's desire that if we are unable to partake in the Passover Lamb we have another opportunity to do so. In that we are able to partake in the Passover Lamb Yeshua always, we still have an opportunity to come together and remember all that Adonai has done. Notice that this provision is specifically for His people, both the citizen and the foreigner residing together. All who desire, having been circumcised of the heart have this opportunity.

Notice that this is only for the 14<sup>th</sup> day when the Lamb is to be brought. This does not apply to the Moad of Matsah. There are still seven days to honor for which you are to do in your home. Likewise, this does not change the counting of the Omer and thus Shavuot. All remain the same.

So, in order for you to be fully prepared for this season, here is a link to downloading our Passover Haggadah.

[http://www.shalommaine.com/downloads/Messianic\\_Passover\\_Haggadah.pdf](http://www.shalommaine.com/downloads/Messianic_Passover_Haggadah.pdf)

And a link to our updated Counting of the Omer document with daily readings thus preparing you for Shavuot.

[http://www.shalommaine.com/article\\_index\\_pdf/Counting\\_the\\_Omer.pdf](http://www.shalommaine.com/article_index_pdf/Counting_the_Omer.pdf)

Therefore, our opportunity to do so would be May 9<sup>th</sup>. (The 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup>) day of the second month. This is our second opportunity. For some reason should we not be able to do so, I have a third and fourth option but will share them with you at the appropriate time.

So, be about the business of Adonai and prepare for this most hopeful time, for which there is no greater hope given to us than Passover.

**Php 4:1** So, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown, my dear friends, keep standing firm in union with the Lord.

**Php 4:2** I beg Evodia and I beg Syntyche to agree with each other in union with the Lord.

**Php 4:3** I also request you, loyal Syzygus, to help these women; for they have worked hard proclaiming the Good News with me, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers whose names are in the Book of Life.

**Php 4:4** Rejoice in union with the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice!