

Passover in Your Home

Cathy Wilson

When I first joined the staff of Chosen People Ministries, I didn't see why I should have to give "Messiah in the Passover" presentations in various churches and Bible study settings as a part of my ministry. "Maybe they would make an exception for me," I thought. "After all, I'm a Gentile! I never celebrated Passover. Why would I begin to commemorate this feast or teach others the ways in which Jesus fulfills the Passover?" But, my questions faded quickly once I began to understand the importance of Passover and the ways in which Jesus is present in the celebration of this holiday.

I am a Gentile believer in Jesus, but I have been grafted into the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1–3; Eph. 2:11–22). God tells Abraham that all the families of the earth will be blessed through the Messiah who will come through Jewish lineage. I have been personally blessed through the Promised One of Israel, the Jewish Messiah Jesus. The Jewish festivals are an important part of the Old Testament, and though Gentile believers are not required by covenant to observe them, I have chosen to better understand these holidays by celebrating them with my family—especially the Passover. This has already brought incredible enrichment to my life, and I am hoping that you will engage with these great festivals and find the same spiritual blessings I have enjoyed.

As I began to journey through the Scriptures, I asked the Lord, "What is the importance of the Passover festival in relation to Your plan for the world?" After months of intensive Bible study, the Lord began to answer my question. I began to understand the weighty implications of Passover in God's plan of redemption! And my family has been celebrating the Passover as fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah every year since my journey began. May I give you a few steps to take to begin your pilgrimage with the Passover?

Prayer

How does a Gentile go about understanding and even hosting a Passover Seder? These questions can only be answered through prayer. Ask God to give you direction and an increased burden to begin the adventure of taking hold of your Jewish roots in Jesus. The Apostle Paul, who was Jewish, uses the illustration of an olive tree to explain this magnificent truth to the Gentile Christians in Rome, who were unaware of how deeply rooted their faith was in the Old Testament and that they were now grafted into covenants and promises God gave to the children of Israel.

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. (Rom. 11:17–18)

This does not mean that Gentile (non-Jewish) believers have replaced the Jewish people, which is a false notion the Apostle warns us against by encouraging Gentile Christians to have a humble attitude. But what a joy it is to realize that in the Messiah, both Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus share a rich faith heritage, of which Passover is a vital part.