



And He will lift up a standard for the nations,
and will assemble the banished ones of Israel,
and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the
four corners of the earth. Isaiah 11:12

RESCUE | RETURN | RESTORE



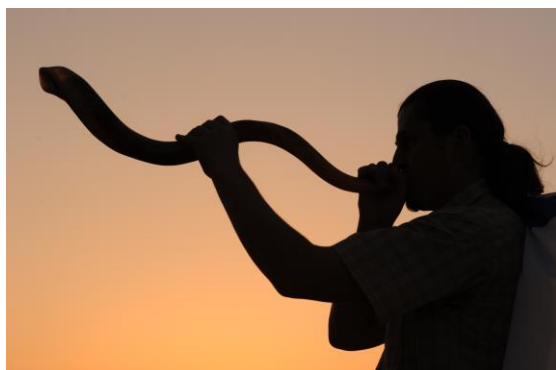
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Passover, Aliyah and the Nations

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

For thousands of years The Holy One of Israel was known by His reputation as the God who delivered His people from Egypt. At the time of the first exodus the nations of the world marveled at the defeat of Egypt's army and the miraculous deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery. The word quickly spread that it was by the strength of their God that the kingdom of Pharaoh had been left in ruins.

God instituted the Feast of Pesach or Passover to be a perpetual reminder of His deliverance. He instructed His people to never forget what He did for them. *It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'"* So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. (Exodus 12: 25-27)



Later at Mount Sinai, Moses received the code of conduct that this newly gathered nation and all of God's children would be expected to live by. Central to this code was what we now call The Ten Commandments. Deliberately God did not begin by introducing Himself as the creator of the universe even though He was uniquely qualified to make such a claim. But rather God said; ***"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:2-3)*** Thus God forever connecting Himself to His mighty acts and to a particular people.

Here is the key; God used the miracles of the first Passover to declare who He was and to demonstrate His sovereignty over all of the Egyptian gods. Resulting in many nations being drawn to Israel by His powerful reputation. Later, Yeshua (Jesus) reinforced His Father's reputation by using the Passover to illustrate God's sovereignty even over death. Thus Yeshua connects and continues to declare who his Father is by referring to His mighty acts and drawing many people to Israel. Paul says of the nations; *that at that time you were without the Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)*

In the first century the followers of Yeshua (Jesus) continued this tradition. Firstly, when Stephen makes what will be his last address, he speaks of God in these terms: *He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years. (Acts 7:36)* Then, as Paul addressed the men of Israel and all who feared God in Antioch, he said: *The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. (Acts 13:17)* Lastly Jude writes: *But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. (vs.5)*

Since their first arrival in the land the people of Israel have lived through two dispersions. The first time has become known as the Babylonian captivity, from which they returned to the land seventy years later. Then in the first and second century A.D. the people of Israel would be scattered for the second time after the Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and subsequent Jewish revolts. Thus, at the time it appeared to the world that God had forsaken His people. ***‘These are the people of the Lord and yet they have gone out of His land’.*** (Ezekiel 36:20b)

The reputation of The Holy One of Israel was challenged by the nations yet remained constant for thousands of years. He was still the God who brought them out of Egypt and He made it clear through His prophets that even if the people of Israel were scattered throughout all the nations of the earth, His plan would not be thwarted. Tragically, first the nations and the Jewish people would suffer in horrific fashion and it would appear that all hope was lost. Yet, God had already revealed something amazing to the prophet Jeremiah over 2700 years ago. He said:

“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. (Jeremiah 16:14-15)

I am personally awestruck by God’s faithfulness to His people and the consistency in which He illustrates it. Once again by linking to the exodus from Egypt the language of this prophecy beautifully demonstrates that the same God who performed all these miracles of the past is the God who is still performing miracles today. Today we’re not forced to look as far back as the exodus from Egypt but rather to the relatively short history of the modern aliyah and to the events unfolding right before our eyes.

A quick review reveals that the final exodus began with a small trickle in the mid to later 1800’s. Then in 1948 came the rebirth of the modern state of Israel. Coupled with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the floodgates for the final exodus had truly opened. This past year we witnessed another surge in the aliyah due to the war in Ukraine and the rise in anti-Semitism around the world.

Do you see the connection? Once again God has proven His sovereignty over all of creation and demonstrated to the nations that He is The King of the Universe. **The beauty of this plan for us is that the nations today have the same opportunity to walk with Israel as those who came along side of her when they left Egypt.**

Let He who has eyes to see and ears to hear, see and hear what the sovereign Lord is doing before nations. We have a unique opportunity to demonstrate our faith by coming along side of Israel today. Together we can do that by serving them in this hour of the final exodus and demonstrating that their God reigns!