



Remembering The Redemption Process

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro



When God gave Moses and Aaron the instructions for the First Feast of Passover He said the following; “Speak to the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. (Exodus 12:3) “So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance”. (Exodus 12:14) Remembering to keep the Feast forever was stressed by God because of course He knows the harm that is caused when His children forget that He is the author of their deliverance.

The lamb was considered one of the Egyptian’s deities. *In order for the people of Israel to begin their spiritual and psychological liberation before their physical one, they needed to act out of faith and courage. ... they were asked to place the blood of that sacrifice on the lintel. Yet this was not done on the inside nor was the blood gathered in a bowl and placed on the Seder table as a sign. G-d did not need to see the blood on the door. No door or wall would keep their actions from him. It was the Egyptian masters who needed to see the blood. It was the Israelites who needed to have the courage to place it on the outside. Their ability to act in faith was “a sign” for them that were capable of much more than they believed they were capable of. It was that act of faith and courage that was the sign for G-d to pass over. {1}*

Therefore, God's instructions were very specific and purposeful. *Instead of gathering as a nation in the Tachrir square in Cairo to celebrate and declare their impending release, every family was told to go into their family home, close the door and rejoice. That was the beginning of the building block that would form the social framework of this nation, the focus on the family. {1}*

Thus a nation was born. Then hundreds of years later when Yeshua (Jesus) ate his last supper with His disciples, he told them when they retell the Passover story from that day forward that they must remember His role in the Father's ongoing redemption plan. It would be from this family, from this nation that the redemption story would reach the world.

Last month Jewish people all around the world celebrated the eternal memorial of Passover. What is so important about remembering? The Baal Shem Tov taught that *"Forgetfulness leads to exile. Memory is the source of redemption". ... "After thousands of years of wanderings and persecution many of our brothers and sisters have forgotten where they came from and where they are meant to be. Yet, thankfully, Hashem declares that He is aware of the pitfalls and dangers of exile. He understands why His people will become like sheep wandering in the wrong pastures. He then declares in the book of Ezekiel that He will ultimately bring them home."*

"As a shepherd seeks out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are separated, so will I seek out My sheep; and I will deliver them out of all places whither they have been scattered in the day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them upon the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the habitable places of the country. (Ezekiel 34:12-13)

"We have begun to witness that deliverance of the wandering flock in our days". ... "Rabbi Nachman Kahana of the old city of Jerusalem taught, what was for me, a soul changing truth. He taught that every one knows that when one is called up for an Aliyah to the Torah, his name is called out as for example "May Isaac son of Abraham come up to the Torah". Why then he declared are we not aware that when someone comes on Aliyah to this land it is because in the heavens his or her name was called out as well? What we are to learn from this is that if any of our readers still living in exile feel that call and beckoning, they must act upon that feeling forthwith. The time is now as it is clear that your name is being called up in the heavens. {2}

Many of the people Ezra International helps never had the opportunity to celebrate and remember the deliverance of their ancestors from Egypt. But what they will now forever remember is their deliverance from the lands of the north and any of the other countries they've been living in. We have the awesome opportunity and privilege to be the messengers of the good news that The Holy One of Israel is faithful and He hasn't forgotten them.

Everyone is on a journey and I would like to remind us all;

When we focus on the destination and not the voyage, on the goal as opposed to the process of reaching that goal, we inevitably focus on the blessing rather than on the One who is the source of all blessing and we miss the whole point" {3}

The point is we have a role to play in the process of world redemption and the restoration of all things. The return of the Jewish people back to the land of promise is a great present day miracle. A miracle that anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear can be a part of. We simply have to remember that God is faithful to His promises. That He is the author of this miracle and remember He desires our participation in the process.

You participate when you give to Ezra International. You become a part of the great process of restoration and redemption. Remember, you can make a difference!

- {1} CELEBRATING A PROMISE, Moshe Kempinski
- {2} ALIYAH JOURNEYS, Moshe Kempinski
- {3} THE HEART OF A PEOPLE, page 22 - Moshe Kempinski