

The Spring holiday season is a very busy time for those in today's Messianic movement, beginning with *Purim*, continuing to the week of Passover and Unleavened Bread, and then culminating with *Shavuot* or Pentecost. This broad season is one of the most demanding for Messianic people, not only as it concerns the many things to celebrate and reflect upon, but also as we strive to exhibit a positive testimony to both the Jewish and Christian communities: to Jewish people remembering the Passover and deliverance of Ancient Israel from Egypt, and to Christians memorializing the death and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

The *Messianic Spring Holiday Helper* is a valuable compilation of resources designed to assist you, your family, and your Messianic fellowship for this season. We have included a wide selection of articles discussing the different salvation historical themes from the Spring season. The significance of *Purim* is addressed. The role which the Passover and the Exodus play, and how they relate to our redemption in the Messiah, is described. We go into great detail discussing the Last Supper, and the death and resurrection of the Messiah. We consider what it means to observe *Shavuot* as a time for both the giving of the Torah (Law) and the Holy Spirit. We offer a fair-minded and loving way to communicate to those who observe an Easter holiday often separated from anything in the Tanach or Old Testament. A selection of FAQs on the Spring holidays and the common traditions associated with them has been provided.

Let the *Messianic Spring Holiday Helper* be a resource of great blessing to you during this sacred season!

MESSIANIC

SPRING HOLIDAY HELPER

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edited by Margaret McKee Huey

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Messianic Spring Holiday Helper

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Abbreviation Chart and Special Terms

The following is a chart of abbreviations for reference works and special terms that are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

Special terms that may be used have been provided in this chart:

ABD: <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>	EJ: <i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i>
AMG: <i>Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament</i>	ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)	Ger: German
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament	GNT: Greek New Testament
Ara: Aramaic	Grk: Greek
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)	HALOT: <i>Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Koehler and Baumgartner)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)	HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
b. Babylonian Talmud (<i>Talmud Bavli</i>)	Heb: Hebrew
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.	HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
BDAG: <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)	IDB: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>
BDZ: <i>Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon</i>	IDBSup: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement</i>
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.	ISBE: <i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i>
CGEDNT: <i>Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words</i> (Barclay M. Newman)	IVPBC: <i>IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)</i>
CGL: <i>Cambridge Greek Lexicon</i> (2021)	Jastrow: <i>Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature</i> (Marcus Jastrow)
CHALOT: <i>Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Holladay)	JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)	JETS: <i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)	KJV: King James Version
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition	Lattimore: <i>The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore</i> (1996)
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls	
EDB: <i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>	

LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
 LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
 LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
 LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
 LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
 LXX: Septuagint
 m. Mishnah
 MT: Masoretic Text
 NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
 NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
 NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
 NEB: New English Bible (1970)
 Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
 NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)
 NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
 NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
 NIV: New International Version (1984)
 NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)
 NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
 NKJV: New King James Version (1982)
 NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
 NLT: New Living Translation (1996)
 NT: New Testament
 OT: Old Testament
 PME: Practical Messianic Edition of the Apostolic Scriptures
 REB: Revised English Bible (1989)
 RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
 t. Tosefta
 Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
 Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
 TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
 TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version (2014)
 TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)
 TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
 UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition
 v(s). verse(s)
 Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
 Vul: Latin Vulgate
 YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

Introduction

"These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD's Passover. Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, "When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord for you to be accepted; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. . . It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places"" (Leviticus 23:4-11, 14b, NASU).

One of the most exciting things which is happening in this present season of spiritual renewal, as the Messianic movement grows and expands, is the restoration of the appointed times of the Lord for *all* of His people! His festivals are being recognized by Believers all around the world to be special seasons in which all who follow the God of Israel should actively participate! It is wonderful to hear the reports of how the Father is restoring the truths found in being obedient to His Instruction, as we observe and remember our spiritual heritage in the Scriptures of Israel, and consider His plan of salvation history in a very real and tangible way.

Perhaps the most recognizable of the appointed times of the Lord, given to His people in the Torah, occur in the Spring. Anyone who is familiar with the Bible's account of redemption knows about the Exodus and the giving of the Ten Commandments. The plagues dispensed upon Ancient Egypt, and God's deliverance of the Israelites via the Passover lamb and through the Red Sea, are paralleled in the

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Apostolic Scriptures by the sacrifice of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah at Golgotha (Calvary), and the final atonement which He has provided—vindicated by His resurrection from the dead. In the past several decades (1990s-present), evangelical Protestant Believers have been exposed to the Passover *seder* in significant numbers, and are embracing it as a very meaningful and significant part of their faith. This has helped to expand a great deal of the Messianic movement, perhaps more than anything else—as **born again Believers really want to learn to do something which Jesus did!**

To help you and your family during this special season, we have included a variety of important resources on how to deal with your participation in the Spring holidays. We have included teachings on Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread, what to do about Easter, and *Shavuot* or Pentecost. They address the importance of remembering both the Exodus and the resurrection of Yeshua, and how you can properly commemorate these events with your family, focusing on the truths of the Scriptures. We have included articles on the often overlooked holiday of *Purim*, which precedes the Passover season by a month. Common issues and controversies which can arise during the Spring holiday season—both externally *and* internally—are also addressed, as fairly as possible.

Our family believes that the restoration of the Spring holidays is a blessing to us! We, who are to walk as Messiah Yeshua walked, must reach out to others in love at this time when the Father is restoring His appointed times to His people. Yeshua taught that others would know who His disciples were by the love which they would have for one another (John 13:35). We encourage you to love your family and friends in such a way concerning these feasts that they will be drawn toward you, and not repelled. Invite your family and close friends to your home, **to join you** for your Passover *seder*, or to your Messianic congregation or fellowship for a real hands on, educational experience. As you purchase various kosher items for your Passover *seder*, you will likely encounter Jewish people who do not yet know Messiah Yeshua, and this will be a unique testimony to them of your obedience to the God of Israel and the honoring of His commandments.

Dear friends, it is only through our unconditional love for our evangelical brothers and sisters that one day they will want to know what we know about walking like the Messiah. One day they will want

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to know why we have become thoroughly Messianic, and what they can learn from us. Likewise, by Jewish people witnessing Messianics obeying the statutes of God's Torah, could they possibly be provoked to consider the claims of the good news, and recognize Yeshua as Israel's Messiah.

Let us rejoice in the true understanding that Yeshua not only actively participated in the Spring feasts of the Lord, but that He was indeed the Passover Lamb Himself! Let us be a positive witness to all we encounter during the Spring holiday season.

Chag Sameach!
Margaret McKee Huey

Messianic Spring Holiday Helper



A Summarization of Purim Traditions

Margaret McKee Huey and J.K. McKee

The holiday of *Purim* is a relatively minor festival in the Tanach (Old Testament), yet it portrays a very important story which all of God's people need to understand. Having been dispersed into Babylonian exile in 585 B.C.E., the Jewish people found themselves under Persian rule. While many found their new Persian rulers more tolerant than the Babylonians, the Jews were still a minority and were often subject to harassment and persecution. In the Book of Esther, King Ahasuerus' (or Xerxes') grand vizier, the evil Haman, devised a plot to kill the Jews when he was not worshipped by Mordecai. But Ahasuerus' new wife, the Jewess Esther, was placed in just the right position at just the right time to see that this scheme did not come to pass. Instead, Haman was executed using the very means which he intended to use against the Jews.

As can be imagined, a great sense of relief engulfed the Jewish people in Persia when Haman's plans were thwarted. God's people were preserved from mass genocide. Esther 9:20-28 summarizes how the festival of *Purim* was instituted by Mordecai to celebrate the Jews' deliverance from Haman: