

Juneteenth – Father’s Day - 2026

We have two very important celebrations this weekend! Juneteenth and Fathers Day! Juneteenth National Independence Day and also known as Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. It became a federal holiday in 2021. CZS has been honoring and celebrating Juneteenth since 2007.

Juneteenth commemorates June 18 and 19, 1865. June 18 is the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. On June 19, 1865, while standing on the balcony of Galveston’s Ashton Villa, Granger read the contents of “General Order No. 3”:

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.”

That day has since become known as Juneteenth, a name coming from a portmanteau of the words June and teenth like nineteenth and other numbers ending with -teenth. The Union’s victory brought an end to both the Civil war and slavery. This national conflict resulted in three addendums to the Freedom document, the Bill of Rights. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th amendment gave equal citizenship to every human being born in this country regardless of race, granting them full rights and protection of the U.S. Constitution, and the 15th amendment guaranteed the right to vote for all citizens regardless of race or previous condition of servitude.

Our form of government is a Republic that was formed to protect and defend inalienable, God given rights and liberties that cannot be infringed upon. However, as soon as the post reconstructionist period was over and the Union troops that were occupying the South left, that same old guard returned to power in the South and enacted Segregation/Jim Crow laws. The Civil Rights act of 1964 passed the US House and Senate on the same day, June 19th 1964 and was signed by President Johnson on July 2nd 1964.

In 2019 we remembered the first slaves brought to American in August of 1619 who were initially indentured servants. 31 years later in 1640 a black indentured servant named John Punch from the Hugh Gwyn plantation ran away with two other white indentured servants. When caught and returned the two white servants were given an additional 12 years of servitude while John Punch was sentenced by the House of Burgesses in July 1640 to be a slave for life. This was

the beginning of Slavery for life in America! Like our Passover Seder we must remember! Our Declaration of Independence contains this well know phrase that we must strive to live out: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". Why do I repeatedly talk about this? Because we are called to be advocates:

Proverbs 31:8. "Speak up for those who can't speak for themselves, for the rights of all who need an advocate.

Because as Jews we know what it was like to be a stranger and a slave! Because Anti-Semitism is rampant within the church, I know Racism and bigotry are as well! We, the Messianic Community, the Church are not to follow the crowd or pervert justice! Such an example was Julius Rosenwald, A Jewish philanthropist and part owner of Sears & Roebuck who started the Rosenwald foundation that raised 4 million dollars to build over 5,000 black schools across the segregated South in the early 1900's. These schools were built with the health and comfort of the children and teachers in mind. Thousands of African American children received a good, solid education in the Rosenwald Schools. There has always been a unique and special relationship between the black and Jewish community (Hampton Technical School 1930's German Jewish Professors), and we are no exception! United, we must stand for the truth. To be "One" I wish to share 10 steps to do so from Dr Washingtons Book "One Word" The Cure for Hate and Hostility:

**We Are Mandated by God to Love One Another! To Be World Changers...
It can only be achieved through relationship!**

1. We must root out the False Narratives that divide us.
2. We must replace the lies with Biblical Truth and initiate unity through Intentional Relationships especially with those we don't agree with, don't look like, and don't understand.
3. We must Commit to one another to work through conflict engaging in Dialogue.
4. We must Relentlessly pursue through Intentionality and diligently build trust with each other, which requires humility and empathy, gaining knowledge to understand.
5. We must (when conflict arises) sacrifice our pride and anger to empower one another through mutual Repentance and Forgiveness.
6. We must grow (to be and be) Interdependent, embracing the reality that we are stronger and more peaceful together.
7. We must acknowledge and accept the fact that God chose the Jewish people for placement of His Son Yeshua because they were the least of all peoples.
8. We must understand that Yeshua Commanded, Prayed, and Died for we Gentiles to embrace and become One New Humanity with His Jewish brothers and sisters. This is the Power of One that will establish a State of National Tranquility.

9. We must live our lives in humble and loving obedience to the Two Greatest Commandments: Love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul and love our neighbor as ourselves!

**Our identity isn't formed by our history, our identity is formed by our destiny!
We see, relate, experience, interact with each other through His eye in His Image!**

Tenisha Press Head Intercessor pray:

Fathers Day

Father's Day is a day set apart to honor and celebrate our Father and fatherhood in general. We recognize and honor the influence of fathers in our homes and society, and in blended family paternal bonds. It is also celebrated to honor and commemorate our fathers and forefathers. Fathers-Day is celebrated in the U.S. on the third Sunday of June. Tradition has it that Father's Day was first observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, through the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd, a Christian woman and the daughter of American Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. Sonora's mother died when she was age 16, and she wanted a day that would commemorate and honor fathers like her own, who had raised her and five other children. Once she began pressing the idea of an official Father's Day, she met opposition and even derision, but she persevered. A bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson spoke at a Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington, wanting to make it an official holiday, but Congress still resisted. In 1924, Calvin Coolidge became involved, and in 1930 a national committee was formed by various trade groups in an effort to legitimize the holiday. The battle continued, and in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson made a proclamation for the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day. Finally, it was made an official national holiday when President Nixon signed a similar proclamation in 1972.

Scripture doesn't mention any day being set aside specifically to honor fathers but the word does recognize a special place of honor for men who were leaders or examples of excellence in certain skills, such as Yaval, who was "the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock" and his brother Yuval, who was "the father of all who play the harp and flute"

Genesis 4:20-21. 'Adah gave birth to Yaval; he was the ancestor of those who live in tents and have cattle. ²¹ His brother's name was Yuval; and he was the ancestor of all who play lyre and flute.

Also, when Avram's name was changed to Avraham, Adonai told him:

Genesis 17:5. Your name will no longer be Avram [exalted father], but your name will be Avraham [father of many], because I have made you the father of many nations.

In the eyes of Adonai fatherhood is a place of exalted honor. This name change given by Adonai revolves around the root word abba; father! Avraham is the founding father of the unique, intimate relationship between the Jewish People and Adonai; he is the spiritual patriarch of all believers! The name change signifies a change in Avraham's divine destiny! His obedient relationship with Adonai was credited to him as righteousness. Abraham was declared righteous because of his trust, he kept on reaching out to Adonai again and again. It wasn't that he was a perfect man, he misled other regarding Sarah and tried to bring Adonai's plan about himself through Hagar!

But Avraham was consistent in his desire for Adonai, he was faithful in his relationship with Adonai. He showed trust in God by obeying Him and moving to a new land! Avram was chosen by God to be the father of God's chosen people. Avraham kept coming back and Adonai credited it to him as righteousness and will do the same for us if we seek Adonai! The entire story of Avraham revolves around fatherhood revealing how important this position is to Adonai who recognizes the critical importance of fathers, giving them special honor throughout history.

God designed the family structure around a mother and father! God created the family as His first and most important institution, with the marriage of a man and a woman as its foundation. This union is not merely a social arrangement but a divine, covenant ordinance reflecting God's own covenantal love and unity.

Creation and the First Family as revealed in:

Genesis 1:27–28. So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them: God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth."

God instituted man and woman, created in His image, commanding them to: "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue I". **Then in:**

Genesis 2:24. This is why a man is to leave his father and mother and stick with his wife, and they are to be one flesh.

Adonai instituted marriage between a man and a woman: "a man is to leave his father and mother and stick with his wife, and they are to be one flesh." **This union was designed to reflect the same unity and fidelity found in God's relationship with His people.**

This family structure matters greatly in the Kingdom. The family is portrayed as a covenantal unit reflecting God's love and unity:

Ephesians 5:31. "Therefore a man will leave his father and mother and remain with his wife, and the two will become one."

This is a kingdom societal foundation from which all other relationships flow, a place where God's glory is honored through love, respect, and obedience. The family unit is portrayed in scripture as a divinely ordained institution with a multifaceted role. It serves as the primary context for spiritual leadership, moral instruction, and the nurturing of faith, reflecting the covenantal relationship between God and His people. Through the family, God's purposes for creation, community, and redemption are realized and perpetuated. When the family unit begins to erode, we begin to see a corrupt and sinful society. What is so critical about Fathers?

In the United States, about 1 in 4 children – roughly 18.3 to 19.5 million live without a father in the home. This figure comes from U.S. Census Bureau which shows that father absence is a significant and persistent social issue. Here are some sobering statistics:

85% of youths in prison come from fatherless homes. Fatherless children are 20 times more likely to end up in prison. 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes. Fatherless children are more likely to join gangs. 72% of adolescent murderers grew up without fathers. Fatherless children are more likely to commit violent crimes. 60% of youth perpetrators of mass shootings came from fatherless homes. Children of single mothers are higher risk for arrest by age 14. Fatherless males are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated. 82% of young people in reform schools are fatherless. Over 50% of prison inmates never saw their father while growing up. Fatherless homes contribute to 80% of all adolescents in psychiatric hospitals.

Children from fatherless homes are 4.4 times more likely to live in poverty. 47% of children in fatherless homes live below the poverty line. Fatherless children are more likely to rely on government assistance as adults. 80% of single-parent households are headed by mothers. 31% of children in single-mother families are food insecure. Adult children of fatherless homes have higher debt-to-income ratios. Father absence reduces the probability of upward social mobility by 20%. Financial instability is reported in 70% of father-absent homes.

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes. 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes. 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes. Children with absent fathers are 4.6 times more likely to commit suicide. Father-absent children are more likely to experience depression. Fatherless children are more likely to struggle with gender identity issues. 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. Children without fathers are 40% more likely to have behavioral problems .80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes.

This is why the Kehillat family is so important! Raising children takes the entire community! For those families with an absent father our men stand in the gap! Biblical characteristics of a father include love, guidance, discipline, and spiritual leadership, reflecting the heart of God as a father. Here are a few key Characteristics of a Father According to the Bible

Fathers are required to be part of the family structure, responsible for protecting and providing for their families, ensuring their physical and emotional well-being.

I Timothy 5:8. Moreover, anyone who does not provide for his own people, especially for his family, has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Fathers are called to lead their family physically, spiritually, morally, and emotionally, always pointing them back to Messiah. He is the protector, not just in a physical sense, but also spiritually guarding his home from the attacks of the enemy, false ideologies, and moral compromise. This role is often challenged today, in fact the biblical family structure is suffer a full-scale demonic attack. Fatherhood is not about power; it's about service, sacrifice, and strength in submission to Yeshua.

Ephesians 5:23. because the husband is head of the wife, just as the Messiah, as head of the Messianic Community, is himself the one who keeps the body safe.

Fathers are called to provide leadership and guidance, teaching their children the ways of the Lord:

Deuteronomy 6:6-7. These words, which I am ordering you today, are to be on your heart; ⁷ and you are to teach them carefully to your children. You are to talk about them when you sit at home, when you are traveling on the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

A father should discipline his children with love and wisdom, correcting them when necessary:

Proverbs 13:24. He who fails to use a stick hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Being present in the lives of their children is crucial. A father's presence significantly impacts their children's emotional and social development

Fathers establish our identity. Our earthly fathers are an important source of our genetic makeup. Adonai is the ultimate source of our lives and identity, we are descended from one DNA strand, the seed of Adam.

Genesis 4:25. Adam again had sexual relations with his wife, and she gave birth to a son whom she named Shet [granted], "For God has granted me another seed in place of Hevel, since Kayin killed him."

We are made in the image of our creator. God spoke the Aleph-Bet, our seed, and we were created. That seed is DNA, Chromosomes. When children are conceived, the child receives one strand of helix from each parent. The language, the program of the two parents come together to form a new helix from the individual strands from the parents. If two XX strands come together the child is a girl, if one x and one y comes together it's a boy. The only source of Y chromosomes is the male. Now get this, All other chromosomes pairs exchange genetic material, a shuffling of DNA information except for the Y chromosome. There are over approximately 2.1 million code instructions in human DNA and between us all there all identical except for several thousand. In other words, DNA confirms that there is no basis for biological race differences. The genetic variance affecting skin color, facial features, eye and hair color are essentially meaningless. Since the Y Chromosome isn't affected by this genetic shuffling during conception, the Y Chromosome passed down from father to son is basically the same as it was thousands of years ago.

Fathers equal love! As a parent, you experience a small taste of how Adonai feels as "our Father in heaven." When parents look into the face of their newborn baby, they know true unconditional love no matter what. That's exactly how Adonai feels about us. Even when we stray, sin, are disobedient, Adonai like us, is disappointed yet still love! Hate the sin but love the person!

Abba Father is the source of our existence. He provides for us, corrects us, and loves us unconditionally.

I John 3:1. See what love the Father has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! For that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it has not known him.

Let's rise!

Abba, Father, we thank You for the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who guide, protect, and nurture their families. We are grateful for their sacrifices, wisdom, and love. Bless them with strength when they feel weary, courage when they face challenges, and patience in their daily responsibilities. May they lead with integrity, inspire with kindness, and provide a safe and loving environment for their children. Fill their hearts with joy, peace, and fulfillment as they continue to shape the lives of those they love. We are grateful for their hands that work tirelessly, their voices that guide, and their presence that comforts. May they feel appreciated, valued, and loved this weekend and always. Protect them in their daily lives, guide their decisions, and help them grow spiritually,

emotionally, and physically. May they be a source of inspiration and a shining example of strength and compassion for their families! In Yeshua's Name! Amen!