



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Blood on the Door (Passover)"

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Exodus 12:1-13

As we celebrate Passover, the "greatest of the Appointed Feasts," we are reminded of God's powerful acts of redemption and His faithfulness to His people. The Passover story isn't just a tale of the past; it's a living narrative that continues to shape our identity today. As we reflect on the key moments of this story, we find God's presence, salvation, and love at work in our lives. Here are four important lessons from this story:

1. The LORD Comes to Us Where We Are

God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt began with His presence in their suffering. For 430 years, the Israelites lived under oppression, without a written Torah or guidance, immersed in the culture of Egypt. Yet, despite their situation, God did not leave them to suffer alone. When they cried out in their misery, God responded by sending Moses with a message of hope. God, the Great Communicator, met them where they were, hearing their cries and remembering His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex. 2:23-25), speaking to them in a language they could understand.

God's willingness to meet His people in their place of suffering demonstrates His compassionate love. He didn't wait for Israel to have their lives in order before He acted; instead, He met them in the midst of their brokenness. Today, God still meets us where we are. Whether we are facing personal struggles, doubts, or hardships, God is present and ready to intervene. He comes to us in our pain and despair, offering His help and hope.

2. Our God Makes the Way for Our Rescue

The Exodus story shows us that God is the architect of salvation. The Israelites were enslaved and unable to rescue themselves, and the LORD intervened with a plan. In Exodus 12, God instructed the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb and place its blood on their doorposts. The blood of the lamb became the means of their deliverance, a sign that they were covered by God's protection and that death would pass them by. Just as the Israelites needed to follow God's instructions for their deliverance, we too are called to respond to God's provision of salvation through Yeshua, the ultimate Passover Lamb.

God's rescue plan for the Israelites also involved *their* active participation. They were not passively saved; they had to take action by applying the blood to their doorposts, a task that required trust in God's plan. Similarly, our salvation requires us to respond to God's invitation—Yeshua's sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate means of rescue, but it requires our participation through faith. We must apply the blood of the Lamb in our own lives, trusting that His sacrifice is sufficient to cover our sins and provide us with protection from the judgment we deserve.

3. The LORD Gives Us A New Identity

When God rescued Israel from Egypt, He not only freed them from physical bondage but redefined their very identity. For generations, the Israelites were enslaved by Pharaoh, forced to labor under harsh conditions. They were *avadim* (slaves) to Pharaoh, bound to serve his

oppressive rule. But through God's mighty act of deliverance, He brought them out of Egypt to become His *avadim*, His servants. This shift was more than a change in physical circumstances—it was a change in their spiritual identity. They were no longer to be defined by Pharaoh's oppressive rule but by their relationship with God. In Exodus 4:23, God declares that His purpose is for Israel to "serve" (*avodah*) Him, not Pharaoh. This call to service is not one of slavery but of worship.

The distinction between being *avadim* to Pharaoh or to the LORD is crucial. In Egypt, the Israelites' service was forced and cruel, driven by fear and oppression. But serving God is an entirely different experience. It's about freely choosing to worship Him, to live for His glory, and to be in relationship with Him. God's redemption transforms our service from slavery into true worship. The word *avodah* in Hebrew means both "service" and "worship," and it shows us that WHO WE SERVE makes all the difference between being enslaved and being set free to worship. Our true identity is now defined by who we serve: the oppressive master of sin, or the loving Lord who brings freedom through worship.

4. Adonai Requires Us to Tell the Haggadah (Our Testimony)

God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt was not only for their benefit but also for the generations that followed. In Exodus 12:26-27, God instructs His people to tell the story of their redemption to their children, saying, *"When your children ask you, 'What do you mean by this ceremony?' say, 'It is the sacrifice of ADONAI's Pesach, because ADONAI passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt.'"*

For us today, we are called to pass on the story of God's salvation through Messiah Yeshua to those who come after us. The story of redemption, like the Passover Haggadah, must be told repeatedly to ensure that each generation understands their need for salvation and the incredible gift of God's grace. We are entrusted with the Good News of the Freedom and life transformation that comes through trusting in Yeshua, THE Lamb of God, who died for our sins and rose again, and it is our responsibility to share it with others, beginning with those in our homes. The act of telling the story is not just about remembering—it's about passing on hope to those who need to hear it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did God meet the Israelites where they were? How has He met you in your own struggles?
2. Why was the application of the blood so essential for the Israelites? How does this parallel the role of Yeshua's blood in our lives?
3. How does your new identity in Messiah affect the way you live and view yourself?
4. What does it mean to you to "tell the Haggadah" or "tell the story"? How can we share the gospel more effectively in our daily lives?
5. How do you respond to God's invitation to be rescued from sin and death? What does that redemption mean for your daily life?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, thank You for meeting us where we are, for rescuing us with Your mighty hand, and for giving us a new identity in You. Help us to walk in the fullness of our redemption and to share Your saving love with those around us. Give us the courage to retell Your story and to live out our faith every day.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the Name of Yeshua, our Messiah, we pray. Amen.