

Congregation Beit Mashiach
Pastor Andrew Ketel
Seder Reflection
March 30, 2018

Title: In Remembrance

Text: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Tonight, we have gathered to fulfill a mitzvot that was given to the children of Israel prior to their departure from Egypt. This is a mitzvot of remembrance of their redemption from slavery in Egypt, to their renewal as the people of Adonai. Yet, when Yeshua spoke those words at His last Seder He seemed to turn the focus of our intended remembrance upon His death. Even though it may have appeared that way, in essence it did not change the focus at all but rather brought clarity of its relevance to all. Tonight, as we are about to partake of this act of remembrance by sharing the *afikomen and the cup of redemption* let us take a moment to pause and consider what this entails. The act of remembrance goes through three distinct phases to come to its intended conclusion. Each of these phases are essential to fulfill the mitzvot properly and they are the act to remember, reflection, and rest.

The first of these phases is the act to remember (Exodus 12:42; I Cor. 11:24), tonight we have brought back to our thoughts the wondrous event of the Exodus and how Messiah is the ultimate fulfillment of that historical event through the liturgy of the Haggadah. It is always amazing to see how Adonai unfolds His plan of Salvation (Redemption) and yearly we are moved at its wonder. Yet, if we merely just remember we have fallen short of what was intended for an evening like tonight. It is fundamental to take it to the next step and that is reflection. Reflection is that act of ruminating upon the application to your personal circumstances (Prov. 24:32). For many of us the Exodus is an exotic event that we cannot even imagine how it would have unfolded. But every person seated here tonight has experienced their own exodus from sinfulness to righteousness. As the Apostle John states that anyone who has sinned has been a slave to sin (John 8:34-36). When we accept the completed work of redemption of Yeshua something happens within us that bring deliverance from not only the penalty of sin which is death, but also, we are freed from the power of sin. Prior to our acceptance of Yeshua's redemptive work we were so bound by sin and its entices that we could do nothing other than sin. But in Messiah our debt has been paid and we have been given the power to choose righteousness over sinfulness (Rom. 6:6-18). As we reflect on what this remembrance means for your personal circumstances and step into its powerful implications we still have come up short if we do not come into His rest. The third and completing act of remembrance is entering into His rest. Which is coming to realize that Yeshua has done it all, our salvation is complete in Him (I John 5:9-13). Rest does not merely mean that we stop trying to earn salvation in our own strength, but also that we in faith are willing to trust Adonai through Yeshua's completed work of salvation for the realization of all His promises (Heb. 4:8-11).

So tonight, as we prepare to engage in our mitzvot of remembrance if you need to accept the redemptive work of Yeshua for the first time or recommit to enter completely into His rest, you are welcome to come up for prayer as we sing "I Renew My Covenant."