

## + **Preparing for Pesach** - **Bedikat Chametz**, Father:

During the days before Pesach, leaven would be removed from the home and the house thoroughly cleaned. Then Bedikat Chametz, a ceremonial search for leaven, would be done. It was on this night of removing leaven that Yeshua gathered His disciples together in the upper room to share with them the meaning of Pesach fulfilled in Himself.

Yeshua warned of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducess, a leaven of "self"-righteousness through and of religion and works. That is why, in the ceremonial search for leaven, Yeshua is like the light which exposes this leaven. Ruach HaKodesh is like the feather which helps sweep this leaven from our lives. The wood bearing the leaven reminds us of the cross of wood which Yeshua Himself bore. And the wrapping cloth is like His burial cloth.

Yeshua HaMashiach said to His disciples, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Pesach with you before I suffer." (Luke 22:15) He passed the foods among them. It was in the context of Pesach, that Yeshua revealed to them the mystery of YHVH's plan of redemption. He spoke to them of His Body and Blood. He explained to them that He would have to die.

Through the sacrifice of the Pesach Lamb Yeshua prepared His disciples for the happenings of the confusing hours that were to follow. As we participate in this Pesach, may we once again experience YHVH's great redemption plan and know His wonderful provisions for us in Yeshua, our Beloved Kinsman Redeemer.

Upon the table we see the plate holding the ceremonial items of Pesach. There are parsley sprigs, matzah, horseradish, a sweet apple mixture, a lamb shank bone, and a roasted egg. Curious things, yet all part of the telling. With all our senses we will participate in Pesach, taking in the sights and smells, tasting each ingredient, listening to every word, and experiencing the truth of YHVH's love.

Let us now begin.

## + The Candles Blessing - Birkat HaNer

Mother rises to light the candles and says: Blessed are You, O YHVH our GOD,

King of the universe and eternity, Who has set us apart by Your Word, and in Whose Name we light the festival lights. Father:

As light for this festival of redemption is kindled by the hand of a woman, we remember our Kinsman Redeemer, the Light of the world, came into the world as the promised seed of a woman. (Genesis 3:15)

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