



The Living God Ministries, Inc.

Montgomery & Spanish Fort, Alabama

March 13, 2020

The Spiritual Importance of His Plan

Warm hellos to you dear brethren, co-workers, and spiritual family on the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico and scattered children of God, from our offices here in Spanish Fort.

We live in interesting times! From every angle we are being bombarded with explanation, opinion, facts, minute by minute updates and social media dramatization due to a virus. I'm not going to "jump on the bandwagon" so to speak and chime in. What I will ask is this; are we distracted from our relationship with God, worshiping Him and His upcoming spring Holy Day Season? I think I'd be safe to say yes.

As we come up to the Passover, Night to Be Much Observed, and Days of Unleavened Bread just a little over 3 weeks away, let's focus on the spiritual importance of His plan in our lives. Over the next few weeks, I'll again be focusing on aspects of His plan in relationship to this upcoming season.

Why do we emphasize having a gathering of members in various groups and locations to enjoy a meal and fellowship together this evening that *begins the Feast of Unleavened Bread*? This is the beginning of Abib 15 on the Hebrew calendar, with Biblical days beginning at sunset.

The name many use - Night to Be Much Observed - is derived from the King James translation of Exodus 12:42 "*It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt . . .*" We've examined that the Israelites remained in their homes during the whole night of Abib 14 and were not to leave their homes until dawn. They did not leave Egypt during the night that they ate the roasted lamb and awaited being "passed over" by the death angel.

We are told when they left Egypt. "*They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.*" (Numbers 33:3) They left Egypt on Abib 15, the day following the Abib 14 Passover observance.

Lets' take a few moments and look at this event as recorded in Deuteronomy 16. This chapter confuses some because of the use of the term "Passover" there. Deuteronomy 16 focuses on

the 3 "chag" feast seasons or celebrations: 1. Passover (Unleavened Bread) 2. Weeks (Pentecost) 3. Ingathering (Tabernacles). *"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses..."* (Deuteronomy 16:16)

You will notice that Trumpets and Atonement are not mentioned and the chapter actually does not address the Abib 14 Passover ceremony either. The term "Passover" is used at times in Scripture to refer to the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

"Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover." (Luke 22:1) "And because he [Herod] saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison...intending to bring him before the people after Passover." (Acts 12:3, 4) To be during Unleavened Bread when Peter was seized and then have Herod doing certain actions after "Passover," the term Passover here refers to the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Let's take a closer look at Deuteronomy 16. *"Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night."* (Deuteronomy 16:1)

This reinforces what we read in Exodus 12:42. It was during the night that God led the Israelites from Goshen out of Egypt to Succoth. This "passover" celebration was accompanied by the sacrifice of both sheep and cattle. *"Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the Lord your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the Lord chooses to put His name."* (v.2) The word "herd" refers to cattle, not sheep. This is clearly a different instruction from that relating to the lamb selected on Abib 10 and sacrificed on Abib 14 by the head of household at the individual houses of the families observing the Abib 14 commemoration.

Unleavened bread was to be eaten with these "passover sacrifices" for seven days and there was an emphasis on *"the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt."* (v.3) *"And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning."* (v.4) The "first day" is the first day of the seven days of Unleavened Bread. These passover offerings were to be killed during twilight of Abib 15 and this is emphasized again in verse 6. *"but at the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt."* (v.6)

Here above is a further description of the events involving the departure of the Israelites from Egypt on the night of Abib 15 beginning at the going down of the sun that initiated the period of

twilight. The Israelites were released from slavery to Pharaoh and his kingdom. They went out with boldness or "a high hand" (Numbers 33:3 KJV) They left in darkness and proceeded toward the land of promise, guided by the fiery pillar of the Lord which illuminated their way (Exodus 13:21-22).

You and I today, under the New Covenant, celebrate our departure from any allegiance to the god of this world and his kingdom. (2 Corinthians 4:4 *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them*).

We rejoice and celebrate our victory over sin through the deliverance and guidance of our Savior and king. We are to leave the darkness of this world of sin, idolatry, non-sound mindedness and confusion, and look to the light, love, power, and a sound mindedness of God's Spirit and Word to lead and guide us.

Rather than panic over all the "news" of this virus, a fall in the stock market, or whatever catastrophe comes up next, I hope we will keep our focus, reflect on our new beginning at baptism when we began our journey to the promised Kingdom of God! This opening night of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a night to be observed and celebrated in light of the significant history and present spiritual application of the meaning of this "night to be much observed unto the Lord."

Arms up friends! Our prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Please do pray for us as well.

Scott Hoefker

(Pastor, *The Living God Ministries Gulf Coast*)

The schedule for this **Sabbath** is:

March 13th / Friday: Evening Praise Sacrifice to welcome God's Sabbath - 6:30 pm (via Teleconference live connect with Stephen Glover and Friends.)

March 14th / Saturday: Spirit and Truth Worship Services - 10:15 am, with services held in **Montgomery** (those in our Spanish Fort congregation and all others are welcomed and encouraged to connect live to Worship Services via our normal *telephone conference* from Montgomery). There will be a pot-luck fellowship noon meal in **Montgomery** shortly after Worship Services are finished.

March 14th / Saturday: Malachi 3:16 Sabbath Fellowship (Interactive Bible Discussion) - **3:30 pm** from Montgomery. (Connecting live with all via telephone conference).

March 14th / Saturday: Monthly Family Meeting with our Congregations **5:00 p.m.** (Connecting live with Spanish Fort and others via telephone conference).

March 14th / Saturday: Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting of the LGM -7:00 p.m. in Montgomery.

Telephone Ministry (English): Call **1-712-770-4700**; then, when asked, enter Code **112165 #** to join.

(Note: All callers are muted and must press ***6** to comment and ***6** to resume mute.)

All times are listed in Central Standard Time zone.

Our Daily Bread Recordings

Sunday through Saturday / Our Daily Bread [listen anytime 24/7 to a recorded 15 minute message] Call 1-712-770-4709 (note this call in number is different and ends in "9"), then when asked, enter code 112165# [reference code numbers are on "Spiritual Fellowship Opportunities" on this website <http://www.tlgministriesgc.org> or at "Resources/Archives" on <http://www.haggai114.net>]

Daily Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday – Friday / **Morning Sacrifice** (Prayers & Scripture Reading) at 6:00 a.m.

Sundays / **The Minor Prophets** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. [Whit, Logan & Friends]

Mondays / Africa Discipleship at 7:00 a.m. [Stephen & Moses]

Almond Branch Fellowship at 6:30 p.m. (Interactive) (Stephen & Friends)

Tuesdays / **Haggai Fellowship** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. (Interactive) [Stephen & Friends]

Wednesdays / Africa Discipleship at 7:00 a.m. [Stephen & Moses]

1st & 3rd Wednesday / **Sons of God Fellowship** (Young men training) at 6:30 p.m. [Stephen & Friends]

2nd & 4th Wednesday / **Lydian's Fellowship** (Ladies) at 6:30 p.m. [Esther/Gayle/Laura & Friends]

Thursdays / **Mt. Carmel Fellowship** (Interactive) at 6:30 p.m. [Scott & Friends]

Scott Hoefker, Pastor

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