

# Haverim update

STUDY COMMUNITY

MAR  
2020

April 9, Passover (Pesach) <> April 12, Resurrection Sunday

Adar	Nisan	Iyar	Sivan	Tammuz	Av	Elul	Tishri	Heshvan	Kislev	Tevet	Shevat
MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB

Your March 2020 Audio with James Whitman and Rosalind Whitman  
A Daddy & Daughter Discuss the Wonder of Passover

Coming in April: David Emanuel (part two)  
The Word of God Through the Hands of Men

Join with brothers and sisters around the world to explore the Spring Feasts and how they work in the life of disciples.

[JCSTUDIES.COM/SPRING-2020](http://JCSTUDIES.COM/SPRING-2020)

## Shalom Haverim Partners and Friends!

I'm interrupting our regular programming for an intimate audio message called, *A Daddy & Daughter Discuss the Wonder of Passover*. I am the daddy, and our oldest, Rosalind, is the daughter. How this recording came about is a story I think you'll enjoy.



## A Family Reunion

Luke 2 pictures for us a historical time and place that inspires the imagination. Extended families and friends joined together in groups from every corner of Israel (and beyond) to go up for the LORD's Passover. What a memorable gathering it must have been in Jerusalem, especially for the young and impressionable. It was a divinely designed family reunion of sorts, a chance to reconnect with people they might only see once a year. This was an integral part of Yeshua's development.

About two weeks ago, Rosalind and I were sharing memories of family and friends coming to our home for a Passover meal every year. We looked at each other and said, this needs to be recorded, it's so encouraging. The result is your audio message for the month of March.

Our Father has given Rosalind a significant platform to reach and teach internationals through a local church.



You'll hear her passion for and practical wisdom on how to help others experience Passover as their formative image of a loving, covenant-keeping God. Write and let me know how you liked the message.

## Items of Interest at JC Studies

- ✓ If you need a giving statement for 2019, call or email [haverim@jcstudies.com](mailto:haverim@jcstudies.com) and we'll get that out to you. *Thank you so much for your faithful generosity.*
- ✓ Next month, we'll resume our study with David Emanuel, *The Word of God in the Hands of Men*.
- ✓ **Spring Feasts Workshop:** Passover begins April 9th, and Resurrection Sunday is April 12th this year. To help you prepare for the season, I'm conducting a one-hour Spring Feasts Workshop online. Our time together will better educate and equip you to get the most out of the season. Learn more at: [jcstudies.com/spring-2020](http://jcstudies.com/spring-2020). I hope you can join me.

## A Word of Encouragement

Recently, a study community member canceled their donation because they were behind in the monthly materials. I get it. But I want our connection to be so much more than giving to get. Haverim are traveling companions that give to give this life-changing perspective to others, both in their network and through the greater reach of JC Studies. The following testimony captures the why behind what we do.

*"I came to God in my 20s, saying to him one day after a friend had been going on about what he believed annoyingly frequently ;), 'If you're there, if you're real, you're going to have to show me' .. and in that moment I felt something inside me that I'd never felt before. From there I went on to try to lay hold of whoever this Jesus fellow was and where he fitted into it all. ;)*

*But as my experience of God has grown and my understanding of Jesus's words and actions has deepened (thanks hugely to JCStudies), I have never really been able to piece the whole thing together with the doctrine I have heard and been preached. Now, however .. ;o .. I am starting to understand why! And this is hugely exciting!"*

- A.G., Haverim Partner in the U.K.

*You are biblical family to me. I desire to be iron sharpening iron to you. Your friendship, support, participation, and encouragement lift my hands to do great things for our great God. See you at Passover!*

James



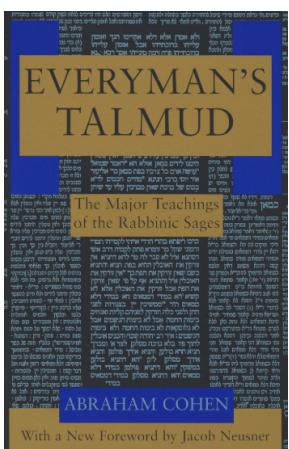
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# Whole Food for the Christian Mind

*Big ideas, from my bookshelves, to help develop depth in a Hebraic, biblical approach to faith and practice*



"That the human being was created in the image of God lies at the root of the Sages teaching concerning man. In that respect he is pre-eminent above all the other creatures and represents the culminating point in the work of Creation." "This fact gives the human being their supreme importance in the economy of the Universe." "Moreover, since men are formed in the divine semblance, they must keep that knowledge always in mind in their relationship with one another." ~ page 67

"While stressing the idea of man's kinship with God, the Sages were equally insistent upon the gulf which divides them." Ancient Judaism describes the dual nature of the human being. "In four respects man resembles the creatures above, and in four respects the creatures below. Like the animals he eats and drinks, propagates his species, relieves himself and dies. Like the ministering angels, he stands erect, speaks, possesses intellect, and perceives." ~ page 67-68

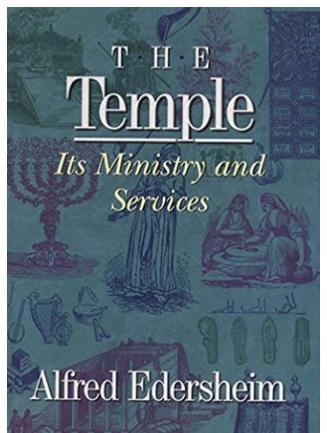
What then is expected of him? "Six hundred and thirteen commandments were addressed to Moses—three hundred and sixty-five prohibitions corresponding to the number of days in the solar year, and two hundred and forty-eight positive commands corresponding to the number of limbs in the human body. David came and reduced them to eleven principles, which are enumerated in Psalm 15. Isaiah came and reduced them to six; as it is said, 'He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from looking upon evil' (Isa 33:15). Micah came and reduced them to three; as it is written, 'What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?' (Mic 6:8). Isaiah subsequently reduced them to two; as it is said, 'Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye justice and do righteousness' (Isa 55:1). Lastly came Habbakuk and reduced them to one; as it is said, 'The righteous shall live by his faith' (Hab 2:4)." ~ page 79

A NOTE FROM JAMES: To my mind, this is an example of an oral tradition employed by Paul in the way he uses Habbakuk 2:4 to help Jews in the Diaspora make connections with the kingdom message of Jesus (Rom 1:17). Moreover, it is fascinating that the discussion was ongoing as evidenced by a similar question posed to Jesus—the miracle-working rabbi (teacher) from Nazareth. What is the most important command? What does God expect of us?

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."* (Matt 22:37-40)

There are peculiarities about the Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread which mark it as the most important, and, indeed, take it out of the rank of the other festivals. It was the first of the three feasts on which all males in Israel were bound to appear before the Lord in the place which he would choose (the two others being the Feast of Weeks and that of Tabernacles—Exo 23:24, 34:18-23; Lev 23:4-22; Deu 16:16). All the three great festivals bore a threefold reference. They pointed, *first*, to the season of the year, or rather to the enjoyment of the fruits of the good land which the Lord had given to his people in possession, but of which he claimed for himself the real ownership (Lev 25:23; Ps 85:1; Isa 8:8, 14:2; Hos 9:3).

On the other hand, great prominence is given to the *historical bearing* of the Passover. It celebrated the one grand event which underlay the whole history of Israel and marked alike their miraculous deliverance from destruction and from bondage, and the commencement of their existence as a nation. For in the night of the Passover the children of Israel, miraculously preserved and set free, for the first time became a people, and that by the direct interposition of God.



The *third bearing* of all the festivals, but especially of the Passover, is typical. Every reader of the New Testament knows how frequent are such allusions to the Exodus, the Paschal Lamb, the Paschal Supper, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And that this meaning was intended from the first, not only in reference to the Passover, but to all the feasts, appears from the whole design of the Old Testament, and from the exact correspondence between the types and the antitypes. Indeed, it is, so to speak, impressed upon the Old Testament by a law of internal necessity. For when God bound up the future of all nations in the history of Abraham and his seed (Gen 12:3), he made that history prophetic; and each event and every rite became, as it were, a bud, destined to open in blossom and ripen into fruit on that tree under the shadow of which all nations were to be gathered.

Thus *nature, history, and grace* combined to give a special meaning to the festivals, but chiefly to the Passover. It was the feast of spring; the springtime of nature, when, after the death of winter, the scattered seeds were born into a new harvest, and the first ripe sheaf could be presented to the Lord; the spring-time of Israel's history, too, when each year the people celebrated anew their national birthday; and the spring-time of grace, their grand national deliverance pointing forward to that "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." ~ pages 163-164