

First Day Eve Celebrations Part 1

Last night was such a wonderful breaking of bread. It is getting clearer and clearer the direction we are headed in it.

The reason *we gather an hour before sundown* is we are in anticipation of our Master's resurrection by which He proved to be the Son of God. We gather all over the earth and worship Him in anticipation of the time the sun goes down, which is when He rose from the dead. When we hear the sound of the shofar, we shout **Hallelujah! because our Master rose from the dead! He overcame death.** *Hallelujah* means we all must praise Him — here and in the breaking of bread.

Then as we move along to the breaking of bread, we remember His death. **Our whole focus is on this.** We bring Him back to remembrance. Someone might read the last account before He died or the last supper, or the account of the edah, His little beehive He uses for His purpose, that He'll marry, His wonderful wife He'll have in the eighth day. If He did appear... He won't, of course, but He did 2,000 years ago and He is here by His Spirit. By faith we know this. But I'm going to say *Hallelujah* as loud as I can because He rose from the dead or I wouldn't have eternal life! I have thanks in my heart that He died for me. So we give thanks. If we don't have thanks it means He didn't die for us. We don't appreciate what He did.

Then when it gets really dark the victory cup comes, then the story, and we progress along the way **as the prophets lead us.** We're coming to understanding. We don't have a ritualistic order. Everything we do has meaning. It's His prescribed order. It is an appointed time, a *moed* — not our own prescribed speaking, but an appointed time. Whoever is gathered at that time are His people.

This is the time when anyone who wants to interrupt the speakers or the dance can. This is the origin of freedom of speech. It isn't from the United States.

Becoming like Children

Our children are so beautiful. They are examples to us of how we're supposed to be. They sang, "With a simple heart." It says we become like children. Our Master Yahshua, the Word of God, the One who came to save us and present to everyone what God is like, said, "Unless you are born again and after that become like children..." You've seen a lot of religious gatherings where you don't remember seeing people being like children. Mt 18 says unless you become converted and become like children you will not enter the Kingdom of God.

One of the characteristics of children is that they are not self-conscious. But once they grow they might "catch" something, when they become a youth — unless the parents are very careful during that transition, self-consciousness comes in. If you're self-conscious you can't be saved. Mt 18:11-14 — If we stop being like little children and start thinking we're better than children, it's sin.

Bynah: We have to watch our children carefully how they sing and dance and make sure they are giving all their strength and not holding back because of self-consciousness. Are they clapping, jumping, skipping, doing the arm motions, falling all the way down (as the giant in "Only a Boy Named David")? What is controlling them?

Mt 18:3 — Children are submissive, dependent, obedient to their parents. We've been raised in the world to esteem being the opposite of childlike — independent, unsubmissive, proud, having a false glory.

"We have to *become*..." indicates a transition. If you are not like little children you're not born again.

You start **becoming** like a child.

We anticipate our Master's resurrection. We don't know exactly what time — the person who blows the shofar knows. Regardless of what we're doing, we praise Him. We come together on one impulse and shout at the top of our voice, **Hallelujah!** Not over and over again, because it is a command that means *Praise Him*, so we start praising Him, whoever is joyful for his salvation. This is when the minchah is offered up.

Holiness

Rom 1:4 — Faith that brings you into being sons of God is the faith of Abraham which goes into the nations to bring about the obedience of the faith that brings them back into the fold. This is not only to the seed of Abraham but to all the nations. 1Ths 3:13 — All the sons of Abraham walk before me blameless in Holiness. It means what causes every aspect and component of our character to stand God's inspection and to meet His approval (#42 in Strong's Concordance).

Without holiness no one will ever see His glory. It's a process we've entered into, becoming holy. It's a quality, disposition, disposed to follow, our personal conduct, our soul, body, dedicating ourselves to Him. It's a transformation, like becoming a child is, too. I'm thankful I'm being transformed into the image of our Creator.

The fall transformed us into the wrong image — the evil one. Kim and Michael (our guests who came back with us from “Nimbin”) can become disciples if they are willing to do God's will. They will be transformed to His likeness.

At the Appointed Time

We're waiting for the time to hear the shofar blow to give thanks for His resurrection. During this time there is a lively celebration. At the first stars the prophets speak.

In the middle of a song, I think, the shofar blew and we shouted at the top of our voices and with raised hands... **H ALLELUJAH!** Then we lifted our praises to Him as one man, our offering went up as our evening sacrifice.

After that the victory cup came in. At this time we have to be sure to be sensitive to the Spirit to not share something *that will take us away* from what we've learned about this time. This time is **set aside** for us to share with one another our victories and our defeats so we can be *fully cleansed*, live an open life and set our face like flint to overcome these enemies.

Then the children asked “the question” in Hebrew, English, Japanese, German...

Ha-emeq told such an encouraging story from Acts 4 and 5... a day in the life of the first community. The emphasis was on the obedience and zeal of the apostles to keep preaching no matter what. And also the cleansing of the sheepfold by removing Hananyah and Shafirah, the two with evil motives, so that the flock could remain pure. The children really took in and comprehended these things down to the smallest child. Then many people prayed for them (laying hands on them) and we sent them to eat. The lapse was 20 minutes in which time the room was prepared.

The Breaking of Bread

In the old covenant only the high priest was able to enter the Holy of Holies, only if he inspected himself and knew of no deliberate or unintentional sin. Then he could go in without incurring death. It is exactly the same with us. Hundreds have come in and are no longer among us because of sin.

Paul brings to us in 1 Cor 11:27-32 an awareness we should have to not eat this meal in an unworthy manner. Whoever judges himself will not be judged. If not we will be judged by our Master. We won't receive the condemnation of the world, but it will be death — just not eternal death. We know it is really serious but we don't *really* know it because we enter in without self-judgment. Then we can't repent. It's the same with the priests who walk into the Holy of Holies — they would be killed right away. That was in the old covenant. Now in the new covenant, the same death occurs. It's not physical, but it shows up over time.

This is the high point of our whole week. There is nothing greater. This takes priority over all things.

Make sure we examine ourselves, that we're pure, blameless, holy.

Bowing Down

When we come together to lift up the loaf we kneel, we actually bow down, face to the ground. This has to be announced by the prophets, renewing our vision. It's not a ritual. There are no pipsqueaks in here. This is the priesthood.

I'm thankful we have the opportunity to come before Him and bow down. How else will Ps 95:6&7 be obeyed? It's the only way we can put Ps 116 into practice. We are fulfilling Ps 102:18 — *a people yet to be created will praise You.* We're a people coming up out of the dust. We don't even know who we are but we're becoming aware of it.

This is the only place where we can come in and bow down like the Magi. They were kings from distant lands. They came to worship the Messiah. They brought precious and costly gifts. They bowed down and worshipped, **then** laid their gifts before Him. They saw His worth. They recognized that He was the King of kings. They bowed down before this little baby. We must bring gifts before Him that are worthy of Him. When we bow before Him we make Him Sovereign. I want to give Him my sovereignty. When we bow down we surrender all to Him. We bow down, prostrate ourselves as if He were enthroned before us here. He is. When we bow down it means there is nothing left of our sovereignty. If there is, He can't be our Sovereign. If we hang onto our life we will lose it. We have the only true God to bow down to.

Bynah: Knowing how our God knows and loves us as we saw in Ps 139 makes me want to surrender everything to Him and stop worrying about saving myself. I want to trust Him that He is going to do it.

Inaugurating New Disciples

This was the first breaking of bread for our brother Yatzaq. Much attention was given to him as he participated in lifting the Victory cup, the cup of the New Covenant and the breaking of the loaf. A card was made for him and read publicly. It was acknowledged joyfully when he was actually sealed in the New Covenant. Although every week we are led by the prophets into each portion of the evening, when there is a new disciple entering in, each part is broken down for him and explained as we come to it. All of our focus is on our Master's death and resurrection, not other things.

Ha-emeq: As the children went out, Zakar came to me, eyes full of tears, "I feel so bad because I was the last person to share after the story. What Rinnah and Sekel said was so good and just flowed out of them, but I was the last one to speak. It took me so long to speak and it wasn't that good." I didn't know what to say to him. I wanted to say something to just encourage him, but then I realized something. He is just beginning the spiritual battle of his own. He's right on the edge of being a disciple. All disciples go through this. The first battle was to compare himself with the girls. He overcame that one and spoke up. But right away the second battle came. The evil one came to you (I was explaining this to him) to tell you what you said was no good... But it's the same battle as Amaz goes through. Our children haven't come from the world where they have some awful past of sin to repent for. They can't relate to us in this way. But this battle is the first taste for Zakar that He needs Yahshua! He's going into a fight and realizing he can't make it alone without the Holy Spirit. He is at the age now where it's not so simple anymore. He can't just run to his parents and get help with every little thing. The childish things are passing away. Amaz went through the same thing. The Holy Spirit wasn't in control anymore. So he fell. Then he cried out and came back to our Master. The Spirit was again upon him. Even if Zakar memorized all the right things, it wouldn't be the same without the Holy Spirit.

I understood something. It's hard to understand how our children can be saved. They've been spanked and have a good conscience. Their sins have been expiated. But we can lay hands on them because they need Yahshua. If the younger ones could only receive and believe the older ones, switch from being a little child like Atah to Amaz without the pain of all the transition... Zakar walked away resolute. He had listened. What was always in our hearts for our children we can impart because we have more understanding now. I'm thankful our Master came to give us the abundant life the prophets prophesied He would. The enemy comes to kill, steal and destroy.

It is recorded in the prophets (Jer 31:13-14) — the New Covenant people will have no generation gap. There will actually be virgins on the earth again. *I will turn their mourning into joy. I will satiate the soul of the priesthood. All my people will be satisfied with My goodness.* We're satisfied. We've reached satisfaction. We are not all that we are supposed to be, but we are growing toward it. We're satisfied that we are progressing.

That's why we come here to drink. Who would dare touch this cup in hypocrisy and die? That's why we can give praise, thanks, and honor. When we lift the cup we bring to fruition Ps 116:12. ***We cry out to Him just like we're calling out again in baptism.*** How many times have we said, "If I could just be baptized again I would cry out with all my strength this time"? Well, we have the opportunity every week.

We're fulfilling the prophecy. We're being obedient. We're fulfilling the commandment. I'm thankful to our Father. *The Holy Spirit has actually written a song to lead us into this time.* We have to sing with all our hearts. We have to learn it. We won't sing this song all our days; we'll write more songs. If He doesn't satiate us, He's a false prophet.

We lifted the cup and cried out in such a **LOUD** voice for such a **LONG** time. It was so wonderful to have that opportunity to get it ALL out! It HAS to be this way.

Hadasha: I realized tonight that when we cry our Yahshua's name we're saying Yahweh is powerful enough to save us from all the ways in us that we don't want to be, that we hate.

Then we lifted our hands (men and women) and those who had not had the chance to share their thank offerings gave thanks and we dismissed. Immediately after we sang a hymn. The musicians are all ready, and when we finish praying we sing the hymn. (We sang, "I want to trust my life unto You.") There are no pauses. Pauses are deadly.

Just before the hymn a designated messenger, who all ready knows who he is, runs to get the guests to bring them in so we can hear from them what is happening in their heart and what are their intentions. So right after the hymn, there they were. We were ready for them. Refreshments were served and even grapes were served for the people who didn't want to eat the cake. That was nice.

Every part of the breaking of bread is proclaimed boldly by a prophet, not mumbling... never again.

Yotham shared that after we sang "*I want to trust my life unto You*"... he looked on the table and saw that the loaf was all gone and the cup was empty. For a second he got a little sad. Then he realized that the loaf and the blood had gone into the body and that was where he could find Yahshua all week long now.

Michael and Kim came in. What use would we be if we couldn't evangelize or reach out to people? It's no accident that we went to *Nimbin* and suffered all the rain and filth and flooding and things we went through and now they are here. They were led by the spirit who was sent out to lead those who will inherit salvation. It was not a lawless spirit. We were led to *Nimbin* by a spirit and they were led by a spirit.

We told Michael and Kim that we wanted to hear from them that night so we'd all know — not just one or two would walk up to them and ask the same questions, but all of us together could hear from them and know how they are doing.