

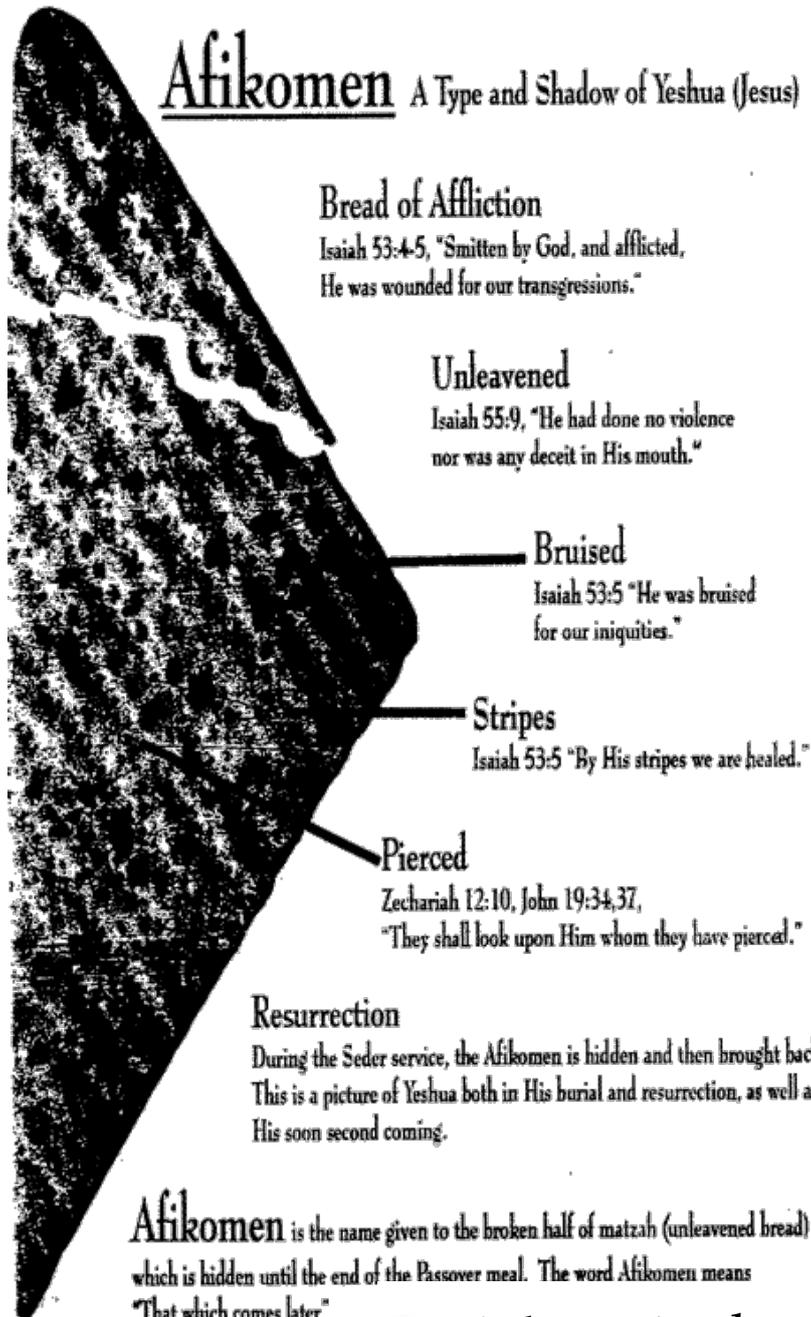


Messiah in the Passover -

Moshiach Revealed and Remembered.

A MATZAH INSIGHT

Matzah is the unleavened bread used at Pesach (Passover) and part is called the Afikomen. This is the only gentile (Greek) word used within this Jewish festival meal. It shows the inclusion of Gentiles into G-d's plan of redemption, revealed within His feast depicting how He leads His people Jew or Gentile out of bondage and into covenant relationship with Himself. The Afikomen therefore has a hidden meaning as shown below.



Bo Adonai Yeshua, Bo!

THE PASSOVER LAMB

In the latter days as foretold, G-d has revealed His Son, L'Adonai Yeshua (the Lord Jesus) as our Passover Lamb:-

He is the Lamb without spot or blemish.
Exodus 12.5 : 1 Peter 2.22 : John 1.29

He is male and the firstborn.
Exodus 12.5 : Romans 8.29 : Colossians 1.15
He was killed outside the city gates.
Deuteronomy 16.5 : John 19.17 : Hebrews
13.10-13

The whole assembly are responsible for His death.
Exodus 12.6 : Romans 3.23

At twilight.
Deuteronomy 16.6 : Luke 23.44

His blood shall be applied to the doorposts.
Exodus 12.7 : 1 Peter 2.5

The body of the lamb must be eaten.
Exodus 12.8-10 : John 6.55-58

This last passage of Scripture so beautifully signifies the truth of how we do share in His body, in a spiritual way, at the Lord's Passover and His table of communion.

"Do this in remembrance of Me"
1 Corinthians 11.24

One day, Israel will cry out "Baruch Haba B'shem Adonai" as they realise Yeshua hoo haMashiach.
Next year in Jerusalem will finally be fulfilled.

THE MATZAH TASH (BAG)

Introduction:

This beautifully embroidered linen bag is used by Jewish families around the world as they celebrate Pesach each year. It has three compartments or sections within it where three pieces of Matzah bread are placed. The Matzah Tash has become a very important part of the Seder meal ranking alongside the Seder dish containing the roasted shank bone, two types of bitter herbs, roasted egg, charoset (apple sauce mixture) parsley and salted water.

Proposition:

So where did the Matzah Tash come from and what are its origins? It was certainly not a part of the original Passover Meal partaken of by the Hebrews coming out of Egypt and nor was it on the table when our Lord Yeshua took His final meal on this earth! The only items on the table would have been the meat, the bitter herbs, the unleavened bread and the wine along with some lamps and plates and cups. It was the bread and the wine that our Messiah took to represent His body given for us as the last and great atonement for our sins. Truly He was the paschal Lamb, our Kipurah scapegoat.

Teaching:

The Matzah Tash then was obviously introduced sometime after the death and resurrection of our Messiah. I personally believe this was introduced by believing Jews who had confessed Yeshua as their Moshiach and wanted something that reflected His great sacrifice within this memorial meal. He had indeed rescued them from bondage and brought them out from the slavery of their sins and trespasses. They now had a new covenant as foretold in Jeremiah 31:31 to keep and walk in, 'for where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty'. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Rabbinic Judaism is rather silent over why the middle piece of the three pieces of Matzos bread is broken. A part of it is hidden for a while, found and then partaken of after the meal is over. (This is known as the Afikomen, it is a Greek word and is the only Gentile word within this Jewish meal of remembrance). The usual answer given about the breaking and then partaking of a small piece of the Afikomen is to remember the Passover lamb being slain. As we are about to discover it is indeed about remembering the Lamb of God – slain for us all, Jew and Gentile. The inclusion of a gentile word speaks of the inclusion of any gentile accepting the one true and Living God and His way of salvation through the promised Messiah, foretold by the prophets of old. Our Lord Yeshua/Jesus has fulfilled the prophecies of the Suffering Servant and will return to fulfil the prophecies regarding the Reigning and Ruling King. He is to sit on David's Throne as promised and bring peace at last for Israel.

What is staggering is the meaning of this gentile word – Afikomen. To the Jewish family it simply means *dessert* as it is eaten after the main meal when the dessert would normally be eaten. So it is known as 'that which comes later'..... **This Greek word Afikomen is in actual fact the second aorist form of the Greek verb *ikneomai* and its meaning is electrifying, for it means – 'I came'.** So Moshiach came once as the Son of Joseph to redeem and give the gift of eternal life to all who accept Him and then He is to come again as

the Son of David to rescue His people after the flesh, for the nations will eventually come against Israel as the prophets of the Tanach wrote. These same prophets wrote that Elijah is to come again and so why not Messiah! Both were Prophets and both were taken up to Heaven and both are to return.

Quite simply then we have an allegorical picture of our Messiah's body being broken, hidden (buried) for a while (3 days) and then brought forth. Every Jew is unconsciously taking part in the communion without realising it! One day of course they shall all realise and 'all Israel shall be saved' as it is written in Romans 11:26. What joy there must have been in Shaul's heart and mind as he wrote those wonderful words in his Epistle.

The three compartments within the Matzah Tash bag are seen to reflect the Law, the Prophets and the Writings by some Rabbis. Others see the High Priest then the Levites and then the people of Israel. Still others see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the three main patriarchs. Then within the Midrashic homilies we have the opinion that these 3 compartments reflect three thoughts, the Crown of Learning, Service and Rejoicing.

But why is the middle piece broken into two? Why is it wrapped in a cloth?

Why is it hidden? Why does everyone have to take a small piece when it is brought back?

To those who know the truth which has indeed set them free as our Lord Yeshua said it would, see a representation of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three being one in essence (echad) yet being seen separately and yet joined together. The rear of the Matzah bag is joined but the front is open to reveal 3 sections! We have to come in through the front door and Yeshua (Jesus) said He was that door. He is the only way to Heaven. See John 14:6 and Acts 4:12.

So again we must ask, why is the middle piece of Matzah, which is striped and pierced under rabbinic instruction broken? This is surely reflecting the truth of Isaiah chapter 53 verse 5. 'But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.'

Our blessed Messiah took the wounds upon His body, He was truly pierced through the nails and the spear penetrating His body and striped by the cruel whipping prior to His crucifixion by the Romans. Afterwards He was lovingly wrapped in a burial cloth, hidden for a while and then found. Jewish children play a game to find the hidden 'Afikomen' ('that which comes later' and truly He will as it is written) and the one who finds it receives a prize with joy! What greater joy can there be than realising that this all shows His great sacrificial love in being the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. 1 Peter 1:19-20.

But as the scriptures attest, we all allowed His death, we have all gone astray from the Lord's ways as Isaiah 53 verse 6 teaches us. That is why He sacrificed Himself for us, His precious royal blood atoned for us. If we will only receive and then repent, He will gladly renew and restore us into fellowship with God. The breaking of the middle piece of Matzah bread therefore represents the body of our Messiah. He himself said, "This is my body (holding the Matzah) broken for you."

Dear reader, if you know not the Holy One, Yeshua HaMashiach, Sar Shalom ve Melech Yisrael (Jesus the Messiah, the Prince of Peace and King of Israel) ask Him into your life. Confess your sins and receive the wonderful gift of eternal life. Amen.