

A Reflection on Passover in Preparation for the Easter Season

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Passover (“Pesach” in Hebrew) is one of the most important Jewish holidays, with both historical and spiritual meaning. This is the solemn observance of the Hebrews’ Exodus from slavery in Egypt through the “Red Sea” (that is, the Sea of Reeds) into the Promised Land.

The word “passover” refers to the fact that their liberation occurred after God “passed over” the houses of the Jews while afflicting the Egyptians with a 10th plague. The Jewish people use unleavened bread for this celebration as a remembrance that they had no time to leaven their bread during their hurried exodus from Egypt. Each year Passover is celebrated for a full week, beginning the evening before April 20th in 2008. This observance of their liberation from slavery to enjoy prosperity in their own homeland reminds them of God’s continuing care for them even today.

Christians believe that Jesus’ Last Supper with his family of disciples occurred at a Passover meal; to symbolize that now he was to be their sacrificial lamb, and by his death and resurrection, all people could be delivered from the slavery of sin to a new life in the Holy Spirit.

All of us, even if we are not Jewish or Christian, will do well to recognize what God is doing in our lives, on our behalf, in ways sometimes hidden, sometimes subtle and sometimes quite obvious. When we begin to discover God’s movements among us today, both in our individual lives and in our lives with each other, we find the courage to let go of whatever addictive behaviors may enslave us, and we somehow manage to find our pathway through change and transition to the next chapter on the journey.

This is a fitting time of year to recommit ourselves to some specific passage from slavery to freedom—to a new way of being in this world.

God is with us, so that one day we may find ourselves in God.