

Torah Portion Va'era
Exodus 6:2 – 9:35

Va'era means “and I appeared” from the first words spoken by Yahweh to Moses in the beginning of these scriptures.

In verses 3 – 8 Yahweh recalls to mind, and reminds Moses of the covenant that He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and then makes known to him His intentions of bringing that covenant to pass because He has heard the groaning of His people, which are in heavy bondage. He then instructs Moses to make known to His people 7 promises:

1. I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians
2. I will rescue you from their bondage of slavery
3. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments
4. I will take you as My people
5. I will be your God, then you shall know that I am Yahweh who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians
6. I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
7. I will give it to you as a heritage

Each year at Passover, the Jews recall to mind these 7 promises during their Passover Seder. They do this with the four cups of wine (grape juice):

First cup – Cup of Sanctification, “I will bring you out”. This cup sets apart the remembrance of the Passover and how they were set apart and chosen by Yahweh as His people.

Second cup – Cup of Deliverance, “I will rescue you from slavery”. This cup reminds them of how Yahweh delivered them while bringing the plagues on Egypt.

Third cup – Cup of Redemption, “I will redeem you”. This cup reminds them of how they were redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb. This is the cup that Y'shua drank with His disciples on the night before His death; when He redeemed us by His blood.

Fourth cup – Cup of Restoration, “I will take you as My people, and I will be your God, I will bring you into the land and I will give it to you as a heritage”. This is the final cup during the Passover Seder Meal. It reminds them of how Yahweh will restore all things and bring them back to the land that He promised to their fathers, as an everlasting heritage. Y'shua (Jesus) told His disciples that He would not drink of this fourth and final cup until He drank it with them in His Father's Kingdom (Matthew 26:29). At that time, He will have “restored” the people to their land and the last 3 promises will have taken place.

Every Passover Seder Meal ends with the spoken phrase, “Next year in Jerusalem!”. As they look forward to this promise made so long ago, so should we also eagerly anticipate the time as followers of Y'shua (Jesus); for at His coming He will rebuilt the tents of David and restore that which has been broken down. He will rule from His throne in Jerusalem, and His saints will be ruling and reigning with Him. Oh, how I pray, “Next year in Jerusalem!”.

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