



Sabbath: the Light is Messiah

"For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready." Revelation 19:7

"And He (Jesus/Yeshua) said to them, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." Luke 6:5

WHY DO THE SABBATH?

The Sabbath has been called the Bride, the Queen, freedom, redemption, complete day of rest, day of study, and is the outward sign between a man and his wife. The Sabbath is a rehearsal of the wedding between the bride (believers in Yeshua/Jesus) and the bridegroom (Yeshua HaMashiach/Jesus the Messiah). Many Christians have never experienced the beauty of Sabbath. If we can give you anything from this teaching it would be to introduce you to one of God's greatest gifts...His engagement and wedding ring!

Learning about God's Festivals can be likened to the bride preparing for her wedding. This covenant must be sealed soon. We are preparing for millennial reign with our Bridegroom. We want to get our makeup just right for Him! We must know what pleases Him, and His ways. If we will examine the Sabbath through the eyes of the Bride, we will see what preparations we need to make.

In a Jewish wedding, the bridegroom waits under the *chuppah* or wedding canopy for the bride. This is seen as a reminder of the seriousness of God's covenant to be united with His people one day with the Messiah Yeshua.

The *chuppah* was also a symbol for the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and the Temple. Today we see the *chuppah* in our homes that have become the Temple! Each Sabbath we are to go to our homes to renew our covenant with God in many ways. A time of renewal of a marriage is celebrated each week, too, with the husband becoming the Bridegroom and the wife once again, becoming as a bride. They examine their covenant and look at all their blessings that come from God, and await the Messiah. We, who are Believers know Him as Jesus, but His Hebrew name is Yeshua (Yeah-shoe-ah). Since we are close friends of the family of Yeshua, let's call Him by His real name, instead of His "nickname" of Jesus.

"My lover is mine and I am his." Songs of Songs 2:16 (In Hebrew it would be "Dodi li va-ani lo.")

This favorite verse is also interpreted into the Sabbath service each week. The verse is set to music and is a favorite dance (*Dodi Li*) to welcome the Sabbath! Let's look on at the pictures of Yeshua that presents Him as our Bridegroom, shall we?

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)

"This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Messiah and the church." Ephesians 5:31-32

Ever feel like "something was missing from your relationship with Yeshua?" Well, we have found that this is one of the first things that falls into place when you are seeking "the missing piece." This set-apart time with God and your family can add what has become known as "*Shalom*" (which means "peace"). But "*Shabbat Shalom*" means more than just "peace"--it means "wholeness in God." Sabbath adds wholeness to your week.

Lesson: Acceptance of Yeshua into your life adds wholeness. How true!

A beautiful picture of the Sabbath is presented in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* (suitable viewing for the entire family) and *A Stranger Among Us* [R rated] (a movie which you may want to preview before sharing with younger children--violence and language).

Sabbath is always celebrated on Friday beginning at sundown and lasting until sundown on Saturday. Sabbath is also a part of each festival, and if you learn this first step you will be able to see Yeshua more clearly.

If we are celebrating Sabbath on Friday night, all week long you would be preparing for this special family occasion. You would discuss with your family whom to invite to share this evening, plan the meal, bake the bread, set out the best china, decorate, and practice the songs. It does sound like the preparations for a wedding, doesn't it? But whatever you decide, look for the Messiah Yeshua in it and enjoy.

The Sabbath has long been a very important part of the Jewish people. The Sabbath, more than anything else, has kept them united throughout the ages. Studies have shown that rituals are an important part of family life and in today's world of the "dysfunctional family," the importance of the celebration of God in the family unit has never been more needed. The phrase "the family that prays together, stays together" speaks to the heart of the Sabbath.

Each week as we approach Friday evening we become excited about spending time with Yeshua in the framework that God has provided! God's plan for Salvation is revealed through the festivals of Leviticus in such wonderful pictures! Just like the parables are pictures, so are the festivals. We always remember two parables that Yeshua taught:

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you. 'Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the son of man is coming.'" Matthew 25:1-13

"And Yeshua answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner'; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all who they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.'" Matthew 22:1-13

We've often read through these passages, but often we, as Christians, do not realize just how much understanding of Jewish wedding customs would help.

Where are we taught about the Jewish wedding? In the festivals! These two passages explain about the Jewish wedding customs. The Sabbath is a weekly rehearsal for the bride and the bridegroom to come together. At each festival you would open with the Sabbath service! (Other festivals teach about the catching away of the believers, the coronation and wedding, tribulation, Yeshua's return, and even the establishment of His kingdom on earth!)

Where else might I learn about the Jewish wedding? It is vividly portrayed in the Festival of Rosh haShanah or the Feast of Trumpets. We also know that there were Hebrew *idioms* or *slang terms* that the people of that time understood, just as we have our slang terms today. As an example: Turkey Day means Thanksgiving, and Firecracker Day would mean the Fourth of July. The same is true of the people of Israel. Verse 13 of Matthew 25 reads: *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."* This says to me that he was speaking about *Rosh haShanah!* This was a common idiom for this two day festival. It is the only festival that begins with the physical sighting of the New Moon. No one man could decree that the festival could begin by himself. There had to be two witness that came before the *Sanhedrin Court*, and THEN the Court declared that the festival began. No man knew upon which day or hour, but only God controls the signs of the heaven. The festival lasted for two days, so therefore no man knew upon which day of the two, that the bridegroom might appear!

His wedding and coronation are vividly portrayed in this festival, but the Sabbath is the outward sign that the bridegroom comes! I would encourage you to research Ancient Jewish weddings for even more insight into the scriptures.

"Therefore, let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come but the substance is of Messiah." Colossians 2:16-17

If you read this verse carefully you will realize that what Paul is saying, is "Don't let others judge you in food or drink because at the festivals, you will have special foods and drinks that would teach you of the Messiah." Even the special foods and drinks were a teaching tool to reveal Messiah more intimately to you!

He also says that they can do the festivals--the new moon is a festival which was known as *The Festival of the Born Agains!* And note that he says that they were to do sabbaths! Why? Because the substance teaches of the Messiah!

Let's look again at scripture: (KJV) *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* Romans 10:4

Examine this same scripture taken for *THE JEWISH NEW TESTAMENT* by David Stern: *"For the goal at which the Torah aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts."* Romans 10:4

What is the difference? The Greek rendering of the term "teleos" is found in a STRONG'S CONCORDANCE number 5056. Let's look at the definition...to set out for a definite point or goal; the point aimed at as a limit; the conclusion of an act or state result or purpose. It is from the same word that we get "TELESCOPE" and "TELEGRAPH." It's like running a race towards the goal line. The goal is the "finish" but you have to run the race to get there! I liken our Christian race as never starting because we thought we were "ended". We never connected the two ends of the telegraph wire to communicate what God was telling us! We didn't see Him saying to us, "Hey! The Messiah is waiting for you to come to his party!" Each festival is a presentation of His many facets and even the sacrifices were to be a teaching tool to see him more clearly! Why are you just sitting there?

Let's look at one more verse: *"And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles."* Zechariah 14:16

Have you ever traveled in a foreign country? I have! And believe me if you don't know the language or customs, or understand their foods, you can find yourself in embarrassing, if not, dangerous circumstances. If we are to go up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, do you know what section of the Temple you are to enter, and what are the customs? Do you know what to wear? Do you know how to follow the celebration? Yes, I think that we need to understand our Hebrew Savior, Yeshua, so we can prepare--one step at a time--for His coming! The Sabbath is the bridge to everything!

Have you been looking for that "missing link" in your relationship with Jesus/Yeshua? Then the sabbath needs to be "plugged" into your life. Over and over again, the families that I have talked to that have dedicated even one evening a week to keeping a family sabbath, tell me that within three weeks of doing "sabbath" that they can notice more peace and health in their lives! Families are being restored to what God intended them to be - united in HIM with HIM leading the way!

I want you to do something very simple. I want you to lay your Bible down on the table in front of you. I want you to open it to John 1:1 and read to verse 18. Now if you are looking back at this sentence and thinking, "So? What was I suppose to see, Cheryle?" Then you missed it! Look again and this time, read aloud with your mouth.

Did you see it? If not, then I will tell you what I saw...*HIM!* There HE is laying down on the table in front of me! HE is exposed to me! Totally laying open to me! *The Word became flesh!* What I am looking at is just as intimate as can be! Remember preparing for your wedding? You got the dress, the veil, the cake, and the invitations, etc... The thrill of planning the wedding and the courtship was there! You walked to the altar and met your bride or bridegroom. You kissed at the altar. Maybe you went to a reception, but eventually the two of you had to go back to the hotel or someplace and consummate the marriage. Did you get married just to wear the dress and be the center of attention at the ceremony? Hopefully not! You got married because you wanted to be *intimate* with your God-ordained spouse as husband and wife! Hopefully some place along the way, you will have to have sex! *Its intimate!* It exposes us laying open our most intimate parts to each other. We have to totally trust our spouse...just like we have to trust the LORD! But how many people do you know that have the handshake at the altar, and leave it at that? They never get **intimate—face to face—** with the LORD! They never open their Bible to see HIM! This is what HE died for! Not just so you could wear the fancy dress, or wear the veil—or if you are a man—to wear a *kippah* or a *tallit!* HE died so that you could be **intimate with HIM!** He died so you would trust HIM intimately with your life! HE wants to be face to face with YOU! HE died for a relationship NOT FOR YOU TO HAVE STUFF (the dress or *kippah* or *shofar!*) He died to breath in your face that intimacy in your very life! Even HIS NAME in Hebrew is the very sound of a man breathing as he makes love to his wife! This is how intimate HE wants to be with you! To breath into you HIS very essence! To transform a handshake at the altar into the "new creature" that HE needs you to be to do Kingdom business. It says in Matthew 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you: depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" In this case, the "lawlessness" should really be translated "were never intimate with ME."*

The Sabbath is a rehearsal for HIS Coming. I pray that this will be the beginning of your intimacy with the LORD within the framework that God established. May you become intimate with HIM every day of your life.

Let's Prepare

Don't feel that everything has to be perfect on the Sabbath. Planning and practice improve the Sabbath each week, but your first experiences should be basic and fun--this is a celebration of home and not a religious ritual. We have tried to simplify the Orthodox Jewish service so that you can "taste" of it, rather than to put every little word into this book. This was written for beginners, and we pray you will want to grow into the longer service at a later date.

"The Sabbath was more than a day of rest. Its observance by the Israelites was a constantly recurring acknowledgment of God as the Creator of the Universe." (Taken from the Hertz PENTATEUCH & HAFTORAH.)

The first mention of the Sabbath can be found as early as the book of Genesis.

"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it he rested from all His work which God had created and made." Genesis 2:2-3

Did you ever wonder what "sanctified" meant? It meant "to set apart as special." A whole day for eternity where we were to step from our worldly cares and problems, and just be with Him! How wonderful! We were to come and bring our families, eat our meals, and walk in the cool of the day in the Garden with Him. How sad that we have lost that attitude about the seventh day!

In the Garden, the Sabbath was given to all mankind, but mankind rejected God's desires in their lives. They became too busy to acknowledge Him and to spend time with Him. The only people on the face of the earth that would literally give God "The Time of Day" or His time, were the Hebrews! So we see God delivering this group of slaves into the Desert of Sinai to present His Covenant to them. They accepted. They were chosen for a purpose, just as you are chosen for a purpose. God is calling His People to come to Him as His bride. Will you?

You may notice that it was so special that only the seventh day was given a name--Sabbath! All the rest are numbered!

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11

It is a commandment from God, not just to the Jews but to anyone who wishes to worship Him. The phrase, "stranger who is within your gate" means a non-Jew who wishes to worship the God of Israel.

GOD DID NOT CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT THE SABBATH! Our God is never changing! Nowhere in the Scriptures is man given the authority to change the day of worship or any festival. In fact, God instructed them not to add to or change His Commandments. So where did Sunday come from? Look at the name of that day...Sunday! It is the Roman calendar name for worshiping the Sun God! The Roman's changed the names! Men changed the name and the day! God didn't! He is still waiting for us to keep the Sabbath as He asked Adam and Eve to do at creation!

The Sabbath was created for the First Adam as much as the Sabbath was created for the Second Adam---Yeshua and His Bride! We just haven't known it!

What has been the result in our homes of keeping Sabbath? We found that when we started doing this in our homes each week, that God blessed us. Stability, peace and harmony came to our homes in abundance. When my husband comes home to the aroma of the freshly baked bread, the table set with our dishes, the sound of guests arriving, he would lean against the door and say, "Ah! Sabbath!" Some weeks we would have lots of guests and a big formal dinner, and other weeks we would simply celebrate alone with a lingering candlelight dinner. It is your choice, but we wanted to encourage you that The Sabbath can become a part of your life each week.

It is customary to wear the best you have for the Sabbath. This is not intended to make the Sabbath difficult to keep; it is so we will be in the right frame of mind as we learn the truths of the Messianic Kingdom, and see the things that God is communicating to us with His Sabbath.

We are to step out of the 1990's world of problems and worries, and into the safety of His Sabbath. I liken it to getting on the Ark with Noah and his family. They were prepared and safely tucked away waiting. So, too, each Sabbath we are prepared and safely tucked away waiting for the Bridegroom. It may only be a rehearsal, but I don't want to be one of the people left outside the Ark!

As you prepare for the Sabbath, it is customary to teach about God. Share with your family these things about the Sabbath and try to find new meanings for each thing. The question "why" and "what could God be teaching about the Messiah with this object?" are wonderful ways to draw your family into the evening of celebration.

The table itself is symbolic of the altar of God and the bread represents the sacrifices. Yeshua is our high priest and each of these things would be things that could teach about Him. So, the father becomes the high priest for the evening and is to teach about God. So many homes are lacking their priest at the altar each week.

Remember as you go through the set order of the meal, it is a picture of the Messianic Kingdom when we shall all be together. The meal is exploding with the things of God, if we will only look with open eyes and pray for the understanding that comes from God. For the purpose of study we recommend that you may do as much or as little as you are comfortable with doing. To examine the lesson that is presented is all that we ask. Later you could order a more Orthodox service book, if you like. This is a messianic service with our own commentary added. We have used **(T.J.P.)** to show you what are **Traditional Jewish Prayers**.

Before my husband joined me in doing the Sabbath, I would just go into the bathroom and light two matches and surrender my heart to God! I didn't have a book with the service. I just lit the matches and gave Him my twenty-four hours! It was about seven months before my husband joined me. Now we are united and it feels so wonderful! We pray that this will be a blessing for you, too.

There are traditional songs that are sung acapella on the Sabbath. Here are some to look for when you are shopping or looking through the resource list:

Song Titles: Eliyahu Hanavi; Sabbath Shalom; David Malech Yisrael; Hinei Mah Tov; Am Yisrael Chai; Lo Yisa Goy; Key Mitzion; Usha' Av' Tem Mayim; Heveinu Shalom Aleichem.

These blessings are often sung. You can get audio tapes with music from our resource list. The best resource would be ordering a catalog from 1-800-JUDAISM. Marty Goetz has a wonderful holiday cd available that combines Messianic/Jewish and Christian music of the season. Really beautiful! They have LOTS of music tapes and other things that will help you. I especially recommend Jonathan Settel's tape on the Sabbath. You can also call Bridges for Peace at 1-800-566-1998 or 1-918-461-8800 as they carry his tapes and others from the Messianic community. I am a big fan of Carol Cantrel who works with Bridges in Jerusalem.

Some families like to praise the Lord with instruments and songs that they already know from church. Perhaps you would like to teach one or two new songs and let your family choose other songs that they already know. Don't feel that you can't sing some of your family's favorite Christian songs. HE will be thrilled with anything that you lift up in praise to HIM, so don't be legalistic! *Just relax and enjoy!*

Let's Begin the Sabbath

We will be using this font for commentary through out the coming section. Commentary means that it might be something that you would want to say aloud or share with your family. It is written as an explanation of what they are experiencing, but is not part of the service, it's okay to teach and explain as you go. We've also chosen to use a larger font size to help you read more easily.

We will be using underlines for the prayers that are to be said in the coming section. They will appear in bold type. It will clearly say: "HOST RECITE" or "ALL READ." You may also sing the prayers if you know them.

General directions will appear in this font as you read through. All of this will be easy to follow.

THINGS TO DO TO PREPARE:

*Make Challah bread

*Clean the house

*Shop for meal ingredients

*Invite guests (optional)

*Set the table with your finest

*Teach your family about what to expect during the evening.

***Note from the writers. This celebration is not one that you can just put together at the last minute. For the best possible presentation of the Sabbath, please read through this whole section several days before Friday. You will also need to bake or purchase *challah* bread, and check our list of things to have on hand.

Sections of the Home Service for Sabbath:

*Lighting the candles

*Blessing for children

*Blessing for wife

*Blessing for husband

*Blessing for wine

*Blessing over hand washing

*Blessing for challah

*Eating the meal

*Singing

*Focused conversation

*Blessing after the meal

*More singing and possibly dancing

*Making love

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF SABBATH

Women have the honor of lighting the candles for her household. If a woman is not present then a man is permitted to light the candles. This is called a "good deed."

Why?

The reason it is reserved for a woman is because through a woman (Eve), the light of the world went out, but through another woman (Mary), the light of the world returned. Also the woman is a picture of the coming bride.

How many candles for the Sabbath?

At least two! We want to use the same number of candles each week. What does this teach us? We never want to decrease in God, but always increase. Some people light a candle for each member of their family each week, while still others light only the two.

What do the two candles represent?

The two candles represent several things. One teaching is that one candle represents Moses and the other is Elijah. Moses represents the Torah or teachings of God, and Elijah represents the prophets. Both prophets were said to be witnesses in the ancient Jewish wedding ceremony. Both would be present to point to the bridegroom and bride as having fulfilled the requirements for marriage. The light atop each candle can teach that both the Torah (teachings of God) and the Prophets come alive when we accept Yeshua into our lives each week at the Sabbath. Over and over we read in the Bible that there must be two or three witnesses for legal matters. So, too, must there be witnesses that Messiah Yeshua has met all the requirements to be married to the bride and to become king.

Is it important to do things in this order?

Yes, God is a very orderly God, and we have learned that everything is for a reason. Nothing is disorderly or out of place. Only the world runs on chaos when HaSatan is ruler of your heart. When God takes over a peace comes that passes all understanding.

FOR THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB HAS COME, AND HIS BRIDE HAS MADE HERSELF READY. REVELATION 19:7

1. COVER YOUR HEAD-a scarf is usually used.

WOMAN OF THE HOUSE RECITES OR SINGS: Lord of the Universe, I am about to perform the sacred duty of kindling the lights in honor of the Sabbath, as it is written. "And you shall call the Sabbath a delight, and the Holy Day of the Lord honorable." And may the effect of my fulfilling this commandment be that the stream of abundant life and heavenly blessing flow in on me and mine; that you be gracious to us, and cause Your *Sh'khinah* (presence) to dwell with us. (T.J.P.)

Father of mercy, continue Your loving kindness to me and my dear ones. Make me worthy to (rear my children that they may) walk in the way of the righteous before You, loyal to Your Torah (Instructions or Teaching) and clinging to good deeds. Keep far from us all manner of shame, grief, and care; and grant that peace, light, and joy abide in our home forever. For with you is the fountain of life; in Your light (Yeshua) do we see light. Amen. (T.J. P.)

2. LIGHT THE SABBATH CANDLES

3. PULL THE LIGHT TOWARDS YOURSELF without touching the flames.

4. COVER YOUR EYES WITH YOUR HANDS

5. **SAY THE BLESSING:**

Blessed and Praised are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us by Your commandments and commanded us to light the Sabbath lights. (T.J.P.)

What is the picture being presented of Yeshua as the Messiah?

First, it was through a woman (Eve) that the light of the world went out through sin. And it was through another woman (Mary) that the light of the world came back in. When the woman covers her head she is showing submission to her husband, just as he is submissive to the Messiah Yeshua. The candles show us many things. There are two candles which represent the Torah (God's Instructions for our lives) and the Prophets. Through the Instructions of God (Torah) and the Prophets we see Yeshua as the Messiah and the Light of the world. One friend likens the candle holders to being us! She sees us as holding Him each week within us. The candles are straight and tall, just as He will be when He comes.

When the woman pulls the light towards herself it is a picture of drawing Yeshua in to her life and into her home. She covers her eyes to represent many things, but my favorite thing is trusting in God through Yeshua even when your eyes are closed! Your trust is in Him so much that you know He will bring you in to the Messianic Kingdom that He promised. You must first take Him into your life and you must do it before the Messianic Kingdom comes! When you open your eyes, the first thing that you will see is Yeshua in all of His glory!

After the woman covered her eyes, said the blessing, she then says "Amen." This is a powerful word when you realize that the Sabbath begins when the bride says "Amen!" The Sabbath is a picture of the Messianic Kingdom and only when the bride is fully prepared does she have the right to say. "Amen" and it will begin. How does she know "when"? That is what she must learn through the rehearsal of the festivals and the Sabbath!

Remember the story of the virgins? Some were ready and others weren't? The ones that were not ready were left...They tried but didn't have enough oil and fell asleep. Perhaps that is a warning to be fully prepared. As I rush around all week in the world. I have ample opportunity to plan for my Sabbath each Friday night. I know it is coming, but I get too busy and suddenly it its 3 pm on Friday, the house is a mess and I am in a rush! How much I enjoy the Sabbaths when I have taken the time to plan the menu, prepare the food ahead of time, clean the house, and set the table. I know when I am rushed that I have not given God the time to speak to me about the coming Sabbath properly. If you listen early each morning when you first awaken. He will direct your day. It's like a "date time" that you look forward to with Yeshua as the Bridegroom coming for dinner.

PARENTAL BLESSING: (The children walk to the parents for this blessing)

Isn't it wonderful to know that blessing your children and family are part of this time? Imagine standing there with Yeshua in the messianic Kingdom. He reaches out His hands and puts them on your children's forehead and sings each of these blessings.

We have included the Traditional Jewish Blessing but if you wish to speak straight from your heart, that is also permissible.

Blessing for a son: May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.

Blessing for a daughter: May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.

And then we join hands and sing or recite:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you, and be gracious unto you, and be gracious unto you! The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace! The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you Shalom! Num. 6:24-26

And we will know that the "peace" that we sing of is now complete because we are with Him! (If you aren't misty eyed by now, read on...)

Why do they use these names to bless their children?

After much research we discovered that *Ephraim* and *Menasseh* are thought to represent the forgotten loyal Jews that remained faithful to the Torah, but are often overlooked. God remembers them and holds them dearly in His Book. They are not forgotten to Him. We pray that our sons will be faithful to His Torah. Sara, Leah and Rebecca represent sisterhood, laughter and hospitality, and these qualities are desirable in the girl's life. If you wish to use other names, then it is your decision.

The Bridegroom will turn to His Bride and read Proverbs 31:10- 31. My husband reads it to me each week just as we imagine the Messiah will! If you do not have a husband then children can read it to you. This is a picture of all the things that the Bride does and what Yeshua says about her to everyone He meets! Just as when you were dating your future husband couldn't stop talking about how wonderful His soon to be bride was, so too our Messiah Bridegroom boasts of us.

Blessing of the Husband:

The next part was added about 500 years ago. It is optional but a part that many of us add by choice. It is the blessing of the man or husband. This part seems so natural that we know that God looks favorably upon it. Nothing is so wonderful as reading Psalm 112 to your husband. This Psalm speaks of the Godly man in our life and calls forth the Messiah. I think once you read it you will see what we mean.

Kiddush or Prayer of Sanctification

This is the act of setting apart this day for God. The *kiddush* does not make the day Holy . Only God can make the day Holy or *kadosh*. But the *kiddush* (blessing over the wine) only acknowledges that God has already set the day apart, and we bless Him who makes the Sabbath Holy. He also set the Bride apart and calls her Holy or *kadosh*.

(All stand with a cup of wine or grape juice lifted up in the right hand.)

HOST WILL READ: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of (Messiah) God hovered over the surface of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2.

The right arm is a picture of the Messiah (Isa 53:1). The wine is a picture of blood, joy and marriage. By the blood of Yeshua the Messiah are we made *Kadosh* (holy set apart unto God).

HOST READS: And it was evening and it was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their host. And on the seventh day God completed His work which He had made. and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified (set it apart) it, which God had created and made. (T.J.P.) Genesis 1:31; 2:1-3.

[COVER THE *CHALLAH* BREAD WITH A TOWEL OR COVERING SPECIALLY MADE FOR IT.]



[Host says or sings the words in parenthesis. Everyone will then read together the rest of the blessing. The first three words that are said by the host is an invitation for everyone at the table to join in the kiddush (blessing over the sacrifice represented by the wine).]

HOST: (If it pleases my masters) Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. (T.J.P.)

HOST: (reads or sings this prayer aloud) Blessed and praised are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by Your commandments and has taken pleasure in us and in Your love and favor have You given us Your Holy Sabbath as an inheritance, as a memorial of creation, it being also the first of the Holy Convocations in remembrance of the Exodus from *Mitzra'yim* (Egypt). For You have chosen and sanctified us above all nations, and in Your love and favor You have given us the Holy Sabbath as an inheritance. Blessed are You, O Lord, who sanctifies the Sabbath. (T.J.P.)

(DRINK THE GLASS OF WINE at this point and be reseated. Set the glass down on the table.)

KIDDUSH LESSON: When I lift up the pure crystal wine glass I am reminded of Genesis 1:2 which reads differently in the ancient Hebrew writing of *Yochanan ben Uzziel* (John son of Uzziel). This is a writing by one of Yeshua's contemporaries., It was said to represent the Spirit of the Messiah instead of God hovering over the earth. Think of Yeshua being present and hovering over the surface of the water--in all his purity. Waiting for God to create the earth, man and woman and knowing what Sabbath joy we would share.

So when I pick up the wine glass, and pray this prayer I see the perfection of Yeshua in the waters (*mikvah*) of the earth. A time and place when we were called to commune together!

Yeshua asked, "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" (Matt. 20:22) Yeshua was probing John and James to see if they were willing to share the common destiny, or what lay ahead. At each Sabbath we, too, are offered the wine of His covenant.

Another lesson from the Jewish wedding is the two glasses of wine. These two cups signify a sharing of a common destiny. "The first cup is called the 'cup of joy.' It reminds the couple that when joys in life are shared, they are doubled. The second cup is the 'cup of sacrifice.' In the midst of their celebration, the bride and groom are sobered by recognizing that burdens and problems will someday come into their marriage. But if these troubles are shared, they are halved." *OUR FATHER ABRAHAM* page 212 by Marvin Wilson.

But on the Sabbath we are to step out of the worldly problems and into only the joy and love that the Messiah brings.

Why do we cover the bread (Hebrew *challah*) with a towel? At this point we must see Yeshua's blood sacrifice in the wine. Because in God's eyes the sacrifice that the bread represents (Yeshua's body) is seen as no less than the blood sacrifice of the Messiah Yeshua. We simply lay a cloth over the bread so all can focus on the blood. God is teaching that we are to cover the bread as a sign that we are concerned for everything and everyone's feelings. By covering the bread, we show respect for inanimate objects, too. How much more must we be concerned for the feelings of the people around us?

Why do you use raised bread instead of unleavened bread? We use raised bread for Sabbath because it teaches us a different lesson than the bread used at Passover. This bread is full and sweet. It represents the fullness and sweetness of the union with our Messiah when we become His bride!

WASHING OF THE HANDS

We've all been told to wash our hands before we eat. But did you know that eating is seen as a religious service in itself? The blessing actually means "The lifting of hands." Remember that the guests should wash their hands separately before coming to the table in addition to this ceremonial washing. It makes sense that you wouldn't want to dress up in your finest without washing your hands, but a friendly reminder to the children before you eat, reemphasizes to them that this part is for ceremonial cleansing and not for a full scrub down.

Customarily the father and mother wash the hands of the guests. In our group, we have taught the children that IF they are invited to help with the washing, that they must be very careful to follow our directions. You may take this opportunity to involve others in the service by allowing them to help wash hands. Perhaps you wish to look through your cabinets for a basin and pitcher. You can pick up hand towels at any store, and if you do cross stitch you may want to make your own. Many of us have towels for our festivals, and ones for Sabbath, but it is not required to be decorated. We often give hand towels, candlesticks, pitchers and basins as gifts now to each other.

The water is known as "Living Water" or *Maim Chayim*. This is also the title of a dance that is performed at the *Festival of Sukkot* or Tabernacles (John 7:37-8:59). Living Water must be flowing water poured from a pitcher three times over each hand. While the water is being poured over the hands, Psalms 134:2 should be said quietly.

Lift up your hands in the Holy Place and bless the Lord. Psalms 134:2 (T.J.P.)

The washing of the hands and the blessing for the bread are considered one act, so please remain quiet once you start this part of the service until after the bread is blessed.

(After washing their hands everyone will lift their hands in the air and say the following blessing together responsively...)

ALL RECITE OR SING: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us in Your commandments and commanded us to wash our hands. (T.J.P.)

(In our group we often recite this Messianic prayer, too.)

I dedicate my hands to Yeshua, the Messiah, the Hope of glory, to serve Him only in the coming week.

The act of lifting up holy hands shows the priest in the Temple washing their hands and feet in the laver before they could do service in the Temple. The priest would wash his hands and turn and lift his hands towards heaven to show that he had clean hands. Clean hands are symbolic of a pure heart (Psalm 24:4). Yeshua is the Living Water. When we wash our hearts in the Messiah then we are made clean before God.

HA-MOTZI: (BLESSING FOR THE BREAD)



(Now the host uncovers the bread and place one loaf on top of the other and hold them up towards heaven, the right hand under the bottom loaf.)

What does this teach us? Again, the right hand is seen as the hand of the Messiah and His power. His sacrifice was seen as all powerful because it gives us a taste of our redemption in His Body! The only requirement is that the *challah* must be whole, not sliced, before blessing.

ALL SING OR RECITE TOGETHER: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth. (T.J.P.)

Yeshua said, "I am the bread of Life." He was put in the earth and God brought Him forth. It is said that when we see the bread we are to understand that God could have made bread ready for us to pick off of trees, but when we choose to make the bread of the Sabbath, then He has allowed us to become part of creation. The key words are "choose to make." How true it is that when we make the choice to "make Sabbath," that we are that much closer in our understanding of Yeshua and of creation.

After saying the blessing, the host will take both loaves of bread and salt them thoroughly. After salting the bread he will tear a piece off, from that piece he will tear off a piece for himself and passes this piece around the table where the guests will tear off a piece, from his. After everyone has a small piece they will eat the bread together. Again--mutual destiny.

What does this teach us? We will all taste of our redemption together in its fullness in the Messianic Kingdom to come!

Why is the bread braided? The *challah* bread is a remembrance of the manna God provided for the Israelites during their 40 years of wandering in the desert. You were to braid the bread to be symbolic of each person's multifaceted personality; and possibly of the coming together of the Bride of Messiah into one body.

Why do you salt the bread? Since the destruction of the Temple, the bread that is on the table has taken the place of the sacrifices that were offered in the Temple. God commanded that all sacrifices be offered with salt. (Lev. 2:13). We are the salt in Matt 5:13 that says, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men." (NAS.) We also see the Messiah Yeshua in the salt of the Red Sea when they receive their salvation (Yeshua) from Pharaoh! It is also a reminder of the tears that were shed when he died on the cross.

NOW WE EAT THE SABBATH MEAL or Seder Meal! (YOU CAN EAT THE BREAD, TOO)

GOOD SHABBOS

If it is possible to talk about a best-loved Shabbat symbol, it would have to be the *hallah* (*challah*). People rip into it with joy. They excavate caves in it, removing the soft center and leaving the crust. Others take great delight in slicing it into neat, even slices. *Hallah* is a hands-on experience. This simple egg bread--braided, round or square, homemade or standing bakery order, with its raisins or sesame seeds--is the catalyst that breaks the formality of the Sabbath Seder service and lets the meal began! *THE ART OF JEWISH LIVING: THE SHABBAT SEDER* by Dr. Ron Wolfson pp. 168-169

General guidelines about the meal: Every care should be taken to ensure that the meal is kosher. Pork is never appropriate for a Sabbath. Remember, a sign that the evil kings demanded was the sacrificing of a pig. When a Jewish person sees a pig, they see a picture of the Abomination of Desolation. Also look at Isaiah 65:4 and Isaiah 66:17. These chapters tell us of His second coming when His foot will step down on the Mt. of Olives, and the charges that He will bring against those who rebelled against Him.

The traditional meal for Sabbath is chicken, but in no way is this a limit to what you may have. It is, however, to be the very best meal of the week. If while shopping you find something that would make a very good meal, buy it and put it away for the Sabbath. If sometime later during the week you find something that would be better and would like to buy it, then do so, and put it away for the Sabbath and eat the first item that was put away. In doing this you are showing God that the average days are not as important to you as the Sabbath. There are some excellent recipe cookbooks available from the resource list that we have provided.

PLEASE NOTE that the Sabbath is a 24 hour day, and you would plan for three meals to be ready. For purposes of this lesson we will not burden you with the preparation and planning of the three meals. Often times this is something that you must grow into as you do the Sabbath. Remember that we have simplified this book for beginners.

So far so good! The table talk should center on the things of God. This is a hard lesson for many people to learn. We play a game called "Excuse me. That is not Sabbath talk." If someone starts talking about things of the world or criticizing or worrying, we simply remind them with these words. Usually it results in laughter and a gentle nudge keeps things moving the way that God intended. How wonderful to spend twenty-four hours not in the world, but delighting in Him!

Yes, this is the time for the table songs. These songs are designed to make the Sabbath more joyful and of course, to teach. For your enjoyment you may want to turn on some soft music during the meal or pull out your list of songs that you have made ahead of time. (Did your mother ever reprimand you when you were little for singing at the table? I found this so exciting when I was in Israel. The restaurant is FULL of singing, happy, rejoicing people on the Sabbath. How much so should the home be?)

After you have eaten then you would sing or recite Psalm 126 as a group or choose someone to read it.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We have included a lesson on grace after the meal on the following page. There is a longer Grace after Meals that we are not including for this beginner's lesson that you may want to examine later. This can also be sung.

ALL RECITE OR SING TOGETHER: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe who feeds the entire world with Your goodness, with grace, loving kindness and mercy; You give food to all flesh, for Your loving kindness endures forever. Through Your great goodness we have never lacked food: O may we never lack it forever and ever for Your great Name's sake, since You nourish and sustain all beings, and do good to all, and provide food for all Your creatures which You have created. Blessed and praise are You, O Lord, who gives food to all.

We thank You, O Lord our God, because You did give as a heritage to our fathers a desirable, good and spacious land, the covenant and the Torah, and food in plenty. Blessed and praised are You, O Lord, for the land and for the food.

Have compassion, O Lord our God, upon Israel Your people, and upon the Kingdom of the house of David, and doubly comfort us. Blessed are you, O Lord, who in Your compassion rebuilds *Yerushalayim*. Amen.

Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, our God, our Father, our King, who is kind and deals kindly with all; You have dealt kindly, are dealing kindly, and will deal kindly with us.

Let us inherit the day that will be wholly *Shabbat*; and O, make us worthy of the days of the Mashiach, and the life in the *Olam Haba*. He who makes peace in His high places, may He make peace for us and for all Israel, and say, Amen. (T.J.P.) **Olam Haba*" (Long "O" ha ba) means "The world to come."
"*Mashiach*" (Ma-she-ach) means "Messiah." He was Yeshua haMashiach or Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lesson: "Unlike the practice of most Western Christians today, in Bible times the Hebrew people did not see the need to bless food, drink, or other material things. In prayer they focused only on blessing God, the Creator and Giver. The Gospels indicate that Jesus followed this same custom (Matt. 26:26 and Luke 24:30), one commanded in the Torah: "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you" (Deut. 8:1)...*Yechiel Eckstein* comments: "*the berakhah* (prayer) does not transfer holiness to the object itself, but rather entitles us to partake of the world's pleasure...We give thanks to the Lord and testify thereby that the earth is His and we are but its caretakers."...The ancient Hebrew would never have thought of blessing what they ate. The idea would have been totally foreign to them; it would also have been an insult, of sorts, to God. If everything God created was "very good" (Gen 1:31), why should one imply that it is really unholy and profane? The postbiblical notion that one needed to sanctify, cleanse, or purify what God had already created and declared to be good would be strange theology to the biblical writers. It suggests that food and drink, in of themselves, are unacceptable gifts until suddenly made holy through prayer...*OUR FATHER ABRAHAM* by Dr. Marvin Wilson page 177. (You will want this book for your library!)

CHALLAH BREAD RECIPE



We have included a bread recipe that is easy for the working woman or homemaker. Please refer to the recipe section for this recipe. Involve the children in the making and remember that this is not "THE RECIPE", but a simple recipe that a friend gave us. You can find challah (Sabbath bread) at many bakeries if you prefer not to bake it yourself. Look for "french white bread", or you could even use frozen bread dough. To begin with remember to keep it simple. I didn't bake my own bread for almost a year, as a teenage girl baked our bread to earn some spending money. Now it is just part of my routine on Thursday night and I must promise my husband not to bake the bread before lunch on Friday, so he doesn't come home at noon to the aroma of fresh bread and know that he can't have any at lunch.

The following is a recipe for making "Challah", the bread that is used on the Sabbath and at most festivals. You would make two loaves before the Sabbath would begin. This is because there is to be no cooking on the Sabbath, so one loaf is for Friday and the second loaf is for Saturday. If you are going to have guests over, then you may need to bake more, or use this for the ceremony. You can also freeze this bread ahead of time, but be sure to wrap several layers's of foil and plastic. It heats up nicely in a microwave for about 20 seconds, and my husband loves the French Toast from it! You need about four hours in the refrigerator or until the bread rises to the top of your large bowl. I usually make my bread on Thursday night just before I go to bed. Then when I come to the kitchen at 3 p.m., it is ready to braid. If I don't need two large loaves of bread then I will sometimes turn the extra dough into a wonderful pizza dough! If I am using the recipe for only pizza it will make three large pizzas that are delicious! I usually top with Monterey Jack cheese, Mozzarella cheese, bell peppers, and Vadalía onions! You will love this sweet pizza taste! Oh, yes! My husband loves it when I make the cinnamon rolls for Saturday morning out of the recipe, too, instead of the second loaf of bread!

2 cups warm water or milk

2 pkgs dry active yeast

6-7 cups bread flour

1/2 cup sugar

1 t. salt

1/4 cup oil

1 egg

Directions for my challah bread:

1. In large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water (careful of the temperature or it won't rise. You can use a thermometer to check the temperature. You want 75-120 degrees.) Stir in sugar and salt. Add 3 cups flour and mix well. Add oil and egg and mix well. Then add remaining flour. (The dough will be a little sticky but don't add more flour.)

2. Wet a clean dish towel and ring it out. Cover the bowl of dough with the towel. Put the bowl in the refrigerator and let stand overnight.

3. When dough is doubled in size braid as follows:

Divide the dough into 3 pieces. Cut 1 piece into thirds; with your hands roll each piece into a 16 inch-long rope or snake. Place ropes side by side and braid as you would hair.

Pinch ends of braid to seal. Place on cookie sheet the bottom loaf. Repeat with another piece for another loaf. Cut remaining dough into 6 pieces; roll each into 17 inch-long ropes. Braid each set of three ropes as shown in figure; pinch ends to seal.

Place each smaller braid on top of a large braid; tuck ends of top braid under bottom braid stretching top braid if necessary.

4. Arrange loaves at least 5 inches apart on oiled or greased cookie sheet; cover and let rise in warm place until doubles in size. (Depending on your house temperature - find a warm place.)

5. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cook bread for about 35 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and brush top and sides of loaves with butter. Let cool on wire rack.

Too busy for all that? Then read this Super Jiffy 2 hour method that I

discovered: *If you are like I was, you have a problem with finding a nice warm moist place to get the dough to rise. One day I even tried the inside of my dishwasher! (Don't try it, okay?) BUT the best idea that I have found is the microwave! Here's what I do. I make half the recipe at a time, okay, if I use the food processor. The trick is to really dissolve the yeast - so I use my mixer or food processor and beat it until it foams up tall. Then I add the sugar and mix it well until I know that it is dissolved well. The mixture is VERY foamy by this time. Then I add the ingredients until I have a stiff dough (I have bread hooks on my mixer, and use the cutter down in the bottom of the food processor) When I am ready to let it rise, I take a wet towel and put it in the microwave to heat for about two minutes. MAN! It is hot when you take it out!

Then I put it across the top of the dough bowl, and set the bowl in the microwave with the door shut for 30-60 minutes...just long enough to rise up to the top of the large bowl. Works great! Then as I begin to braid the bread I turn on my oven to 350 degrees to warm the top of my electric stove (those of you with gas stoves have a pilot light for this purpose). I place my cookie sheets (I love my airbake cookie sheets for this project!) on the top of the electric burners (they are not turned on!), braid my bread, and heat another dry towel in the microwave to go across them while they rise again. My bread is huge and beautiful! Just remember that the secret is having a nice moist place to raise the dough.

Lois' Comments: Stop at the local grocery/bread store on your way home from work and buy some good white bread. Or con a local homeschooler into opening a challah bread business on Fridays.

The following is a teaching on Saturday Sabbath which is your Saturday portion of Hanukkah. We pulled out this section and published it under a separate book. With the Friday Sabbath Service. (It was so popular with our local people that they wore out their Hanukkah books.) You may order this sabbath and Havdalah service under the cover of Sabbath: The Light is Messiah from HaY'Did.

Saturday

What would you do on the Sabbath? Much! It's often times thought that all you can do is lay around the house, but that is far from the truth!

Listen to what our friends in the book *Living a Jewish Life* have to say: *Making Shabbat is not a matter of refraining, but of doing. The Talmud says "the affairs of heaven" are permitted on the Sabbath. Specifically, teaching children and arranging weddings. Resting, eating, and praying are not only permitted, but mandated. There are other verbs for Sabbath, too, sleeping, reading, thinking, studying, talking, listening, meditating, visiting the sick, laughing, singing, welcoming guests, and making love.* Page 37

Yes, there is much to do on the Sabbath. Just think what your Saturday memories would be like if your family did all these things!

The main focus of the day is time with God. We have been excited about discovering that God has a regular Torah reading planned for us each week.

What do you mean by "regular Torah reading in the yearly cycle"? This is something that really excited us when we found out that God actually had a plan to teach and communicate on a weekly/daily basis! This is the examination of God's covenant with the Bride and Bridegroom! A wedding contract in Hebrew is called a *Ketubah*. In the wedding contract or *Ketubah* the Bridegroom would tell what he would promise the Bride. He would have to live up to the contract in order to keep his bride, and the *ketubah* would be preserved throughout their marriage

We found out that on the Jewish calendar--which you can buy at a Jewish gift store or through our ministry--have are readings for each week posted! Just think! Instead of hit and miss according to what our pastors have done for years, there is actually a prescribed reading from the first five books of the Bible with a matching reading from the Prophets! We immediately ordered a copy of the book THE PENTATEUCH AND HAFTORAH (may be purchased from our resource list) where the readings are laid out in order, and found out that there were excellent commentaries for each verse! It changed our lives! Now we sit down with that book and a notebook and read in the order that God intended! We also enjoy the Second (New) Testament commentaries that First Fruits of Zion Magazine have each month that go in conjunction with this book! Now we can really see Yeshua reflected in the Scriptures and festivals as God intended!

If you don't want to do these readings on Saturday, that is fine. But we encourage you to do Havdalah. It is our favorite service and is performed at the conclusion of every festival and every Sabbath. It's the one

thing that most people remember about the Sabbath. It really portrays Yeshua and only takes about twenty minutes.

SATURDAY EVENING OR HAVDALAH SERVICE

This service only takes about 20 minutes and we encourage everyone to do this! The pictures of Yeshua abound within it's framework! (This is a picture of a Havdalah set that you can assemble or purchase from our resource list.)

Things you will need for Havdalah:

1. A candle with more than one wick (you can buy these from a Jewish gift store or Messianic ministry. I made my own by using duck tape around three regular candles for years!)
2. A spice box or shaker or a bag of spices tied at the top with ribbon or something.
3. Wine or carbonated wine/grape juice (I use ginger ale with my grape juice sometimes.)
4. Matches for the candle
5. A saucer for the wine glass
6. One candle for each person. I have used an extra package of Hanukkah candles. Remind people that these do drip and not let little children handle their own.
7. A candle holder

The first thing that the father and children do is go outside to look for the first three stars of the evening. In the summer time it may be later, and in the winter it may be earlier. We sometimes do Havdalah according to our schedule rather than the stars' schedule. In some parts of the country it could be 11 pm before the stars come out, so you must use common sense and decide what time you wish to depart from Sabbath. This is the ceremony that I call my "lingering kiss after a sweet evening with Jesus/Yeshua." You don't want to say goodnight, but it is time to go back to the real world.

Havdalah is done standing around a table. The family will gather and a time of sharing what wonderful things we have learned about God will be discussed by everyone. Then the father or leader will take the wine and pour it into a glass placed on top of the saucer. He is the only one with a wine cup on this night.

(Leader takes a cup of wine and fills it to overflowing into the saucer.

Teaching: The wine that has been spilled into the saucer has the appearance of blood; this is the blood of Yeshua that was spilled for our sins. (Luke 22:20)

Raise the cup in the right hand carefully. The right hand is a picture of the Messiah. (Isa. 63:5) In raising the cup, a saying of Yeshua is remembered.

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." (John 12:32)

HOST READS: Behold God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid, for my strength and song is God the Lord, and He has become my salvation. And you shall draw waters out of the wells of salvation with joy. Salvation belongs to

the Lord; Your blessing is on Your people. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is a refuge for us. For the Jews it was light and gladness, and joy and honor. So be it with us. I will lift up the cup of salvation, and I will call on the Name of the Lord. (T.J.P.)

In Hebrew the word for salvation is "Yeshua." So if you go back and read what is said in this prayer it says that Yeshua will be my salvation! How true it is !

ALL SING OR RECITE TOGETHER: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of universe who creates the fruit of the vine. (T.J.P.) (*Do not drink the wine at this point. You may set the cup down on the saucer.)

Yeshua said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15:5) It is from the Father through the Spirit that fruit is created in our lives.

SPICES

ALL SING OR RECITE TOGETHER: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe who creates different kinds of spices. (T.J.P.)

(All will take the container and inhale the fragrance,

and pass the spice box among the people present)

Teaching: The spice box must contain more than one spice.

The first meaning of the spices is the many different prayers,

ceremonies and experiences we have just had with God

in the Sabbath or festival. Each of these experiences are a sweet smelling spice to God.

Another explanation is that each person is as a spice, each unique and pleasing to God. Together we make up different kinds of spices as the blessing says:

The prophet Isaiah referred to this...*Lift up a Banner on the high mountain. Raise your voice to them that they may enter the gates of the nobles. I have commanded my sanctified ones. I have also called My mighty ones to my nose; Those who rejoice in My exaltation.* Isaiah 13:2-3.

The Banner is a term for the Messiah. Strangely enough many Havdalah spice boxes are topped with a banner.

NOTE: "To exalt the voice" is a reference to the resurrection.

"To enter the gates of the nobles" is a reference to *Rosh haShanah* (Feast of Trumpets).

"My sanctified ones" is a reference to those who believe in the Messiah.

"Called My mighty ones to My nose" is a reference to the believers being a sweet smell to God as He flares His nose to inhale their sweet fragrance.

LIGHTING THE FIRE

ALL SING OR RECITE: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe who creates the light of the fire. (T.J.P.)

(Light the Havdalah candle and turn out all the lights.

You may need to have a light near the leader so he/she can read.)

Why do you use a candle with many wicks? This is a tremendous messianic sign. It symbolizes the common destiny of all of us in the body of the Messiah Yeshua. We are seen as united with the fire of God's Holy Spirit or *Ruach haKodesh* shining forth. We become one with Messiah Yeshua and we recognize His death, burial and resurrection as a necessity to become part of His body. Others see His light in us as we go into the coming week.

Spread your hand towards the flame without touching it. Your fingers should be spread wide.

As you pass your hand in front of the torch or candle of many wicks, it gives the appearance of rays of light coming from your hand. We have learned that the candle is a picture of Yeshua. In the Book of Judges we see that Deborah is married to a man named *Lapidot*. *Lapidot* means the Torch. Deborah means "bee" or "congregation that is busy as bees" in Hebrew. Thus we can see that this again is a picture of Yeshua with His bride. In the light of Yeshua the bride will be drawn to Him. She is busy preparing for His coming, and will be busy examining herself in the days ahead.

As you upraise your fingers to the flame, it reveals the dirt under your nails and on your hands. This lesson brings us back to our sins. In the light of Yeshua our prayer is that we are found clean from sin.

A third lesson teaches the resurrection. One of the things that keeps growing after we are buried is our nails. They live on long after we are dead. So, too in the light of Yeshua will we live on in His sight!

God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His Glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His splendor was like the sunrise, rays flashed from His hand, where His power was hidden. Habbakkuk 3:3-4.

The candle is a torch or a "*lapidot*". We can see this picture in Acts 20:7-12. If you read this passage through Messianic eyes you will see that what is spoken of here is a *Havdalah* service with non-Jews in Troas. (Chapter 20 shows many pictures of Paul keeping the Festival of Unleavened Bread. He truly was a practicing Orthodox Jew! We just need to know the Jewishness.)

Remember "Fiddler on the Roof"? They were carrying *Havdalah* candles to the wedding. They were carrying a "*lapidot*!" It is a picture of the bridegroom lighting the way to the wedding. Weddings generally take place right after the Sabbath *Havdalah* service is over.

LESSON TO FOLLOW: I have inserted the teaching as you read the passage by including the teaching in parentheses.

7. And on the first day of the week (Saturday evening at sundown) when we were gathered together to break bread (a term for eating a meal together in a service), Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

8. And there were many lamps (*lapidot*) (also a term for *Havdalah* gathering) in the upper room where we were gathered together.

9. And there was a certain young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor, and was picked up dead.

10. But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him."

11. And when he had gone back up, and had broken the bread (ceremony of Hamotzi would have been said) and eaten, he talked with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. Acts 20:7-11

Powerful isn't it? Now let's see what else these non-Jews would have experienced that night.

HOST will again take the cup in the right hand and the following is said:

HOST READS OR SINGS: Blessed and praised are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe who makes a distinction between Holy and profane, between light and darkness, between Israel and the heathen nations, between the seventh day and the six working days. Blessed and praised are You, O Lord, who makes a distinction between Holy and profane. (T.J.P.)

DRINK THE WINE

*You may pass the cup around if you like. You may pour out individual cups for each person from the bottle and have ready too. The leader would drink from the main cup which is a reminder of our common destiny in Yeshua.

PRAYER FOR THE COMING WEEK

EVERYONE RECITES: Ruler of the universe, Father of mercy and forgiveness, we ask that You allow us to begin the working days which are drawing near to us, in peace; released from all sin and transgression; cleansed from all iniquity, trespass and wickedness; and clinging to the study of Your Torah, and to the performance of good works. In the coming week, allow us to hear only tidings of joy and gladness. May there not arise in the heart of any man envy of us, or in us envy of any man. O, our King, our God, Father of mercy, bless and prosper the works of our hands. And all who love us have thoughts of good to us and Your people Israel. Lift them up and prosper them, and fulfill their objective; but all who conceive against us and your people Israel, plans which are not good, frustrate them, and cause their plans to fail; as it is written. "Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us." Open to us, Father of mercies and Lord of forgiveness, in this week and the weeks to come, the gates of light and blessing, redemption and salvation, of heavenly help and celebration, of holiness and of

peace, of the study of Your Torah and of prayer. And also let this Scripture be fulfilled in us. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, " Your God reigns!" (T.J.P.)

HOST will put the candle in the wine that was spilt in the saucer.

As the candle fights for its life in the wine, it is a reminder of Yeshua's death. Yeshua fought for His life in His own blood on the cross. As there is no other light in the room when the candle is put out, there is no light in the world without Yeshua. If you wish, you may at this time have every member of the family light a small candle from another candle. As each member of your family lights his candle, it is a recommitment to serve Yeshua only in the coming week. His light was put out, and through His resurrection, and our belief in it, do we come in to the understanding of Yeshua as that LIGHT. (Acts 14:47 and Isaiah 49:6)

The last act of *Havdalah* is to sing "*Eliyahu Hanavi*". In doing this we are seeking God to send Elijah the prophet and for him to bring the King Messiah. The Suffering Messiah has come, now we need The King Messiah (Messiah ben David). Before there can be a Messiah, there must be an Elijah. We see this in the Book of Revelation that in the spirit of Moses and Elijah the two witnesses come forth.

Isn't it wonderful? This song is available on many Jewish tapes that you can find. I am including the traditional words so you can read them even if you haven't found a tape.

(Chorus)

E-li-ya-hu-ha-na-vi,
E-li-ya-hu-ha-tish-bi,
E-li-ya-hu, e-li-ya-hu,
E-li-ya-hu ha-gi-la-di.

Bim'-hey-ra v'ya-mey-nu,
Ya-vo-e-ley-nu,
Im Ma-shi-ach-ben Da-vid,
Im Ma-shi-ach ben Da-vid.

Translation: Elijah the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, Elijah the Giladite. May he come soon in our lifetime and bring Messiah, son of David.