

Va'era – Bo!

And I Appeared – Go!

Exodus 6:2-9:35, 10:1-13:16

The literary structure of Va-era through Bo forms a chiasm. We will begin at Exodus 6 verse 14 since what preceded that was part of the last chiasm. First we will look at the parashot. Next, we will focus on specific areas of the parashot that impact the Brit Chadasha:

- Comparing the plague in Egypt to the seals, trumpets, and plagues of Revelation.
- Circumcision
- Entering and maintaining the covenant.

Va'era – Bo!			
Part 1	Part 2	Yeshua	Future
Rescue of God's people from Egypt			
<p>Exodus 6:2-7:7</p> <p>God said, "I am YHVH. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as Elohim Shaddai but by My name YHVH I was not known to them.</p> <p>I have established My covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers....I have heard their groaning... and have remembered My covenant. Say to them I am YHVH (אֲנִי יְהוָה) and "I will bring you out (וְהוֹצֵאתִי) from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the</p>	<p>Exodus 12:1-13:16</p> <p>This month will be the 1st month of the year.</p> <p>On the 10th of this month every man shall take a lamb (שֶׂה ; <i>seh</i> = a member of a flock, a sheep or goat) for his household. Neighbors can share a <i>seh</i>. It must be without blemish (תָּמִים), a male of the first year. It may be of the sheep (הַכְּשִׂים) or of the goats (הָעִזִּים).</p> <p><i>lamb</i> = כָּשָׁב m; כְּשֻׁבָה f. ram (old enough to butt) = כָּבֵשׁ goat = שְׂעִיר m; עִז f.</p> <p><i>The seh must be killed between the evenings (בֵּין הָעַרְבַּיִם).</i></p> <p><i>They are to take the blood and apply it to the door posts and lintel of the doorway of the</i></p>	<p>In Luke 2:22-24, Yeshua was brought to the temple by his parents for two things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeeming the firstborn male • Purification of the mother after childbirth <p>Yeshua's parents observed Passover each year in Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When Yeshua was 12 years old, he also joined them in Jerusalem for Passover.</p> <p>When He was approximately 33 years old, Yeshua became the Passover Lamb when He was crucified on Nisan 14th. Not a single</p>	<p>Why was the Passover <i>seh</i> roasted with fire? Fire is related to judgment, the ultimate being the lake of fire. There is another judgment of fire that precedes this.</p> <p>Revelation 18:4-5 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.</p> <p>Revelation 18:8 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day — death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.</p> <p>As YHVH came with His angels to destroy the firstborn Egyptian males and animals, Yeshua will come with His angels to</p>

<p>Egyptians. 8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord."</p> <p>The Hebrews did not hear (וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ) because of their anguish and cruel bondage.</p> <p>He told Moses to go in and tell Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go out of his land.</p> <p>*Moses felt that the children of Israel hadn't listened to him; he felt Pharaoh wouldn't listen either since he had uncircumcised lips.</p> <p>Exodus 6:13 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.</p> <p>Genealogy: Reuben</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanoch • Pallu • Hezron • Carmi <p>Simeon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jemuel • Jamin • Ohad • Jachin • Zohar • Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman 	<p>houses where they will be eating the roasted <i>seh</i> with unleavened bread (מַצּוֹת) and bitter herbs (מַרְרִים). It shouldn't be raw or boiled with water. You shall eat it in haste with your loins girded (as a belt), shoes on your feet, and staff in your hand.</p> <p>Passover (פֶּסַח), it is YHVH's.</p> <p>This night YHVH passed through Egypt and killed (נָכַד) the Egyptian firstborn (בְּכוֹר) men and beast. He executed judgment. The blood was a sign upon the houses so that YHVH would pass over their thresholds and not allow the plague/destroyer to kill them (Ex. 11:1, 12:13, 23, 29; Psalm 78:43-51).</p> <p>This day/feast was to be kept as a memorial, an everlasting ordinance (חֻקַּת עוֹלָם). They were to remove leaven (שָׂאֵר ; sourdough starter) from their homes and eat unleavened bread for 7 days. The first and last days would be days of rest = no work except that for what they were to eat, and would be accompanied by a holy convocation. They would remember that He brought them out their armies (צְבָאוֹתֵיכֶם) from</p>	<p>one of His bones were broken.</p> <p>This act would rescue God's people from slavery to sin and redeem them from the curse of the law.</p>	<p>execute judgment during the Battle of Armageddon.</p>
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<p>Levi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gershon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libni • Shimi • Kohath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amram <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron • Moses • Izhar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korah • Nepheg • Zichri • Hebron • Uzziel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mishael • Elzaphan • Zithri • Merari <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahli • Mushi <p>Amram (Kohath's son) married Jochebed (Kohath's sister).</p> <p>Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Nahshon.</p> <p>Aaron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadab • Abihu • Eleazar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phinehas • Ithamar <p>Eleazar married one of the daughters of Putiel.</p> <p>Korah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assir • Elkanah • Abisaph <p>It was <i>this</i> Moses and Aaron that Exodus speaks of. <i>This</i> Moses would be</p>	<p>Egypt. They would eat unleavened bread in the 1st month on the 14th day at evening until the 21st day at evening. Whoever eats leavened bread during that time will be cut off from the congregation of Israel.</p> <p>This passage contains the instructions and fulfillment of those instructions.</p> <p>That night YHVH passed through and killed the Egyptian firstborn and beast (בְּהֵמָה). There was not a house where someone was not dead.</p> <p>Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron by night and told them to leave with their children, flocks, herds and be gone. He also asked for a blessing. Even the Egyptians urged the people to leave for fear they would all be dead. They had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, gold, and clothing. They granted their request so that they plundered the Egyptians. A mixed multitude left Egypt.</p> <p>The sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was 430 years; on that day the armies of YHVH left Egypt. That night is a solemn observance for the children of Israel.</p>		
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<p>used by YHVH to deliver His people from Egypt.</p> <p>Moses did not think Pharaoh would listen to him so YHVH made Moses like God and Aaron his prophet.</p> <p>YHVH warned them ahead of time that Pharaoh would harden his heart and not cooperate; however, the Egyptians would know YHVH is YHVH when He stretched out His hand on Egypt and brought out His people from among them.</p> <p>Moses was 80 years old and Aaron was 83 years old when they spoke with Pharaoh.</p>	<p>Further instructions for the Passover are given: No foreigner (גֵּר) may eat it. Circumcised servants may eat it. Sojourner (תּוֹשֵׁב) and hired servants (שָׂכִיר) may not eat it. The <i>seh</i> must be eaten in one house and not carried outside. The bones of the <i>seh</i> may not be broken. If a stranger (גֵּר) wants to keep the Passover, he may once he is circumcised. He shall be as one born in the land. No uncircumcised person (עֶרְלָ) may eat it. There is one law for the home-born/native (אֶזְרָח) and the stranger (גֵּר) that sojourns among you.</p> <p>God commanded the firstborn of males and beast be consecrated to him. Every firstborn donkey you will redeem with a lamb; if not, you shall break its neck. All firstborn sons must be redeemed. For the firstborn males and beast of Egypt were killed. Therefore all the firstborn animals are sacrificed and all the firstborn sons are redeemed. It will be a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes.</p>		
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	<p>They went out of Egypt in the month of the Aviv (בְּחֹדֶשׁ הָאָבִיב).</p> <p>You shall keep this service (עֲבֹדָה) in this month for 7 days. You shall tell you children why it's done. It shall be a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes; that YHVH's law may be in your mouth.</p>		
(A.) Creating life and (B.) terminating life			
<p>7:8-13</p> <p>YHVH told Moses that Pharaoh would ask for a miracle. When he did, YHVH wanted Moses to take his rod (a dead piece of wood) and cast it before Pharaoh to let it be a serpent (לְתַנִּינִן). So Moses did as YHVH commanded.</p> <p>Pharaoh called his magicians who used their enchantments to do the same thing; however, Moses' serpent (לְתַנִּינִם) swallowed (וַיִּבְלַע) theirs. Pharaoh's heart grew hard (וַיִּכְבְּד) and he did not heed them as YHVH had said.</p> <p>The term for serpent is not always the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gen 4:3 נָחָשׁ (serpent, snake) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gen 7:9, 10 תַּנִּינִן (sea monster, sea dragon, serpent) Gen 7:15 נָחָשׁ 	<p>11:1-10</p> <p>YHVH told Moses that He would bring one more plague on Pharaoh that would cause him to drive His people out of Egypt.</p> <p>YHVH instructed Moses to have the people ask the Egyptians for articles of gold and silver. YHVH gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moses was considered great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in that of the people.</p> <p>Moses told Pharaoh that the final plague would be the death of the firstborn (בְּכוֹרִים) of people and animals of the Egyptians. He indicated that YHVH does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel, and that Pharaoh's servants would bow down to him and say for Moses and all the</p>	<p>How can we understand the signs given to Moses to perform?</p> <p>The rod is something dead that becomes alive. It is the creating of life.</p> <p>The serpent eats the magician's serpents and thereby terminates the lives of the magicians' serpents.</p>	<p>The dragon (תַּנִּינִן) is seen again in Revelation. It is identified as Satan who was cast down to earth. He attempted to devour/destroy (לְבַלֵּעַ) Yeshua. He persecutes and makes war with the saints who keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Yeshua. The dragon gives his power, throne, and authority to the beast. He will be cast into the pit for 1000 years. He will eventually be cast into the lake of fire.</p> <p>Rev 12:3, 4, 9, 13, 16, 17 Rev 13:2 Rev 16:13 Rev 20:2, 7-10</p> <p>This seems to indicate that Satan parallels the rod that was in Moses' and Aaron's hands. Recall that Moses was as God to Pharaoh and Aaron was like his prophet (Exodus 7:1).</p>

	<p>Hebrew people to get out. After that, they would go out.</p> <p>YHVH told Moses that Pharaoh would not listen so that His wonders would be multiplied in Egypt. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he did not let the children of Israel leave despite all these wonders.</p>		
Stretching forth of Moses' hand and rod begins plagues			
<p>7:14-8:19 (7:14-8:15)</p> <p>At YHVH's command, Moses went to Pharaoh and told him the words of YHVH, "Let my people go, that they might serve Me."</p> <p>Moses used the rod which had turned into a serpent to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn the waters in the rivers, streams, and ponds to blood (לָדָם) so that the fish would die, the river would stink, and the Egyptians would hate to drink it. Pharaoh's heart was not moved by it. Seven days past after that happened. 2. Smite all the territory with frogs which would come from the rivers, streams, and ponds. Pharaoh asked Moses to ask YHVH to take away the frogs so they only remained in the river. He said he would let the 	<p>9:13-10:29</p> <p>YHVH told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and tell him to "let My people go, that they may serve Me."</p> <p>YHVH raise Pharaoh up to show His power and so His name will be declared in all the earth.</p> <p>YHVH continued to make a difference between His people and the Egyptians.</p> <p>The next plagues will come "tomorrow" when Moses stretches out his hand and rod toward heaven:</p> <p>7. Thunder and very heavy hail (בָּרָד) will fall so that the hail killed the animals and men left out in the field. The flax and barley were damaged too. The wheat and spelt, being late crops were not struck.</p>	<p>Matthew 27:45-46 (While Yeshua was on the cross...)</p> <p>Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"</p> <p>This was a total of 3 hours of the day in which there was darkness (חֹשֶׁךְ).</p> <p>(An hour of the day was the total daylight time between sunrise and sunset divided by 12; this proportional hour would vary by the season and the day.)</p>	<p>Rev 16:13-14</p> <p>And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.</p> <p>Revelation 9:1-11 seems to describe a demonic army of locusts that were sent to only harm those without the seal of God on their foreheads.</p> <p>The magicians could not produce lice. They said this plague was the finger of God.</p> <p>Let's see what happened in Luke 11:17-20. Yeshua said "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to</p>

<p>people to sacrifice to YHVH. Moses asked when; Pharaoh said “tomorrow.” Moses went to YHVH about the frogs and all the frogs outside the river died.</p> <p>3. Strike the dust of the land so that it became lice (לְכָנָם) on man and beast.</p> <p>The magicians did the same with their enchantments for the blood and frogs, but not the lice (לְכָנָם). They called the plague of lice, the “finger of God.” Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he did not heed them.</p>	<p>Pharaoh confessed he had sinned. He asked for the thunder and hail to stop and promised to let the people go. He did not keep his promise.</p> <p>8. Locusts (אַרְבֵּה) ate what remained after the hail (herbs and fruit) and filled the houses of the Egyptians.</p> <p>Before the plague began:</p> <p>Pharaoh’s servants request that Pharaoh let YHVH’s people go.</p> <p>Pharaoh tells Moses to go and serve YHVH but then asks who are going. Moses says the young, old, sons, daughters, flocks, and herds will go to hold a feast to YHVH.</p> <p>Pharaoh says only the men can go to serve YHVH.</p> <p>Once again, Pharaoh confessed his sin and requested the plague to stop. YHVH drove the locusts into the Red Sea. YHVH hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he did not let the people go.</p> <p>9. Darkness (חֹשֶׁךְ) that could be felt. It lasted</p>		<p>desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. 18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. 19 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.</p> <p>YHVH had come upon Egypt, but Pharaoh refused to admit it.</p>
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	<p>3 days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. The children of Israel had light (אֹר) in their dwellings.</p> <p><i>What we see in the plagues appears to be a reversal of creation, as well as a death.</i></p>		
**CENTRAL AXIS – Plagues begin without hand and rod of Moses			
<p>8:20-9:12 (8:16-9:12)</p> <p>YHVH promised to set apart the land of Goshen where His people dwelled so that Pharaoh would know that YHVH was in the midst of the land. He would make a difference between His people and Pharaoh's people.</p> <p>10. swarms (הָעֲרָב)</p> <p>Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them to sacrifice to God in the land. Moses said they needed a 3 day journey into the wilderness to do as YHVH commanded because their sacrificing would be an abomination to the Egyptians.</p> <p>Moses asked YHVH to make the swarms depart "tomorrow" as Pharaoh requested it to be done. It was so.</p> <p>11. Pestilence (דִּבָּר) on</p>		<p>It is odd that the consonants for swarms (הָעֲרָב) is the same as those for "the evening" (הָעֶרֶב).</p> <p>Strange still is that in the evening, Yeshua told His disciples that one of them would betray Him (Matthew 26:20-25). This of course happened after Satan entered into Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:3).</p>	<p>It is also odd that the consonants for pestilence (דִּבָּר) is the same as that for "a word, matter [as spoken of], or thing" (דִּבָּר).</p> <p>In Revelation 3:8-12 Yeshua said to the church of Philadelphia,</p> <p>"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming</p>

<p>the Egyptians' livestock (cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, sheep). Moses said it would be done "tomorrow" as YHVH appointed that set time.</p> <p>12. Moses took ashes from a furnace (כִּבְשָׁן), through them into the air; they became boils (שָׂחִין) on man and beast.</p>			<p>quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.</p> <p>Revelation 16:2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore (שָׂחִין) came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.</p>
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There are different words for serpent.

- נָחָשׁ – Exodus 4:3, 7:15
- תַּנִּינִן – Exodus 7:9, 10

The usage of these 2 words from Exodus forms a concentric structure with tanniyn in the center. It's as if the usage of the snakes point to the usage of the dragon, which is the same word used in Revelation in the Hebrew NT.

There are different words for *hardened*. What is the purpose of each? God strengthened Pharaoh so he doesn't give in before all is completed.

- וְהִקְבִּיד (וְהִקְבִּיד) – *hiphil, inf. absolute* (Ex. 8:15), וַיִּקְבֹּד *hiphil, vav-consecutive* (8:32 [H 28], 9:34), הִקְבִּידָתִי *hiphil, perfect* (Ex. 10:1). Used when Pharaoh hardened his own heart.
- וַיַּחֲזֶק – *piel, vav-consecutive* (Ex. 9:12, 10:20, 27, 11:10, 14:8). Used when YHVH hardened/strengthened the heart of Pharaoh.

The vast majority of these parashot focuses on the plagues of Egypt which are the means by which YHVH prepares to bring His people out of Egypt. With that in mind, we will compare the plagues of Egypt to the seals, trumpets, and plagues of Revelation.

Plagues of Egypt	Seals	Trumpets	Plagues
The seals, trumpets, and plagues of Revelation share similarities with the plagues of Egypt.			
1. Waters become blood. 2. Frogs 3. Lice Distinction made between Hebrew and Egyptians. 4. Swarms 5. Pestilence on Egyptians and their livestock 6. Boils on man and beast 7. Heavy hail; men and beasts in the field died. 8. Locusts destroy vegetation 9. Thick darkness for 3 days Before the final plague, there is a time of instruction that explains to the Hebrews how to kill the Passover <i>seh</i> , apply the blood to their doorways, how and what to eat, and to finally wait for the	The Lamb is given a book with 7 seals that only He is worthy to open because He was slain and redeemed God's people out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation; and has made us kings and priests to our God. 7 seals: 1. A conqueror with a crown on his head was seen riding on a white horse. He went out conquering and to conquer. 2. One with a great sword who took peace from the earth was seen riding a red horse. Peace would be taken as people would kill one another. 3. A man with a pair of scales in his hand was riding a black horse. The price of a quart of wheat and 3 quarts of barley would be a denarius. Do not harm the oil and	Seven trumpets were given to the seven angels who stood before God. The prayers of the saints ascended to God with smoke of the incense from the altar. The angel took a censer, filled it with fire from the altar and threw it to the earth. There were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. 7 Trumpets: 1. Hail and fire mingled with blood was thrown to the earth. One third of tree and green grass burned up. 2. Something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; 1/3 of the sea became blood; 1/3 of sea creatures died; and 1/3 of ships were destroyed. 3. A great star, named Wormwood (bitter) fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and fell on 1/3 of the	Seven golden bowls were filled with the seven last plagues full of the wrath of God. Seven plagues: 1. Foul and loathsome sores came upon those who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. 2. The sea became blood as of a dead man. Every living sea creature died. 3. The rivers and springs of water became blood . 4. The sun scorched men with fire. These men blasphemed God and did not repent. 5. The kingdom of the beast became full of darkness ; they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed God because of their pain and sores, and they did not repent.

<p>YHVH to pass over them. YHVH would not allow the destroyer to come into the house to strike them (Exodus 12:1-28).</p> <p>10. Death of Egyptian firstborn men and livestock (Exodus 12:29-30).</p> <p>Although the plagues of Egypt are over, several other events should be considered as part of the parallel with the seal, trumpets, and bowl-plagues.</p> <p>11. Mixed Multitude left Egypt with their plunder. They were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.</p> <p>The Passover regulations were repeated. The people were reminded to consecrate the firstborn. They were told to remember and instruct their children regarding Passover. They were reminded to set apart and redeem firstborn males and animals. (Note</p>	<p>the wine.</p> <p>4. Death and Hades followed one who rode on a pale/greenish horse. Power was given to them over ¼ of the earth, to kill with the sword, hunger, death, and by beasts of the earth.</p> <p>5. Souls who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held were seen under the altar. They wanted to know how long it would be before they were avenged. They were given white robes and told to rest a little while until the rest of those destined to be martyrs were killed.</p> <p>6. Earthquake, sun turned black, moon became like blood, and stars fell to the earth. The sky receded like a scroll and mountain and island was moved. Mighty men, slaves, and free men hid in caves and rocks of the mountains. They wanted to be</p>	<p>rivers and springs of water. Many men died from the water.</p> <p>4. One third of the sun, moon, and stars were struck and darkened. One third of day and night did not shine.</p> <p>Woe is sounded.</p> <p>5. A star fell from heaven to earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. Smoke arose from the pit and caused the sun and air to be darkened. Locusts came out of the earth. Power like that of scorpions was given to them. They were commanded to harm those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They could not kill them; they could only torment them (like a scorpion) for 5 months. Men will seek death but not find it. (See Rev. 9:7-11 for description of locusts).</p> <p>Two woes are still coming.</p> <p>6. Release of the 4 bound angels at the Euphrates to kill 1/3 of mankind. The</p>	<p>6. The River Euphrates dried up to prepare a way for the kings of the east. Three unclean spirits like frogs (spirits of demons) came out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast, and false prophet. They performed signs to gather the kings of the earth for battle.</p> <p>There is an announcement: "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."</p> <p>They gathered them together at a place called Armageddon.</p> <p>7. There were noises (קְלוֹת), thunderings (וּרְעָמִים), and lightnings (וּבְרָקִים); and there was a great earthquake (רָעַשׁ גָּדוֹל) as had no occurred since men were on earth. The great city was divided into 3 parts. Great hail fell from heaven. Men blasphemed God because of the exceedingly great hail.</p>
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parallel.)	hidden from the face of the Lamb.	number of this army of the horsemen was 200 million; they killed 1/3 of mankind. (See Rev. 9:17 for description)	
12. They crossed the Red Sea which split open before them. The Egyptians that pursued them were drowned in the Sea. They sang the Song of Moses and the Song of Miriam.	There is a pause: The tribes of Israel are sealed. An innumerable multitude are seen before the throne and before the Lamb clothed in white robes, and palm branches in their hands crying out "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels worship.	There is a literary break: The rest of mankind did not repent of their wickedness. A mighty angel with the little book is seen. Seven thunders uttered something that was sealed up. John ate the little book; it tasted sweet but was bitter in his stomach.	
13. Bitter water was made sweet at Marah. YHWH gave them manna and quail to eat. They drank water from the rock.	7. Silence in heaven for about a half hour. An angel throws a censer filled with fire from the incense altar to the earth. There were noises (קולות), thunderings (וּרְעָמִים), lightnings (וּבְרָקִים), and an earthquake (וּרְעָשׁ).	Two witnesses testify and prophesy 1260 days clothed in sackcloth; they are killed, left in the street, and rise from the dead in 3 ½ days.	
14. War - Victory over the Amalekites with Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' hands.		7. "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" The 24 elders who sat before the throne fell on their faces and worshiped God. The temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of the covenant was seen in His temple.	
15. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law brought Zipporah and Moses' two sons to Moses. He ate with Moses, Aaron, and all the elders of Israel. He recommended how to judge the people, and returned to his home.		There were lightnings (בְּרָקִים), noises (וּקְלֹט), thunderings	

<p>Finally, on the third day after the people arrived at Mount Sinai, we see a similar sign:</p> <p>Ex 19:16-18 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings (קולות) and lightnings (וּבְרָקִים), and a thick cloud (וָעָנָן) (כָּבֵד) on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.”</p> <p>Exodus 20:18-19 18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings (הַקִּלְלֹת), the lightning flashes (הַלְפִידִים), the</p>		<p>(וְרָעָמִים), an earthquake (וְרָעַשׁ), and great hail (וּבָרָד) (כָּבֵד).</p>	
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<p>sound of the trumpet (קול הַשֹּׁפָר), and the mountain smoking (הָהָר עָשָׁן); and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. 19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."</p>			
<p>It is possible that the seals, trumpets, and plagues do not take place serially, but in parallel or simultaneously with each other. Note they all end with lightnings, noises, thunderings, and an earthquake.</p>			

In addition to the plagues of Egypt being a prominent feature of these parashot, the instructions regarding who can eat the Passover in the future was discussed. This is important because it describes how YHVH intended someone in the future could “come near” and “become as a native of the land.”

<p>Who Can/Can't Eat the Passover? Exodus 12:43-49</p>	
Can	Can't
<p>H5650 a man's circumcised servant (עֶבֶד) who had been bought with money</p>	<p>H5236, H5237 נֶכָר; nechar stranger; foreigner, alien (נֹכְרִי nochri - has same root; noun and adj?)</p>
<p>H1616 a stranger (גֵּר) who will sojourn (יָגוּר) with you and is/becomes circumcised sojourner, alien, stranger</p>	<p>H8453 תּוֹשָׁב; toshav foreigner, alien, settler, dweller</p>
	<p>H7916 שָׂכִיר; sachir hired servant</p>

He who was allowed to eat the Passover was considered as a native of Israel. He had essentially come near and entered the covenant with Israel. With this in mind, we need to understand how this relates to the New Covenant.

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, **you are no longer strangers and foreigners (gerim and toshavim), but fellow citizens (bnei-iram / ezrechei-ha-iyar)** with the saints and members of the household of God.

^{DLZ} Ephesians 2:19 לָכֵן אֵינְכֶם עוֹד גֵּרִים וְתוֹשָׁבִים כִּי־בְנֵי־עִירָם שֶׁל־
הַקְּדוֹשִׁים וּבְנֵי בֵּית אֱלֹהִים אַתֶּם:

^{HNT} Ephesians 2:19 עַל־כֵּן אֵינְכֶם עוֹד גֵּרִים וְתוֹשָׁבִים כִּי אִם־אֲזַרְחִי
הָעִיר בְּקֶרֶב הַקְּדוֹשִׁים וּבְנֵי בֵּית הָאֱלֹהִים:

^{DLT} Ephesians 2:19 לָכֵן אֵינְכֶם עוֹד גֵּרִים וְתוֹשָׁבִים כִּי־בְנֵי־עִירָם שֶׁל־
הַקְּדוֹשִׁים וּבְנֵי בֵּית אֱלֹהִים אַתֶּם:

As Passover goes, only circumcised servants who had been bought with a price and circumcised gerim could partake; hired servants, toshavim, and the nechar/nochri (foreigners) could not.

Now, based on Ephesians 2:19, gerim (sojourners) and also toshavim (dwellers) can now become members of God's household. Here are questions for thought:

What's the difference between the two sets of toshavim (the ones in Exodus and Ephesians)? Originally toshavim could not partake of Passover, now toshavim can become members of God's household. What's up with that? What makes that possible?

What about the hired servants, and nechar/nochri who could not partake of Passover? Who were these people? What excluded them so they could they not participate in Passover? Did they have some sort of character flaw or behavior problem?

Have the bought-circumcised servants, and the circumcised gerim that wanted to partake in Passover been merged with the gerim of Ephesians 2:19?

What does all of this have to do with the Threshold Covenant/Passover? Both Passover and Ephesians seem to be talking about Threshold Covenants.

Who Can/Can't Enter the Kingdom of God/New Jerusalem?	
Can	Can't
Redeemed – bought at a price (Ex. 15:13; 1 Cor 6:20, 7:23; Titus 2:14; Rev 13:3-5)	Hirelings don't care about sheep John 10:13
Lawful = Ones who observe the covenant (Rom 6:16-23; 2 Cor 6:14-18; Heb 8:10-13, 10:16-17; 1 John 3:7; Rev 22:14)	Lawless = Those who don't observe the covenant (Matthew 7:22-23; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 John 4; Rev 14:12; 22:15)

It seems one of the keys to this topic is lawfulness (obedience to Torah) versus lawlessness (disobedience to Torah).

There is another Hebrew term for foreigner or alien that we haven't yet covered. It is *zur*.

Joel 3:17 "So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no **aliens** (Joel 4:17; זֹר ; foreigner, strange, profane) shall ever pass through her again."

Ephesians 2:11-13 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being **aliens** (זָרִים) from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers (וְנֹכְרִים, **nochrims**) from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

Hebrews 11:13 These all died **in faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them¹, embraced *them* and **confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims (כְּגֵרִים וְתוֹשָׁבִים, as gerim and toshavim) on the earth.** ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as **sojourners and pilgrims (כְּגֵרִים וְתוֹשָׁבִים, as gerim and toshavim)**, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Acts 10:28 Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go **to one of another nation (אֶל-אִישׁ נֹכְרִי, to ish-nochri)**. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. *What made Cornelius different? He was a God-fearer who observed the law. He just needed to know that it is Yeshua's blood that allows him to come near. Peter also explained that every nation who fears God and works righteousness is accepted by Him (Acts 10:35).*

Acts 17:21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners (וְהַנֹּכְרִים, **ha-nochrims**) who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. *First, Paul went to proclaim Yeshua to the Jews and the worshipers, then he shared with the nochrims when they wanted to know what he was telling the others about.*

Matthew 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit (כִּי בִפְרִיו נִכָּר הָעֵץ); for by his fruit, the tree is treated **strange** ([piel of נִכָּר])

Hebrews 11:34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the **aliens** (זָרִים).

Luke 17:18 "Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this **foreigner** (הַנִּכְרִי)?"

Clearly sojourners, dwellers, and people from other foreign countries can become citizens of Israel through adoption. They are expected to yield good fruit/practice obedience.

Romans 8:14-15 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Romans 9:4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises.

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

What does circumcision have to do with all of this? Let's go back to the beginning.

Covenant of Circumcision (sign of the covenant of multiplication and land; the covenant of the cut pieces in Genesis 15:4-21):

Genesis 17:1-5 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make **My covenant** between Me and you, and will **multiply you exceedingly**." 3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:8-14 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a **stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession**; and I will be their God." 9 And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep **My covenant, you and your descendants** after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: **Every male child among you shall be circumcised** (וְנִמְלְתֶם); 11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of **your foreskins** (עֲרֻלְתְּכֶם), and **it shall be a sign of the covenant** (לְאוֹת) between Me and you. 12 He who is **eight days old** (וּבֶן־שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים) among you shall be **circumcised** (יִמּוּל), every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or **bought with money** (וּמִקְנַת־כֶּסֶף) from any **foreigner** (נִכְרִי) who is not your descendant. 13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money **must be circumcised** (יִמּוּל הַמּוּל), and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant (בְּרִיתִי בְּבָשָׂרְכֶם לְבְרִית עוֹלָם). 14 And the

uncircumcised male child (וְעֶרְלָ זָכָר), who is not **circumcised** (רְמוּל) in the flesh of his foreskin (אֶת־בְּשָׂר עֶרְלָתוֹ), **that person shall be cut off from his people** (וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מֵעַמֶּיהָ); he has **broken My covenant** (אֶת־בְּרִיתִי הִפָּר)."

YHVH's portion of the covenant: To multiply Abraham's descendants and give the land of Canaan to his descendants.

Abraham's portion of the covenant: Doing the sign of the covenant was the responsibility of Abraham, his descendants, those born in his house, and those who were bought with a price. They were also commanded to multiply in number.

Breaking the covenant: If a male wasn't circumcised, he was cut off from his people.

Entering the covenant: Logic has it that circumcision would be the means to enter the covenant if failing to be circumcised caused you to be cut off from the covenant. *Since other nations besides the true seed of Abraham practiced circumcision, their circumcision is counted as uncircumcision based on their fruit/obedience/righteousness.*

The covenant promise of numerous descendants and land (of which circumcision was a sign) was passed to Isaac.

Genesis 22:15-19 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**"

Isaac passed it to Jacob.

Genesis 28:3-4 "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; 4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger (ger), Which God gave to Abraham."

Genesis 35:11-13 Also God said to him (Jacob): "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. 12 The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

Jacob passed it to Joseph. Jacob adopted Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and said Ephraim would be greater and become a multitude of people. Joseph received one portion of land over his brothers, one for Manasseh and one for Ephraim. In other words, Joseph got the birthright (Genesis 48:22; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2). The rest of the Promised Land was to be distributed to the descendants of Jacob's other sons.

Genesis 48:3-6 Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, 4 and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' 5 And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. 6 Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

Genesis 48:15-19 And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, 16 The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." 17 Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." 19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly **his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.**"

Exodus 12:48-49 And when a stranger dwells with you (וְכִי יָגוּר אִתְּךָ גֵּר) and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord (in other words he wants to enter the threshold covenant; וְעָשָׂה פֶסַח לַיהוָה), let all his males be circumcised (וְהָמוּל לוֹ כָּל-זָכָר), **and then let him come near and keep it (וְאָז יִקְרַב)**; **and he shall be as a native of the land (וְהָיָה כְּאֶזְרָח הָאֶרֶץ)**. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. 49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

Remember, circumcision was a sign of the covenant of multiplied descendants and the land of Canaan. Those who failed to be circumcised were cut off from their people.

The original pesach/threshold covenant was made with a *seh* (שֶׁה); it could be either from the sheep [הַכִּבְשִׁים] or goats [הָעִזִּים].

Here in Exodus 12:48, it appears that circumcision is the door to the threshold covenant for the *ger*.

For the *ger*, the blood of the circumcision is a substitute for the blood of the *seh* (שֶׁה).

So, why does Paul seem to preach otherwise?

How did Yeshua become the door to the Threshold Covenant? **As the cutoff/sacrificed Pesach Lamb of God.**

Gerim wanted to participate after the first Pesach and before Yeshua existed.

How else are these two things connected? The blood of the *seh* and circumcision was no longer needed because the blood of the anti-type fulfilled the offering of the Threshold.

Note the parallels in the following chart:

How to Enter the Covenant		
Abraham	Moses	Messiah
<p>Abraham believed and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:4-6; Romans 4:1-25).</p> <p>Abraham, his descendants, those born in his house, and those bought with a price were circumcised.</p>	<p>Israel saw what YHVH did in Egypt; they feared YHVH and believed YHVH and His servant Moses (Exodus 14:31).</p> <p>Circumcision; cutting off of the flesh of the foreskin = sign of covenant.</p> <p>God's people were to be circumcised in the heart and in the flesh.</p>	<p>Messiah the Prince was to be cut off (Daniel 9:26) and rise after the 3rd day (Matthew 20:19, Acts 17:3).</p> <p>Believers are to be circumcised in the heart.</p> <p>Righteousness will be imputed to him who believes in YHVH who raised Yeshua our Lord from the dead (Romans 4:24-25).</p> <p>In the end, the wicked (the lawless, God's enemies) will be cut off.</p>
<p>Abraham killed a 3 yr old heifer, 3 yr old female goat, 3 yr old ram, a turtledove, and young pigeon.</p>	<p>Passover = A <i>seh</i> was offered for the Threshold covenant.</p> <p>YHVH redeemed His people. Future firstborn sons and animals were redeemed. (Exodus 6:6; 13:13-16; 15:13; Numbers 18:15-18, Deuteronomy 7:8).</p>	<p>Yeshua offered Himself as the <i>seh</i> of the Passover/Threshold Covenant just outside the city of Jerusalem.</p> <p>Yeshua redeemed us from the curse of the law of sin and death so that we could be adopted as sons (Galatians 3:13; 4:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9).</p> <p>Those who were once far off were brought near by the blood of Yeshua (Ephesians 2:13).</p>
<p>Abraham cut the large animals in two, but not the birds. YHVH caused Abraham to sleep, foretold the Exodus, and caused a smoking oven and burning torch to pass between the pieces. YHVH covenanted with Abraham to give him the land and numerous descendants.</p>	<p>Circumcision, the cutting off of the male foreskin was a sign of the covenant; it was required for males to partake of Passover; it was required to become as a native of the land.</p>	<p>Messiah is the door of the covenant; He is the way to come to the Father. Because He was cut off for the sins of the people, He is the Anti-type of circumcision. We must go through Yeshua in order to become as a native of the land and to be grafted into Israel. In the end, a multitude too numerous to count will cry out saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Luke 22:20; John 10:7-10; John 14:6; Romans 11; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Ephesians 2:11-13, Revelation 7:9-10; 19:1, 6).</p>
Three things were required to enter the covenant: belief, blood (redemption), and circumcision.		
Moses understood that circumcision was more than just a physical act done by males; there is a		

spiritual side to it that is to be performed by everyone who is of the household of Israel.

Deuteronomy 10:15-16 *The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16 Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.*

Even Jeremiah instructed and warned the people in regard to circumcision.

Jeremiah 4:4 *Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings."*

Jeremiah 9:25-26 *"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that I will punish all who are circumcised with the uncircumcised — 26 Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all who are in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart."*

Paul understood physical and spiritual circumcision.

Romans 2:29 *"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter."*

Romans 11:19-24 *We were grafted in, but we must continue in goodness or we'll be cut off.*

Romans 4:11-12 *"And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised."*

1 Corinthians 7:19 *"Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but **keeping the commandments of God** is what matters."*

Philippians 3:3 *"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."*

Colossians 2:11-12 *"In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by **putting off the body of the sins of the flesh**, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."*

Paul advocated not physically circumcising the Gentiles who came to believe in Messiah Yeshua. With this in mind, we must also understand Ezekiel 44:6-9 and Exodus 12:48.

Ezekiel 44:6-9 *"Now say to the rebellious, to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "O house of Israel, let Us have no more of all your abominations. 7 When you brought in foreigners (**בְּנֵי נֶחָר** , sons of a nechar), uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to defile it — My house — and when you offered My food, the fat and the blood, then they broke My covenant because of all your abominations. 8 And you have not kept charge of My holy things, but you have set others to keep charge of My sanctuary for you." 9 Thus says the Lord God: "No foreigner (**בֶּן נֶחָר** , son of a nechar), uncircumcised in heart or uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter My sanctuary, including any foreigner (**בֶּן נֶחָר** , son of a nechar) who is among the children of Israel.*

Exodus 12:48 *And when a stranger (גֵּר, ger) dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.*

I believe we will likely see a parallel concerning circumcision:

Joshua 5:2-12 All the men who came out of Egypt were circumcised. Those males born in the wilderness were not circumcised. Later, Joshua circumcised the sons of Israel before they entered the Promised Land.

Romans 3:20, 4:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:18 Previously, YHVH's people were all circumcised. There was one law for Jew and the gerim. Paul has caused the Jews and Gentiles to remain in the condition (circumcised or uncircumcised) in which they were called (when they came to belief in Messiah). He said keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

Will all males have to be circumcised both in the flesh and heart to enter YHVH's sanctuary? It seems so. It seems the Gentiles may have to be physically circumcised in the future. In addition, those that partake of Passover must be physically circumcised as well. It seems that being circumcised in the heart is the only things that keeps them from being cut off from YHVH.

What is very clear is what YHVH will do with His people in the future:

Deuteronomy 30:4-6 *If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. 5 Then the Lord your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. 6 And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

It appears that circumcision of the heart is something that we are expected to do, and it is something YHVH does to us. It is the Torah that teaches us how to do that; every act of obedience we make is part of the process.

If we are adopted into Israel, we are to embrace the covenant. We cannot live a life without the law; in other words, we can't live lawlessly.

Let me share a passage from one of my blogs entitled "Doers Of The Law Will be Justified."ⁱⁱ

Now let me present two apparently conflicting statements Paul made:

- *"For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, **but the doers of the law who will be justified (Romans 2:2).**"*
- *"**For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20).**"*

Which is it? Is Paul trying to confuse us? Can both verses be correct? Yes, they can! The problem is that these verses are often quoted out of context. Paul has made statements with ellipses. We must use the context of the text to insert words into the ellipses for it to all make sense.

In Romans 2, Paul is comparing and contrasting lawless, wicked people with lawful, righteous people. It's a basic repeat of the warning Moses gave to the people long ago. If you obey YHWH's commands, you will have blessing and life.

We can restate Romans 2:2 by filling in Paul's ellipses as: *"For it is not the hearers of the law of YHWH who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law of YHWH who will be justified."*

In Romans 3, Paul is talking about those who are all under sin. They are disobedient to the law of YHWH. According to Moses, if you disobey YHWH's laws, you'll have cursing and death. This is also known as the law of sin, or the law of sin and death (because sin leads to death).

We can restate Romans 3:20 by filling in Paul's ellipses as: *"For by works of the law of sin no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law of YHWH comes knowledge of sin."*

We are not supposed to allow sin, as define by the law of YHWH, to reign in our lives. We are not under the law of sin, but the law of grace.

Paul reminded his readers, *"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)"*

Based on what Moses told the second generation that came out of Egypt, Romans 6:23 now makes sense when we clarify the word "sin" this way: *"For the wages of sin (lawlessness) is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) our Lord."*

Remember, we are obligated to keep the law as part of our covenant relationship with YHWH. In the end, the offspring of Israel are those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Yeshua Messiah.

ⁱ http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/526872/jewish/Hours.htm

ⁱⁱ <https://holyyhiway.wordpress.com/2017/05/13/doers-of-the-law-will-be-justified/>