

Newsletter for the Month of Nisan 2023 by Sherry Lush



Shalom to All,

We at Alpha and Omega Ministries wish you all a wonderful month as we begin the beautiful month of Nisan. This month is filled with Good News for the entire world, for the Lamb of God has come. John the Baptizer was at Bethany baptizing people when he said these words: **John 1:29** "On the next day, he sees Jesus coming to him and says, "Behold the Lamb of God, the One taking away the sin of the world." As we celebrate Passover this year and re-tell the story of the Passover lamb that foreshadowed Yeshua the Messiah, the Lamb of God. We rejoice and share this great news with everyone who will listen. Not only did the Lamb of God die for us, shedding His blood for our sins, but He was resurrected on the 3rd day. He overcame death and would give eternal life to all who would accept His forgiveness and follow Him.

In this month we also begin a new year - the religious year on the Biblical calendar. This is recorded for us as follows: **Exodus 12:2** "Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 'This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.'" New beginnings are always hopeful times. We hope for times of refreshing, times when people re-commit to know and do the Lord's ways. When there is a new beginning we hope for reconciliation when

there have been broken relationships - we hope for good to fill our lives and our lands.

Nisan is the month from which kings in Israel numbered the years that they ruled. They actually counted their reigns from Nisan to Nisan rather than counting from the month of their coronation. So Nisan came to be known as the month of kings.

In **Genesis 49:10-11** Jacob is blessing his sons and he says to Judah, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine. He washed his garments in wine and his clothes in the blood of grapes." Of course the scepter speaks of kingship and of rulership, so we see that from Judah one will rule who will receive tribute and will rule all the nations. We will know this one because He will have tied His colt to the vine, and His clothes will be stained with the color of wine and the blood of grapes! What an amazing prophecy which we are on the brink of seeing completed! He has done the work described in Jacob's prophecy, and He is about to return to rule and reign!



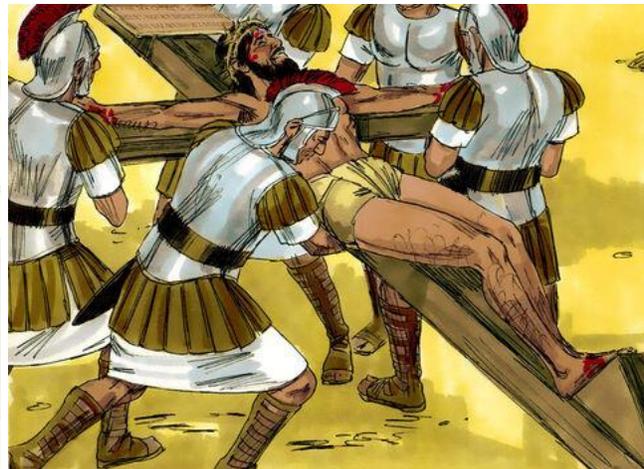
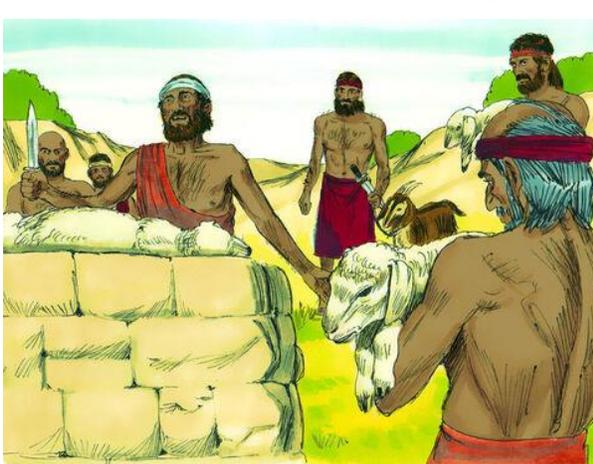
We can go one from here to see that Judah's banner is the Lion - the king of beasts! **Hosea 11:10** They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed He will roar. And His sons will come trembling from the west.





Remember how Judah stepped up to accept the blame for Tamar's pregnancy? This was a new attitude displayed by Judah, probably acquired by the guilt of seeing his father suffer after he had been instrumental in selling his brother, Joseph. Then when Joseph was the 2nd in command of all of Egypt and was demanding Benjamin, Judah steps up to give his life and spare Benjamin. It was this act of love that allowed Joseph to see that Judah had changed, and Joseph finally revealed his true identity to his brothers bringing reconciliation between them.

It is heart changes and reunions like this that we pray for as we begin the month of Nisan. This is the month when the picture of the Passover lamb of Exodus became the Lamb of God on dying on the tree.



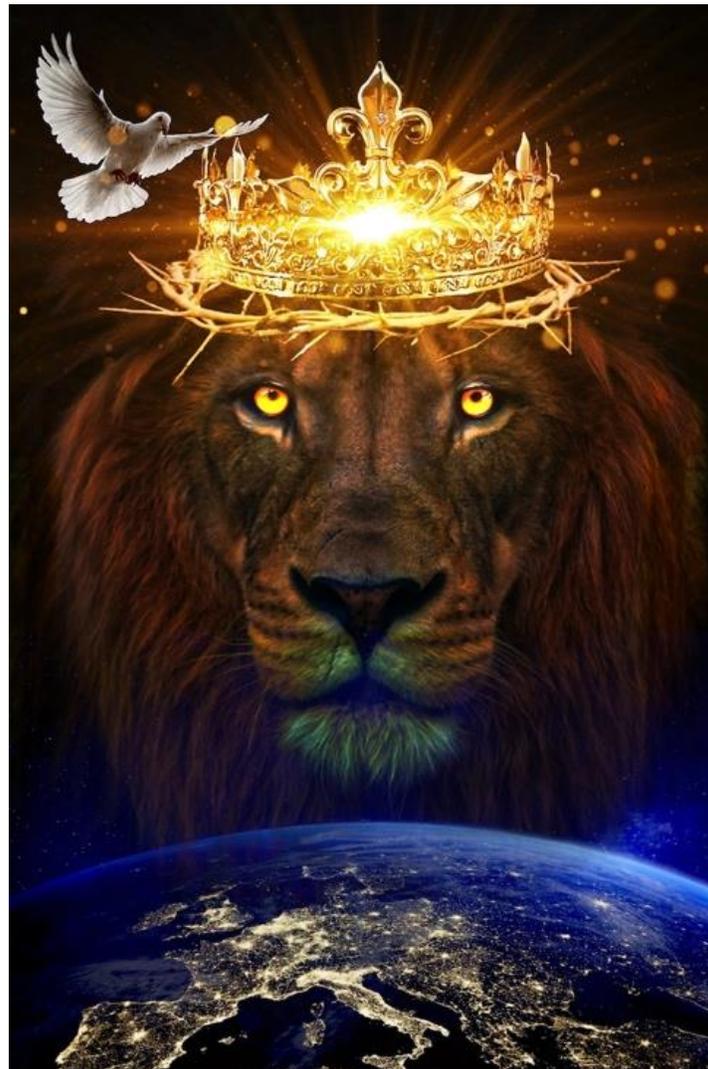
In this month of new beginnings we have the opportunity to have the kingly attitude of forgiveness! We can put on His attributes of kindness, longsuffering, compassion, grace, patience, loyal love and faithfulness. We can do this because in the beginning, He created us in His image to do the things He does. When He returns He will be looking for this kind of faith on earth.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will defend *and* avenge them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [this kind of persistent] faith on the earth?"

I believe He will if we follow the model He set for us when He said:

Luke 2:49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

That business is not to try to figure out how much time is left to work, but to work with expectant hearts until He comes, always expecting Him and yearning for His return.



*May each of you have a blessed
Passover as we remember and
celebrate the redemption the
Lamb of God brought to us on this
day!*



Shalom

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