

## The Passion Story: Repentance & Celebration

*“And the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid;  
for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.*

*He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.*

*Come, see the place where He was lying.*

*And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the  
dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you to Galilee.*

*There you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”*

Matthew 28:5-7

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### RESTORATION OF HUMANITY THROUGH THE PASSION GIFT OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRST

There is so much in the Passion story, what we call Easter, Holy Week or Resurrection Week.<sup>1</sup> It begins with Palm Sunday, commemorating the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the prophesied colt. (Zechariah 9:9) The crowds laid out palm branches before Jesus and cheered his unconventional entrance, seeing him as the triumphant king that had come to deliver them from bondage.

*“The scepter will not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet...  
He ties ... his donkey’s colt to the choice vine.”*

Genesis 49:10 & 11

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<sup>1</sup> The word “Easter” has become a lightning rod in some Christian circles for the erroneous belief that it is associated with Ishtar, a pagan goddess. However, etymology indicates “Easter” in fact derives from the Old High German word for “dawn”, “*eostarum*.” It is also called “Pascha” or “Pasqua” (Italian) deriving from “*Pesach*” which is Hebrew for Passover. Different cultures, different languages, use different words for the same Holy eight days.

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## **The King of Peace**

In the culture of that age, a leader riding a donkey indicated one of two things: 1) they were coming in peace, versus a horse that was rode into war; 2) they were being established as king. Solomon rode a donkey on the day he was recognized as the new king of Israel. Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a colt as the “choice vine” of Judah.

## **The Fickleness of Humans**

Yet just a few days later, he found himself in the midst of a hostile gathering calling for his life. How do we account for such a contrast in moods of the people? Even Jesus’ own disciples failed him that week. This fickle human nature is surely alive and prevalent today, as the world flails in moral depravity. John 2:24 prophesied this fickleness of men: *“But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people.”*

***What does this call us to as Intercessors?***

***How does God need us in this momentous hour of humanity?***

***What does the Passion of Christ show us of our own nature?***

## ***Coming Before Lord God Adonai***

◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I come before you today on behalf of myself and also standing in the gap for my country and the Body of Christ, to repent for all the parts in our own character that fall short of the noble men and women in the Easter ~ Passion story; and also to repent for possessing the same weaknesses and flaws that people in the Passion story

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displayed. In order to restore America as a covenant nation, it is surely necessary for Your sons and daughters to walk as examples of Christ Jesus, and learn from the mistakes of others and ourselves. I know that it must begin with me; so please receive my repentance and my petitions for help, for grace and for mercy. Please bear witness to my commitment to walking in restored relationship and union with You and Christ Jesus, in restored character, and in restored life in Christ.

- ◆ John 12:3 describes the discernment of a humble and devoted woman: *“Mary (sister of Lazarus) then took a pound of very expensive perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair.”* Heavenly Father, I repent for all the times and ways I should have shown up as Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and discerned the time and call to be in selfless service, to meet You in the stillness to hear from your heart. On behalf of Your people Heavenly Father, I repent for not walking the walk and talking the talk, for giving lip service to Christian values of charity, mercy and generosity, of selflessness and humility. I repent for not recognizing the times you placed someone on my path as *“the least of My (Lord Jesus’) brothers”*, to serve and honor You; but instead ignored or mistreated them. God, forgive me, forgive us.
- ◆ In John 12:8, Jesus speaks of discerning the spiritual importance to a moment: *“For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”* I repent for all the times and ways we put our own needs, desires and agendas ahead of yours, and blocked hearing from You, blocked or ignored the priority of serving You and your heart, did not put You first, did not discern the moment and calling to serve You. God, please forgive us.

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### ***Die to Self to Prosper God's Kingdom***

- ◆ Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us that dying to self is the way to produce a greater harvest for Your Kingdom come on earth. Jesus teaches in John 12:24 - 26, *“Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. The one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I repent for how much of my life and life energy I have expended on my own ambitions and agendas. I now see how my own efforts have yielded a harvest that does not accurately or fully express Your will and plan for my life, and the needs of Your kingdom. I commit to dying to self and give You permission to totally direct my life to fulfill Your heart's desires. Jesus I surrender to you and I trust in you.

### ***Persevere in Your Assignment from God***

- ◆ In John 12:27, Jesus expressed his torment in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before his crucifixion. *“Now My soul has become troubled; and what am I to say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”*
- ◆ Heavenly Father, I know I have fallen short, the Body of Christ has certainly fallen short, of persevering with our assignments that are part of fulfilling our God destiny. As Son of Man, Jesus displayed a human vulnerability in his feelings about his impending Passion Play. Yet his love for You and devotion to Your heart's will prevailed and helped him to overcome the heaviness in his heart.

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- ◆ I truly repent Lord God for all the times and ways I have fallen short, given into my own fears and vanities, afraid of what other people might think or say about me for displaying my Faith and following You.

### ***Honor God in the Present Moment***

- ◆ Dear Lord God, John 12:35 & 36 shares: *“Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you... While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.”* Lord God, I repent for all the squandered time, for not seizing every appropriate moment to walk as a son/daughter of your Light, to serve You selflessly.
- ◆ Matthew 24:44 declares: *“For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”* Heavenly Father, I ask You for righteous discernment and personal discipline to take time in stillness to hear your voice, to hear your Holy Spirit guiding and directing me, revealing to me your truth and ways.
- ◆ Revelations 3:3 counsels: *“So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I repent for not discerning to “entertain angels”, as Hebrews 13:2 counsels: *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”* Surely it is so that when we least expect, you place your emissaries on our path to guide and help us, to test us, to grow us. Help me, Lord God, to have an open and keen heart to discern and honor your emissaries, and your purposes through them.

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### ***Seeking Approval of Men Over God***

- ◆ John 12:42-43 says: *“Many, even of the rulers, believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, so that they would not be excommunicated from the synagogue; for they loved the approval of people rather than the approval of God.”*
- ◆ Heavenly Father, I repent for all the times we did not stand up for You, did not stand up for Jesus Yeshua; for choosing vanity, fear, pride, social status and acceptance over standing up for You, standing by You, in this godless and God-mocking world. God forgive me, forgive us.
- ◆ Holy Spirit, come into my heart. Fill me with your Holy fire to burn out the chaff of vanities and fears, to strengthen me, to strengthen my soul and spirit to do the *“greater works”* that Jesus prophesied we would do, with dignity, integrity and fearlessness.

### ***Do Not Limit How to Know Jesus and His Father***

- ◆ John 12:44-45 shares: *“Now Jesus cried out and said, “The one who believes in Me, does not believe only in Me, but also in Him who sent Me. And the one who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.”*
- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I know our human egos and ego-minds limit what we know about You, limit and block the fullness of knowing you. I repent for this. Religious dogmas taught from the pulpit, family upbringing, bigotry and prejudice all play a role in blocking knowing You truly and more fully. I repent for all the ways I have blocked, refused to listen to and accept truth about your heart — about who are your anointed ones, what is the fuller story and understanding of Jesus Christ. I release all within me that is hindering my knowing You in greater and greater fullness. I place all these hinderances at the feet of Jesus and I open

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my arms, my mind and my heart to receive Your heart and deeper revelations about You and Your chosen ones.

### ***Serve in Humility***

- ◆ Jesus Yeshua taught us the importance of humility in John 13:12-17, *“He said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’; and you are correct, for so I am. So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you. Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”*
- ◆ Father God, I repent for all the times and ways I have felt superior to someone else or looked down on someone. I repent for denominational bigotry and beliefs of superiority over others. I repent for seeking or desiring a place of status rather than making my self small, so that you may become greater, as John the Baptist modeled for us in John 3:30, *“He must become greater; I must become less.”*

### ***Love One Another***

- ◆ In John 13:34-35, Jesus instructs His disciples: *“I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.”*
- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, this commandment from Jesus does not say to only love those in our own Christian denomination. It is inferred that this love is to be towards fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Father God, I repent for all the in-fighting amongst Christians and Christian

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denominations. I repent for all the clergy who have preached hate from the pulpit, hate and disdain for other denominations. They have bred generations of hatred and divisiveness, thereby handing victory after victory to satan and his minions. God forgive them; forgive us O LORD.

- ◆ Father God, I open to knowing YOUR heart for Your children. Show me how You feel for your children of various faiths, not just Christian faiths. Reveal to me how You love those whom You take as your sons and daughters; for surely all are called to the Supper of the Lamb. If we hold hatred, we are not allowing for their conversion. Let me see, know and feel the love for them that YOU possess for them. Let me see, know and feel why and how YOU love them. Help me to love the way YOU love, Heavenly Father.

### ***Will You Lay Down Your Life for Me?***

- ◆ In John 13:38, *“Jesus replied, ‘Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.’”*
- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, surely we have failed the test of love many times and ways with You and Jesus. It is easy to talk and give lip service to love and loyalty. It’s another to walk it out in life. I repent for all that we have put before our loyalty to You and to Jesus Christ — comforts, conveniences, social acceptance and status, vanities, money. Thank you for your mercy, that you are quick to forgive when we repent and truly transform from our flaws and weaknesses. Reveal to me how you want me to lay down my life for you, LORD God Heavenly Father. Help me to walk it out with strength, with dignity, with integrity, with joy and with love.

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## ***Discern the Father***

- ◆ John 14:8-10 shares: *“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?’”*
- ◆ Dear Father God, how many times and ways have You appeared to me through others and I did not discern You in them? How many times has your hand been on my life, saving me from some danger, keeping me safe, bringing me favor; yet I did not discern it was You in those blessings, gifts and grace? How many times did You warn me and try to stop me from doing something I should not do, yet I did not heed? How many times did I not thank you for this? I am truly sorry LORD God. Please forgive me.
- ◆ LORD God, make of me a clean heart, open the eyes of my heart to discern You acting and speaking through others. It is not necessarily a fellow believer, often not in fact; as Your word has shown by using men such as Cyrus and Nebuchadnezzar to fulfill Your will. Make of me a receptive heart to discern when you have sent a messenger to me, to help and guide me, to course correct, to uplift and encourage me.

## ***The Armor of Glory***

- ◆ As Jesus prayed to God the Father in John 17:22-23, *“The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me.”*

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- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Jesus prayed this to You on the eve of being brutally beaten and crucified. He knew his disciples would bear witness to this savagery and see the bloodied face and body of their beloved Yeshua. He deposited in them His glory, in part to fortress them to withstand this horrible trauma. Heavenly Father, fill me with Your glory, that it may be an armor of glory against the coming judgments and turbulence. Let this gift of Your glory also strengthen our unity in the faith, to strengthen us spiritually and in every good way.

### ***Holy Reparations***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, surely Jesus began His reparations for humanity with His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane; suffering torment for humanity's sins against their own souls. With the scourging at the pillar, He suffered reparations for our sins of the flesh. With the crown of thorns, He suffered reparations of humility and humiliation for our sins of ego and pridefulness. By carrying the heavy wooden cross under the burden of severe injuries, He suffered reparations for our sins against carrying our own cross.
- ◆ LORD God, I repent for all the sins I have committed against my own soul, for my sins of the flesh, for my sins of ego pridefulness. I repent for not carrying my own cross with dignity or even at times refusing to do so altogether. I repent for not helping as Simon of Cyrene did, who helped Jesus to carry his impossibly heavy cross. I repent for viewing my cross as a victim and being in victimhood. I repent for all the times that I complained about my cross, failing to recognize that it was a necessary spiritual burden and actually a requirement of being a son/daughter of the Most High God; that also yokes me more deeply to You and to the Lord Christ Jesus.

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- ◆ For surely Jesus instructed in Matthew 16:24-26, *“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”*
- ◆ Help me LORD God, to make holy reparations to cultivate deeper spiritual maturity and strength; to bring me in to greater union with You and Jesus Christ Yeshua, and to be an inspiration and model for others to do the same.

### **Sealing Prayer:**

*“It is this Jesus whom God raised up, a fact to which we are all witnesses.*

*Therefore, since He has been exalted at the right hand of God,  
and has received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father,*

*He has poured out this which you both see and hear.*

*For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:*

*‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand,*

*Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’*

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made  
Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

Acts 2:32-36