

APRIL 2026



MESSIAH'S HOUSE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
CONGREGATION BETH MESSIAH
A MESSIANIC JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

2026

APRIL

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APRIL

Special announcements

**REMINDER!
CBM WILL BE CLOSED ON
APRIL 4TH FOR OUR
CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER
SEDER**

**ATTENTION!
BRIDGE MITZVAH HOMELESS MINISTRY
WILL NOT BE GOING OUT FOR THE
MONTH OF APRIL IN OBSERVANCE OF
PESACH**

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CBMHOUSTON.ORG





April

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PASSOVER SEDER PLATE PREP
3RD & 4TH

PASSOVER SEDER LIVE-STREAM
4TH

2 WEEK FOUNDATION COURSE
11TH & 18TH

MESSIANIC MOMMIES
12TH

HOLOCAUST MUESUM TOUR
19TH

A STORY OF WATER, SPIRIT, FIRE, BLOOD ATONEMENT, AND REBIRTH

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL CAMPOS

This article will begin by asking a question that we will seek to answer together by understanding each piece of the puzzle. The question we are seeking an answer to is this: "Was the first Pesach a rebirth story of the Jewish people?"

Let's begin our discovery by reading the words of Messiah in the book of **John 3:1-8** where Yeshua is having a conversation with a teacher of Yisrael named Nicodemus. In these verses the Scripture says, "Now there was a man, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jewish people. He came to Yeshua at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that You, a teacher, have come from G-d. For no one can perform these signs which You do unless G-d is with Him!' Yeshua answered him, 'Amen, amen I tell you, unless one is **born from above**, he cannot see the kingdom of G-d.' 'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus said to Him. 'He cannot enter his mother's womb a second time and be born, can he?' Yeshua answered, 'Amen, amen I tell you, unless one is **born of water and spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of G-d. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised that I said to you, "You all must be born from above." **The wind** blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. **So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**"

Let us dive deeper into each puzzle piece, we will begin with **WATER!**

Matthew 3:5-6: "Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan. **Confessing their sins**, they were being **immersed** by him in the Jordan River." **Matthew 3:11:** "As for me, I immerse you in water for repentance. But the One coming after me is mightier than I am; I am not worthy to carry His sandals. **He will immerse you in the Ruach ha-Kodesh and fire.**"

Mark 1:4-5: "John appeared, **immersing** in the wilderness, proclaiming an **immersion involving repentance for the removal of sins**. All the Judean countryside was going out to him, and all the Jerusalemites. As they **confessed their sins**, they were being **immersed** by him in the Jordan River."

Based on these Scriptures water represents a cleansing of a person following a public act of repentance. In the modern body of believers, it also symbolizes a believer's death to self when being immersed in the water and a "rebirth" when emerging from the water. Of course, this symbolism still relies on the believer's confession of sin and repentance as well as a public declaration of faith in Messiah! While we move on to the next puzzle piece, it is worth noting that these Scriptures also uncovered a 3rd and 4th puzzle piece, namely **wind** and **fire!**

Let us move on to the second puzzle piece, **SPIRIT!**



In the book of **Acts 2:1-4**, the Scripture reads, "When the day of Shavuot had come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty **rushing wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And **tongues like fire** spreading out appeared to them and settled on each one of them. **They were all filled with the Ruach ha-Kodesh** and began to speak in other tongues as the Ruach enabled them to speak out." And again, in **Joel 3:1-2:** "So it will be afterward, **I will pour out My Ruach on all flesh**: your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. "Also, on the male and the female servants **will I pour out My spirit in those days.**"

From the Scriptures we glean that the Spirit of G-d is like a wind, no one knows where it is coming from or where it is going, but we do know that it is the presence of the Ruach of ADONAI! We also learn that when the Ruach of the Lord fills a human being, it is like a fire within him! This is the baptism of fire Yochanan the Immerser was referring to when he said the One coming after him would immerse people in the Ruach and fire! Fire is the effect of the Ruach in our lives, in our beings, in our souls! Some may have noticed that fire was mentioned in the Scriptures in relation to the Spirit as well as being mentioned in the Scriptures about water. That is because, like all puzzles, these pieces fit together to form a very clear picture!

Let us address the puzzle piece of **FIRE!**

In **Hebrews 12:28-29** while describing entering a kingdom that cannot be shaken the Scripture says, *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude—through this we may offer worship in a manner pleasing to God, with reverence and awe. **For our God is a consuming fire.**”* In **Malachi 3:2-3**: *“But who can endure the day of His coming? Or who can stand when He appears? For **He will be like a refiner’s fire**, and like soap for cleaning raw wool. And **He will sit as a smelter** or a purifier of silver, and He will cleanse the sons of Levi, and purify them like gold or silver.”* And in **Exodus 3:2**: *“Then the angel of ADONAI appeared to him in **a flame of fire from within a bush**. So, he looked and saw **the bush burning with fire, yet it was not consumed.**”*

The Scriptures teach us that our G-d is a consuming fire, a refiner’s fire, a smelter. Yet He can still choose to rest upon a thing or person and not consume it, for He is also a gentle G-d! When the Immerser spoke of Yeshua immersing us in fire, it was an immersion into ADONAI Himself! Like the bush on the mountain, we would be completely engulfed by Him, by His fire, by His Spirit!

So where does blood atonement fit into this puzzle? Let us understand together the purpose of shedding blood and its role in atonement. **Leviticus 17:10-12**: *“Anyone from the house of Israel, or from the outsiders dwelling among them, who eats any kind of blood, I will set my face against that soul—the one who eats blood—and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the creature is in the blood, and **I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your lives—for it is the blood that makes atonement because of the life.** Therefore, I have said to Bnei-Yisrael: No person among you may eat blood, nor may any outsider dwelling among you eat blood.”* Again in **Leviticus 16:15-22**: *“Then he is to slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, bring its blood behind the curtain, and do with its as he did with the blood of the bull—sprinkle it upon the **atonement** cover, and before the atonement cover. So, he is to make **atonement** for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of Bnei-Yisrael and because of their transgressions, all their sins. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their impurities. No one is to be in the Tent of Meeting when he enters **to make atonement** in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made **atonement** for himself and for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. Then he is to go out to the altar that is before ADONAI and make **atonement** for it. He is to take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood and dab it around on the horns of the altar. He is to sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of Bnei-Yisrael. When he has finished atoning for the Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, then he is to present the live goat. Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and **confess** over it all the iniquities of Bnei-Yisrael and all their **transgressions**, all their **sins**. He should place them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat will carry all their iniquities by itself into a solitary land, and he is to leave the goat in the wilderness.”* Lastly **Matthew 26:27-28**: *“And He took a cup; and after giving thanks, He gave to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; or this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the removal of sins.’”*

From these Scriptures we gather that blood must be shed to atone for the consequences of sin! How do all these things relate to the very first Pesach and how do they make that story a story of rebirth? Let us recall what the Lord spoke in **Exodus 12:6-7**: *“You must watch over it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight. They are to take the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the crossbeam of the houses where they will eat it.”* The next logical question would be why? The answer is found in **Exodus 12:12-13**: *“For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night and strike down **every** firstborn, both men and animals, and I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. I am ADONAI. **The blood** will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the **blood**, I will pass over you. So, there will be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

The blood of the lamb without blemish was spilled and placed on the doorposts in order to avoid the penalty of death, just as the blood of Yeshua shed for us paid the penalty of our sins upon the tree. Israel experienced atonement by blood on that first Pesach! And in the morning, they had to walk across the threshold of their homes which were smeared in the blood of the lamb, painting a picture of humans exiting their safe homes into the world through a threshold of blood; much like a birth canal.

The similarity does not end there; much like in the body of Messiah, the presence of **water, wind, and fire** were also present in the Exodus story. **Exodus 13:20-22:** "So they journeyed from Succoth and encamped in Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ADONAI went before them in a **pillar of cloud by day** to lead the way and in a **pillar of fire by night** to give them light. So, they could travel both day and night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night never departed from the people" **Exodus 14:15-18, 21-22:** "Then ADONAI said to Moses, 'Why are you crying to Me? Tell Bnei-Yisrael to go forward. Lift up your staff, stretch out your hand over the **sea**, and divide it. Then Bnei-Yisrael will go into the midst of the **sea** on dry ground. Then I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will go in after them, so that I will be glorified over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians will know that I am ADONAI, when I have been glorified over Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.' Then Moses stretched out his hand over the **sea**. ADONAI drove the **sea** back with a strong **east wind** throughout the night and turned the **sea** into dry land. So, the **waters were divided**. Then Bnei-Yisrael went into the midst of the **sea** on the dry ground, while the waters were like walls to them on their right and on their left.'"

Conclusion: Both the story of Pesach and the story of rebirth told by Messiah Yeshua to Nicodemus share the same elements. They are in essence the same story. Israel did in fact experience a type of rebirth all those years ago when ADONAI delivered them from slavery just as Yeshua has delivered us from the bondage of our sins. This Pesach 5786 let us remember the rebirth of Israel as a people, the rebirth of each believer, and the hope that next year we can celebrate in Yerushalayim in the presence of our KING!

Passover 2026

Due to the onsite Passover Seder, CBM will be closed on April 4th, there will be no in-person or live-streamed morning service.

You can pick up Pesach resources in the CBM Resource Center.

Access the resource center [HERE](#)

פסח





Congregation Beth Messiah
Join us for a Special Holocaust Museum Tour

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 @ 12:30 PM



Come out for a special tour of the Holocaust Museum of Houston in Honor of Yom HaShoah Remembrance Day. This is a FREE event, but please sign up all the family members that plan to attend. This tour is for ages 13 and up.

Sign up Here!

Feast of Unleavened Bread

PESACH

Passover

Bedikat khametz is the search for leaven in the home and to believers in Yeshua, it represents the search for sin in our hearts.

As Messiah was crucified on a wooden object and crucified outside of the camp, so the leaven, once found, is scooped up with a wooden spoon and burned outside the home or simply thrown out.

The Biblical origins go back to the Hebrew slaves who had to leave Egypt in such haste, there was no time to leaven the bread.

In commemoration of this, we eat bread made without leavening for seven days.

- 14th - 22nd of Nisan (April 2 - 9, 2026)
- Passover was a pilgrimage holy day, where men were required to go up to Jerusalem
- The Passover lamb represents Yeshua's sacrifice
- Eight day feast where no leavening agents are eaten
- Holy Day Theme is "redemption"



Quick Facts:

- One should feel as if personally freed from Egypt
- Traditionally, homes would be cleaned with a feather, scooped with a wooden spoon and the crumbs burned
- Traditionally, only the lamb, herbs, and matzah were eaten. Eggs, matzah tosh, charoset and the four cups were added later



"Pesach"
To spring,
jump or
pass over

**Spring
Feasts**

COUNTING OF THE OMER

April 3rd -May 21st

The Torah writes: "And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow of the Shabbat, from the day that you bring the omer [offering] that is raised, seven complete weeks there shall be until the morrow of the seventh week you shall count fifty days (Leviticus 23:15-16).

These verses command us to count seven weeks from the time that the omer, the new barley offering, was brought in the Temple, i.e., from the sixteenth of Nissan. We begin our count on the second night of Passover (the night of the second Seder in the Diaspora) and continue until Shavuot, which is the fiftieth day after the offering. ~Chabad.org



The Biblical command to count the Omer

COUNTING THE OMER

**From the First Fruits
The Resurrection of Yeshua**

**To Shavuot
Pentecost**





FIRST FRUITS

BIKKURIM



**Join us for
Bikkurim Service
& Brunch on
April 5th at 10 am**



The Feast of First Fruits follows Passover and is historically the time of year where the ripe barley harvest was presented to Adonai.

Hebrew farmers declared their dependance on the Most High to extend grace and provide for the needs of His people for the upcoming year

Rav Shaul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15: 20 that the Messiah is risen from the dead and therefore is the first fruits of all who have died.

Bikkurim points directly to the resurrection of the Messiah and looks forward to his ascension into heaven.

We celebrate Bikkurim to declare our King defeated death and has atoned for us.

SHAVUOT

FEASTS OF WEEKS

FACTS



- It's customary to stay awake the entire night to study Torah
- It's customary to eat dairy products
- Celebrates the offering of the late first fruits like wheat



- One fulfillment occurred in Acts 2
- Traditional to decorate the synagogue in greenery to represent how Sinai may have looked in the Spring



- This is a pilgrimage feast where men were required to go to Jerusalem
- Believed to be the day the 10 commandments were spoken on Mount Sinai

SHAVUOT
MAY 21ST -23RD



Join us for
Shavuot Service,
Immersion &
kiddush on
May 23rd

April Events

- April 4th: CBM Closed for Passover Seder
- April 11th: Soccer Practice at 1pm
- April 15th: WNR
- April 18th: Soccer Practice @ 1pm
- April 22nd: WNR
- April 25th: Soccer Practice @ 1pm
- April 29th: WNR

News!

Jewish Journey VBS

Join us for Rainforest Falls as we Explore the Nature of God during our summer Jewish Journey June 1st-5th!

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Sign up here!



Shabbat School

Kids ages 5-10, join us on Shabbat mornings as we teach the foundation of our faith through the biblical narrative.

The B'nei Mitzvah class for all 11 and 12 year olds is available in the youth building.

Nursery is available Shabbat mornings for ages 0-4 years old.





Youth Highway

April 4, 2026

****No Highway**

Passover Seder at CBM

April 18, 2026

1pm -3:00pm

Study of the TORAH & more.. along with Interactive activities pertaining to study and worship plus food and fellowship

Wednesday Night Recharge

April 15, 22, 29

Studies with learning activities, such as Bible drills, Bible Pictionary, Questions youth can ask & much more!

***Middle School 11-14 (Crossroads) & High School 15 to Seniors (HighJack)**

Future Youth Events Coming

April 19, 2026

Youth Spring Shindig

Palacios, TX

Texas Baptist Encampment

**** Outdoor Activity to fellowship with Music, Team Building games, Bible teaching, Food & Enjoy the outside with the beauty of the Gulf**



**Youth Leaders:
Dane & Debbi Kappler
Contact:
youth@cbmhouston.org**

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Looking Forward 2026

1

MAY 16TH

JEMMI PIZANA BAT MITZVAH

2

JUNE 1ST - 5TH

JEWISH JOURNEY VBS

[Sign up here](#)

3

JUNE 15TH - 18TH

YOUTH SUMMER STIR

4

JUNE 25TH

SOLU ISRAEL WORSHIP EVENT

5

AUG. 28TH - 30TH

2B1 MARRIEDS RETREAT

[Sign up here](#)

6

OCT. 13TH - 22ND

IBF ISRAEL TOUR

[Sign up here](#)

7

OCTOBER 24TH

ASHER BROWN BAR MITZVAH

8

NOV. 14TH

SARGE & SAMSON B'NEI MITZVAH

April 2026

CBM Bible Readings

The readings are from the Bible Recap. It is a 365-Day chronological reading plan. They are available on our Beth Messiah app, on Apple and Google devices as well as on our website at <https://www.cbmhouston.org/daily-bible-readings/>

1st

Job 38-39

2nd

Job 40-42

3rd

Genesis 12-15

4th

Genesis 16-18

5th

Genesis 19-21

6th

Genesis 22-24

7th

Genesis 25-26

8th

Genesis 27-29

9th

Genesis 30-31

10th

Genesis 32-34

11th

Genesis 35-37

12th

Genesis 38-40

13th

Genesis 41-42

14th

Genesis 43-45

15th

Genesis 46-47

16th

Genesis 48-50

17th

Exodus 1-3

18th

Exodus 4-6

19th

Exodus 7-9

20th

Exodus 10-12

21st

Exodus 13-15

22nd

Exodus 16-18

23rd

Exodus 19-21

24th

Exodus 22-24

25th

Exodus 25-27

26th

Exodus 28-29

27th

Exodus 30-32

28th

Exodus 33-35

29th

Exodus 36-38

30th

Exodus 39-40