

PASSOVER SABBATH 2015
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It is our HONOR to be invited to keep the Feasts starting with Pesach.
HONOR, INVITATION FROM THE KING, A PRIVILEGE
This is not religion, but entering the court of the King of the nation called Israel
Covenant renewal - A LEGAL event.

Passover starts the LORD's annual Festival cycle. Each Feast renews and relates to one of the seven parts of His covenant which was revealed over time starting in Genesis.

THE COVENANT PROVIDES FOR OUR SURVIVAL

In Biblical and ANEC context, everything that the subjects have belongs to the King. Thus the King has a vested interest in keeping the people happy, helping them to prosper because the King wants the best for Himself, too. He is the King. It is His divine right to have the very best and to be held in high esteem throughout the world.

This does not mean that the King is opportunistic, but that His Kingdom is mutually beneficial for both Him and His subjects.

The governments of the earth today do 1 of 2 things: 1) They ignore the needs of their subjects or 2) They use their subjects badly. Case in point: The United States government provides for subjects through welfare programs that barely meet their needs and do not require the recipients to be productive which would greatly increase their happiness. A government, whether at the city, county, state or federal level owns everything you have, but they are not seeking your happiness.

In the LORD's Kingdom, this is simply not so. He always seeks our happiness and provides us with rules for a lifestyle that will result in happiness. And because YHVH has made covenant with His people that He calls Israel, He is bound by that covenant, to do a better job upholding it than we do, to come to our aid even when we are in a state of defilement and disobedience. He must do this until such time as He decides He has had enough and cuts us off from Israel. And Yes, we can be cut off from Israel. Korah is such an example.

At the Temple, no gentile or a person with corpse impurity could approach the Temple. Strangers, gentiles living among the Israelites, could. The prohibition against a certain class of people not keeping Passover has to do with the LORD's definition of what constitutes a 'stranger' and a 'foreigner'.

KJV: Exo 12:43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

ISV: Exo 12:43 The LORD told Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover: No foreigner is to eat it,

CLASSIFICATIONS OF PEOPLES' STATUS WITHIN THE HEBREW COMMUNITY
"No foreigner" is lo kol nekar.

H3605
כֹּל כֹּל
kol kol
kole, kole

From H3634; properly the whole; hence all, any or every (in the singular only, but often in a plural sense): - (in) all (manner, [ye]), altogether, any (manner), enough, every (one, place, thing), howsoever, as many as, [no-] thing, ought, whatsoever, (the) whole, whoso (-ever).

FOREIGNER

H5236

נכר

nekâr

nay-kawr'

From H5234; foreign, or (concretely) a foreigner, or (abstractly) heathendom: - alien, strange (+ -er).

ISV: Exo 12:44 though any slave purchased with money may eat it after you have circumcised him.

H5650

עבד

'ebed

eh'-bed

From H5647; a servant: - X bondage, bondman, [bond-] servant, (man-) servant.

The servant is a member of your household. Passover is for households, although some members of the household are prohibited from Passover if they are not circumcized.

ISV: Exo 12:45 But no temporary resident or a hired servant is to eat it.

TEMPORARY RESIDENT

H8453

תושב תושב

tôshâb tôshâb

to-shawb', to-shawb'

(The second form used in Kings Num 17:1); from H3427; a dweller (but not outlandish, H5237); especially (as distinguished from a native citizen (active participle of H3427) and a temporary inmate, H1616, or mere lodger, H3885) resident alien: - foreigner-inhabitant, sojourner, stranger.

HIRED SERVANT

H7916

שכיר

śākîyr

saw-keer'

From H7936; a man at wages by the day or year: - hired (man, servant), hireling.

Hired servants are not a part of your household.

KJV: Exo 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will 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 one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

ISV: Exo 12:48 If an alien who resides with you wants to observe the Passover to the LORD, every male in his household must be circumcised, and then he may come near to observe it. He is to be like a native of the land, but no uncircumcised person is to eat it.

ALIEN/STRANGER

H1616

גֵר גֵיִר

gēr gēyr

gare, gare

From H1481; properly a guest; by implication a foreigner: - alien, sojourner, stranger.

Being a "ger" among the Hebrews may be how many of the Egyptians escaped the plague of the death of the firstborn. They became guests within the households of the Israelites. The idea of this kind of person, the stranger, who wants to partake of the Hebrew culture and be able to approach the LORD is a sort of interim period between being a nekar (foreigner), sakir (hired servant) and a toshab (a temporary resident). These are actually classifications each individual gives himself since there is no need for anyone to remain in any of these categories. Every man and woman on earth is equally accepted by the LORD if he or she decides to become a Hebrew, a member of the nation of Israel.

The "stranger", or "ger" category could be viewed as the in-between stage. It is in between being a foreigner and be a full-fledged member of the nation of Israel. We are estranged, strangers in the diaspora. As such, we are required to aspire to and obey the same Law as full-fledged members of the nation of Israel. If we reject the Laws of the nation, then we put ourselves in the category of "nekar" or "toshab", foreigner or any of the other less-than-citizen classification.

The stranger was not a full-fledged member of Hebrew culture even though he partook of the Pesach sacrifice. There were other things that needed to be done, for instance, the individual must completely convert like Ruth did. A stranger might return to his foreign land, but a convert would not. Case in point:

Exo 23:9 Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers [ger] in the land of Egypt.

The Israelites had been "ger" in Egypt. They partook of Egyptian culture all the while being within their own separate culture. Strangers mix cultures. They are in that gray area where they are neither truly Egyptian, nor are they truly Hebrew. The LORD will allow a circumcized "ger" to eat the Pesach sacrifice because the Children of Israel were circumcized "ger" in Egypt.

Strangers, "ger", partook of Shabbat.

Exo 23:12 You are to do your work for six days, but on the seventh day you are to refrain from work so that your ox and donkey may rest, and so the son of your maidservant and the alien may be refreshed.

Unqualified individuals could not participate in the sacrifices:

KJV: Exo 29:33 And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy.

KJV: Exo 29:33 They shall eat these things by which atonement was made at their ordination to consecrate them, but an unqualified [zur] person is not to eat because these things are holy.

CATEGORY OF UNQUALIFIED PEOPLE FOR APPROACHING THE TEMPLE

ISV uses 'unqualified'; KJV uses 'stranger'

H2114

זָר

zur

zoor

A primitive root; to turn aside (especially for lodging); hence to be a foreigner, strange, profane; specifically (active participle) to commit adultery: - (come from) another (man, place), fanner, go away, (e-) strange (-r, thing, woman).

"Zur" is also the name of the father of the Midianite woman, Cozbi, who defiled the Tabernacle with the Simeonite, Zimri.

"Zur" is a general characterization of people with impurities including being idolatrous and profane. Also an apostate person, one who rejects the LORD's instructions.

The stranger, "ger", was required to keep Yom Kippur:

Lev 16:29 "This is to be a perpetual statute for you. On the tenth day of the seventh month, you (including both the native born and the resident alien [ger]) are to humble yourselves by not doing any work,

Lev 16:30 because on that day, atonement will be made for you to cleanse you from all your sins. You are to be clean in the LORD's presence.

"Ger" MAY do Pesach if he is circumcized, but he is REQUIRED to do Yom Kippur.

"Ger" were required to submit their sacrifices to the Priests at the gates of the Tabernacle just like the "citizens" of Israel.

Lev 17:8 And thou shalt say unto them, Whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice,

Lev 17:9 And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people.

"Ger" were required to refrain from consuming blood.

Lev 17:10 And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

This applied to "ger" that hunted for food:

Lev 17:13 And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.

"Ger" were to be treated like the poor

Lev 23:22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

This may seem like strangers were beneath the other Hebrews, but in actuality the LORD raised the protection of the poor to make them equal in His culture. Thus, strangers were given this status, as well.

Deu 10:18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

ONE LAW FOR BOTH ISRAELITES AND STRANGERS

Lev 24:22 Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.

Deu 1:16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

Deu 10:19 Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

This is why "ger", strangers were subject to the same death penalties as the native-born Israelites:

Lev 24:16 As it is for the resident alien so it is to be with the native born: when he blasphemes the Name, he is to be put to death.

Num 15:30 But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Num 35:15 These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.