



**East Gates**  
INTERNATIONAL

*Seeing Beyond the Impossible™*

March - April 2024

Dear East Gates partner,

Spring is here and with it the refreshing fragrances that come from new blooms and life blossoming everywhere. This only proves that during the winter months, there was much activity occurring beneath the seemingly dormant surface. The same can be said spiritually and this is the amazing way God designed His Creation. In the midst of the darkest seasons is when one can make the most of the time to conserve energy, be nourished and strengthened to ultimately reveal God's truth, beauty and loving power. Such is the case with our Chinese brothers and sisters in China.

We've been sharing with them that on God's biblical calendar, Passover and Easter are quickly approaching but there is one Jewish holiday, Purim, that just passed by (March 24) that many were not even aware of but is key in preparing for the Spring festival season. Why? Because it's a celebration of God's righteousness overcoming evil and God's divine purpose defeating the enemy's deception and lies. Are we not experiencing all of this today? We tell our Chinese brothers and sisters that knowing God's promises hold true in every generation will give them far greater appreciation for what Yeshua, our King and Savior, eternally accomplished for them as they celebrate Easter (March 31) and Passover (April 22) this year. God wants us to learn from all of the biblical lessons of the past as they apply even more so today. You'll see why on the next page.



Daphne is an evergreen shrub common to Asia, Europe and North Africa. It is known for its fragrant flowers that bloom before all the other spring foliage. Ours are flourishing right now and the intoxicating scent makes us imagine what the Garden of Eden must have been like!



Nowadays, most young people have too many temptations, distractions and other interests to want to study God's Word but not with these Chinese youth at a winter retreat in Zhejiang Province. It's a true blessing when high school and college students sign up!

## ESTHER 4:14

“For if you keep silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place, and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty **for such a time as this?**”



One of the common questions we’ve been receiving from Chinese pastors, lay leaders and students has been, “Why have the Jews been so persecuted throughout history and why is it mounting these days?” It’s a very good question and one that we answer in our Bible training classes.

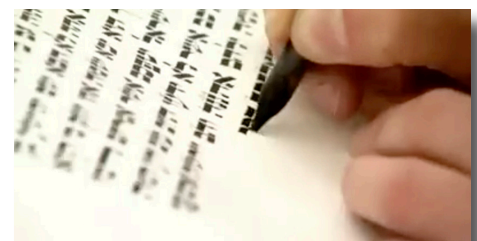


Suffice it to say for now, the October 7, 2023 mutilation and massacre in Gaza clearly revealed, it’s not anything the Jews did. It’s solely because of who they are - Jews. Unfortunately, such demonic persecution will continue until our Lord of Lords and King of the Jews and the nations, Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah) returns. In the meantime, it’s reassuring to see how God continues to work behind the scenes with the Jews and Gentiles for His Kingdom purposes. We see this especially in the Book of Esther, where God’s name is not mentioned once but His “fingerprints” are seen throughout the narrative. We shared with our Chinese students that two ordinary Jews, Mordecai and Esther, were able to save their nation because they intimately knew God and what He had promised for their people through His Word. We reassured our students that God is continually alongside us as well, working with our past, present and destined future as we try to be obedient and faithful. An important **lesson** to glean from the Book of Esther is the following:

- \* Trust God in everything He says to do. If one doesn’t, there will be adverse consequences to pay in generations to come. In I Samuel 15:2-3, God tells King Saul (tribe of Benjamin) to **totally destroy** the entire wicked Amalekite tribe. King Saul reasons in his mind, he’ll destroy what **he thinks** is worthless and keep what is politically and economically advantageous. Unbelievably, he saves the “dragon’s head,” King Agag, which in Hebrew means “violent.” In time, over generations, the malignant tumor metastasizes. Eventually, Haman, an Agagite or Amalekite is born and becomes prime minister to Ahasuerus, King of Persia (modern day Iran). His sole goal is power and eradication of the Jews. But once again, God’s tiny but mighty, Mordecai and Esther, came through victorious for the Jewish nation.

As followers of Yeshua today, we can be like King Saul. We can be dominated more by the fear or awe of man versus the fear or awe of God. Instead of truly *listening* to God, which in Hebrew is the word, *shema* which also means “to obey,” we can use our own rationale as we did in the Garden of Eden. In this context, Chinese ask us what Yeshua meant when He said, “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law (teachings), until all is accomplished.”

We explain how in Hebrew, each vowel or stroke in a letter can significantly change the meaning of a word. That’s why over the millennia, special scribes were specially trained and ordained to write God’s Word. If the scribe were to make one mistake, he would have to re-write the entire page. So was Yeshua serious when He said, “For I say to you that unless your righteousness far surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20)? Yes. He told them to do as they say but not as they do.



A scribe carefully writes out the Torah.



# ONE JOT OR TITTLE MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

In today's present world, everything has become relative with no absolutes. Words have been totally redefined whereby the word "progressive" actually means "regressive" and "woke" means "asleep." Therefore, it's no surprise we live in "Babylon" which literally means "chaos" and "confusion." It's no wonder darkness has encompassed the earth.

When God entered our realm as Yeshua (Hebrew for *salvation*) and sacrificed Himself for all the sin (leaven) that we allowed to consume us, He came as the Word and the Word was made flesh (John 1:1,14). Starting in the Garden, He knew the enemy, the "father of lies" (John 8:44), would malign His Words and deceive the world. Therefore, He wants all those who desire to bear life-giving fruit and come into alignment with His nature, to be aware of the fact He is the Word and that every jot or one stroke of the pen has significance and meaning in His inspired Word. We see this clearly in Hebrew.

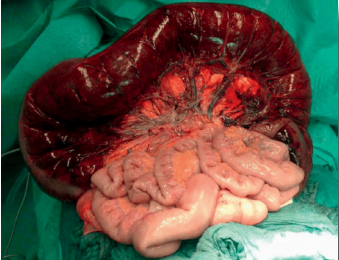
חֶלֶה

Challah = cake-like bread



חָלָה

Chalah = disease, to be weak or sick



The only major difference between the Hebrew word for *challah*, a delicious, cake-like bread and the word *chalah* which means "disease" or "a weakened state," are the tiny vowels under the Hebrew letter, *chet*, ח. Otherwise they look and sound the same!

חֶמֶץ

Chametz = leaven



מַצָּה

Matzah = unleavened



ח

Chet

ה

Hey

Similarly, the Hebrew word for *chametz* which means "leaven" is spelled with practically the same letters for *matzah* which means "unleavened." The letters are just rearranged. It's important to note that unlike today, sages from ancient cultures like China and the Middle East always believed that letters were alive and like musical notes, had frequencies. They were also multi-dimensional in nature. So for example, the Hebrew letter *chet* in *chametz* with a closed top, would symbolize haughtiness and the constriction of sin whereas the small opening at the top of the Hebrew letter *hey*, in the word *matzah*, would signify true freedom and a total release; what one would experience in a "deleavened," sinless or resurrected state.

## PRAY FOR THE BRIDE OF CHRIST SO SHE MAY GET HERSELF READY



Today, the stark reality is the Church has been conditioned and vested into “sin management.” One can be inspired and encouraged by the zeal of brothers and sisters who are out and about sharing God’s eternal plan with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers but we ask them first, how is their family life? How is the spiritual atmosphere in their faith community? Does their pastor have a greater fear of God or man? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, is the resurrected Christ living within them? Is genuine repentance a part of their daily walk? These are hard but necessary questions we ask our students and we’re always aware that four fingers are pointing back at ourselves.

As we reveal these deeper insights to our Chinese students during Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, we remind them that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough (Galatians 5:9), that is why God instituted the Spring festivals to be a time of great reflection and self-examination, to go down deeper... for His blood was not shed in vain.

### *1 John 1:7b-9*

“...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”



A sister in Anhui province (orange coat) shares God’s faith, hope and love with her neighbors.

Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem as we continue with the high calling of preparing the Bride of Christ in China. We treasure your sacrificial prayers, generosity of spirit and faithful giving.

*Our Lord and Savior has risen and rules from His Throne!  
May we make ourselves ready!*

 Christina

Ned and Christina Graham