

Igbo Torah Thoughts

Parashah #15: Bo “Come”

Shemot/Exodus 10:1-3:16

Rabbi Yehudah “Tochukwu” ben Shomeyr

**And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Exd. 12:8**

The Olite Festival in Igboland is very similar to Passover among the Jews. Animals are slaughtered and eaten with bitter leaves and yam. This too shows that despite there being a Pre-Exodus-Exodus of Gadites that settled Igboland, many Israelites came Post Egyptian Exodus to be with their brothers and carried the tradition of Passover with them.

The Oriri Achicha festival in Igboland is celebrated by eating unleavened dried bread made from cocoyam and is the same as the Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread. Like Passover this feast takes place in the evening, a long walk takes place in the bush with priests and elders taking the lead, this is like a re-enactment of the Exodus from Egypt.

As in Israel, so in Igboland.

**Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine... And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD's. Exd. 13:2, 11-12**

Exd. 13:2, 11-12; 22:29, Num. 18:15-17, Luke 2:22-27

The above passages tell how this is done in Igboland as well, this unique practice among the Igbo and virtually no other Nigerian tribe should testify to the fact that the Igbos are indeed Children of Israel.

As in Israel, so in Igboland.

**Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished. Jer. 46:28**

Take heart Ndi Igbo, the LORD has not forgotten about you! You are just beginning to wake up after a long sleep and realize who you really are. He is even now correcting the idolatry and waywardness of Ndi Igbo and preparing you to eventually take your rightful place and be counted among the Tribes of Israel.

SHABBAT SHALOM! IGBO KWENU!

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