

House of Covenant NEWSLETTER

March 2026



APPRECIATION - CASSIE WEAVER

Our community is enriched by those who serve with humility and love, and this month we joyfully recognize Cassie Weaver for the care and devotion she brings to House of Covenant.

Cassie's impact is often quiet, yet deeply felt. She serves faithfully behind the scenes, offering her time with a gentle spirit and a heart rooted in prayer. Her strength and encouragement uplift those around her, and her warm, welcoming smile reflects the grace she carries so naturally.

Whether she is dancing joyfully during worship, helping decorate and set up for Purim, or caring for our children in the nursery or Shabbat School, Cassie brings love and intention to everything she does.

We are truly grateful for Cassie and the many ways she blesses our community.



RESOURCES

To view teachings online, search YouTube for [House Of Covenant In Bend Oregon](#).

For recommended books, resources, and study materials visit [lostintranslation.org](#).

Tithe online! Visit our website at [www.houseofcovenant.org](#).

WHERE TO FIND US

Phone: (458) 899-4922

Email: office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com

Website: www.houseofcovenant.org

We meet at:
21300 Bear Creek Rd.
Bend, OR 97701

Office hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 3pm
Sunday - Monday Closed

Mailing address:

House of Covenant
PO Box 8224
Bend, OR 97708

GETTING READY FOR PASSOVER

What Am I Supposed to Remove for Passover?

“For seven days you are to eat matzah. On the first day remove the seor from your houses, for whoever eats chametz from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel.”

(Ex. 12:15, 13:7, Deut. 16:4)

Seor = Hebrew word for fermentation, leaven;
the root is **sha-ar** = to be left over, to remain.

Seor is the lump of starter dough.

Chametz = bread leavened by fermentation.

Some Bible translations use the word “yeast” in place of the above two Hebrew words, but this is inaccurate. Yeast is not the main thing we’re trying to get rid of—fermented dough is. Fermentation is the process of decomposition caused by the yeast (living organisms which reside within the air and are concentrated in starter) interacting on the dough (the body), representing death and decay.

Remove from the House: Starter dough, bread, bagels, breadcrumbs, breaded foods, etc. Check ingredients for yeast combined with liquid if you are unsure (which may have been allowed to ferment).

Ok to Remain in the House: Flour (unmixed and not allowed to rise), yeast (because it hasn’t been mixed with flour and liquid), chemical leavening agents (baking powder, baking soda, cream of tartar—because they leaven chemically, not by fermentation), dry mixes **without yeast** (like cake and pancake mixes), oatmeal, cream of wheat, non-grain vinegar.

What about wine or beer? Both are products of fermentation using yeast, but we know that wine is allowed because its use is commanded at First Fruits during the week of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:13). Wine is fermented fruit and yeast. Beer is made from fermented grain and yeast. Although, opinions differ about whether Exodus 12:15 applies only to food or also to drinks.

FEATURED RECIPE - PASSOVER MATZAH

Homemade Passover Matzah

Peachy Dolly’s Recipe

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1-2 tsp Italian Spices or Everything Bagel seasoning (optional)
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup olive oil



Preheat oven to 475°. Put the flour in a large mixing bowl and add the salt and spices. Mix thoroughly. Stir in water and olive oil, then mix thoroughly with a fork. Knead dough until it sticks together, adding a dash of olive oil or water if it’s too dry. Divide dough into 8 pieces, then flatten them with a rolling pin. Place on cooking sheet and use a fork to pierce the matzah. Bake for 5-7 min, then flip and bake for 3 additional minutes. Cooking time varies depending on the thickness of your matzah. Keep an eye on the oven!

For some tips and tricks, search **our YouTube channel** for an instructional video titled [“Baking Matzah with Peachy.”](#)

Welcome to Chai with the Rabbi, where we introduce biblical insights from a Hebraic perspective that draw us closer in covenant relationship with God.

Introduction: Does The LORD Still Speak Today?

Shalom chaverim (friends)!

This topic has been continually brought to my attention over the last few months, and I am feeling an ever-increasing tug on my heart to teach it again. A wonderful method of teaching is to see it in print. There is a beauty to hear a teaching, but there is also a weight – a gravitas – that accompanies the written word.

Let's begin with a simple question: Does God still speak today?

The answer: Yes!

I still sometimes am told today that God no longer speaks, because we have the Bible. Let's be clear, the Scriptures are the authoritative Word of God. We tend to forget ... they are a written record of what the Creator of the Universe actually spoke! To conclude, being told we no longer need to seek or hear God's voice is fallacious reasoning.

God Has Always Been Speaking

Elohim begins the Torah by ... speaking. He speaks all throughout the Bible, and He ends the scriptures by ... speaking. The Tanakh and the Brit Hadashah are the writings of His spoken words, and His interactions with mankind and all creation. To say Adonai no longer speaks means an individual must ignore all of scripture and history.

A bit of food for thought ... if God no longer speaks, then why do we pray? Why do WE speak to God? Does He hear us? Of course He does. So, do we conclude that our Heavenly Father hears us, but He does not speak back? To come to this reasoning means we are now putting God into our own theological and interpretive box.

From Genesis: God speaks - to Adam and Chavah (Eve). He spoke to the serpent, Satan. He spoke to His angels. He even spoke to Himself! He speaks to Enoch, Noah, Shem, Abraham, Sarah, Hagar and Ismael, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Judah and Joseph, to name a few.

Exodus: Adonai speaks to Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua ... ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL hear His voice at Mt. Sinai – and not just once, but at various times throughout their 40 years in the wilderness.

Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy: How many times does it say, *“The LORD spoke to Moses and said, tell the Children of Israel?”* Shall we continue? The book of Joshua, Judges, the Prophets, Ezekiel, Samuel, David, even King Saul. How about Jeremiah, Elijah, etc. Even the false prophet Bilaam hears God speak in multiple ways.

The Brit Hadashah (New Testament): There were thousands of people who heard Yeshua, who is the Word of God Himself, including the disciples: Peter, John, Jacob (James), and Paul. God most definitely speaks!

There is no denying it. He did not stop speaking because we now have the written Word. The real question should be ... How does one hear the Voice of God?



Who Can Hear the Voice of the Almighty?

Can we hear the LORD'S voice today? **Yes.**

Does one have to be a believer to hear Him? Scripture gives us the answer: **No.**

God speaks to many who are not in right relationship with Him - Satan, Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Saul, Bilaam, Korah.

So, the real question is not *if* God speaks. The question is whether we are listening – and whether we can discern His voice correctly.

Where it Begins: Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it shall be opened."

So, the first way to learn how to hear God's voice? Ask! Then pursue – get to know Him. Read scripture. Study. Ask Him questions (then listen for an answer). Ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit. Seek advice from those who do hear His voice. Hearing God begins with relationship – with a conversation.

The Many Ways God Speaks

Does God speak in only one way? Again, the Bible gives us insight and direction. No. He does not only speak in one way. God speaks in a multiplicity of ways. It's glorious!

1. Scripture.
2. Still small voice/Inner voice.
3. Emotions/Empathy.
4. Circumstances.
5. Through others (i.e. counsel, etc.).
6. Dreams and visions: Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Miriam, Peter, etc.
7. Audible voice: Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Eliyahu, etc.
8. Angelic Visitations.
9. Even through unexpected means (yes... even a donkey)

God is not limited. He is creative, personal and intentional.

A Personal Example: When God Speaks

When I was nine years old, I used to periodically visit a sweet elderly woman who lived in the same apartment complex as my grandmother. Her name was Mrs. Muir. One day, I recall running inside to my grandmother and telling her,

“I need to go see Mrs. Muir, right now.” I had said. “God is telling me to go see her right away.”

My grandmother smiled at me, humoring a little boy, and gave me permission. I remember running to Mrs. Muir’s apartment and knocking on her door. She answered, sweet and demure as usual, and invited me in. We sat and spoke for a few minutes, about God, which was typical - and then, in mid-sentence, she suddenly stopped speaking, fell back on the couch and passed out. I took a moment to try to wake her, but to no success.

I remember frantically running to a couple of different people I knew in the nearest apartments, and only at the last one did they open the door. They came running, carefully woke her and called an ambulance. I remember rushing back to my grandmother and letting her know. A couple of weeks later, I found out Mrs. Muir was put into an elderly assistance home.

Forty-one years later I still vividly remember that situation. I know - beyond explanation - that God spoke to me ... He gave me a sense of urgency, and Mrs. Muir was saved.

There was no time for a theological debate. There was only time for obedience.

Did God speak to a 9-year-old boy to go visit an elderly woman? He definitely did. Scripture affirms our Heavenly Father’s heart for widows:

Jacob (James) 1:27, “Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Psalm 68:5, “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.”

Isaiah 1:17, “Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.”

In that moment, God cared for one of His own – and He chose to use a child to do so.

Always Confirm and Verify

If you believe God is speaking to you, this is **paramount**. The first and best way to confirm is:

1. **Scripture:** The Bible is the first and best source. We know it's the Word of God. Does what we believe we heard agree with the Bible? If you think God told you to go steal a million dollars ... you'd be wrong. Scripture is clear, "No stealing."
2. **Godly Counsel:** Seek your rabbi, pastor, family and friends – who should be trusted, mature believers – and yes, sometimes even a stranger can be sent by God. *"The facts of a case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."*
3. **Circumstances:** This can be helpful, but must be handled with great care. Circumstances are open for personal bias and interpretation.
4. **Feelings:** Sometimes one's godly intuition can be helpful. However, feelings can be one of the least reliable ways to hear God. There have been plenty of individuals (and groups of people for that matter) who had a feeling they understood God's will, but were very wrong. Try not to rely on feelings alone. Usually, I ask for immediate confirmation in scripture and/or circumstance in a crisis moment.

When God is Silent

There are times when God is silent; times when He isn't speaking or we cannot hear Him. Not all of those times are bad. Here are some circumstances when God is silent:

- **Sin/Rebellion:** If we are in sin – conscious, willful disobedience and rebellion – our ability to hear clearly can be clouded. It may also cause God to withhold communication. Unconfessed sin, hatred toward a brother or sister, or unresolved bitterness can hinder not only your prayers, but your ability to discern His voice clearly.

1 Peter 3:7, "In the same way, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way. Though they are weaker partners, honor them as equal heirs of the grace of life. In this way, your prayers will not be hindered."
- **He already told us:** Sometimes we are asking God for direction, when He has already spoken. Whether through Scripture, wise counsel, or a previous prompting, He may be waiting for obedience before giving further instruction.
- **It's already obvious in Scripture:** There are moments when we seek a "word from God," but the answer is plainly written in His Word. We do not need a new revelation when we have a clear command.
- **He is testing us:** Silence can be a test of faith, trust, and obedience. Will we remain steadfast when we do not feel or hear Him? Will we continue to walk in righteousness?
- **Timing:** God's timing is perfect, even when it does not align with ours. Silence does not mean absence. It often means preparation - either in us, or in the situation around us.

Let us remember silence is not rejection. Silence is not abandonment. Sometimes, silence is invitation to draw nearer, to listen more closely, and to trust more deeply.

How to Mature in Hearing God Voice

If you desire to hear the voice of God more clearly:

1. **Be still**

Psalm 46:10 says, *“Be still, and know that I am God.”* We live in a world of constant noise. If we do not intentionally quiet ourselves, we may miss the gentle whisper of His voice.

2. **Stay in the Word**

The more familiar you are with Scripture, the easier it becomes to recognize His voice. His voice will never contradict His Word.

3. **Cultivate sensitivity**

The Holy Spirit often speaks in subtle ways. A prompting. A conviction. A gentle nudge. The more we respond in obedience, the clearer His voice becomes.

4. **Walk in obedience**

Hearing God is not just about receiving direction - it is about responding to it. Obedience sharpens discernment.

5. **Remain humble**

Be willing to say, “I may be wrong.” This keeps us grounded, teachable, and open to correction.

A Final Thought: It Begins and Ends with Relationship

Hearing God’s voice is not reserved for a select few. It is available to all who seek Him. It is not about perfection, but about relationship.

Yeshua said in John 10:27, *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

Notice the order:

- They belong to Him - “My sheep” – meaning we need to be part of His flock
- They hear Him - “Hear My voice” – meaning we hear and listen
- He knows them - “I know them” – meaning He is intimate with us
- They follow Him - “They follow Me” – meaning we obey what He says

If you are struggling to hear His voice, do not be discouraged. Draw closer. Ask. Seek. Knock. He is a loving Father who desires to speak to His children.

And when He speaks - whether through His Word, a whisper, a circumstance, or even something unexpected - may we have ears to hear, hearts to receive, and courage to obey.

Shalom and God bless,

Rabbi Adam Spears

UPCOMING EVENTS

Passover *Thursday, April 2*

Passover is the beginning of the Jewish religious New Year. This feast is the remembrance of God's deliverance from slavery and the Exodus from Egypt. It's also the time of the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah. **Join us for our Passover Seders in homes. Please sign up with our Pesach Hosts.**

First Fruits *Saturday, April 4 at 10am*

First Fruits occurs on the first day following the Sabbath after Passover. This celebration is to remember that our first and best harvest belongs to the Lord Yeshua the Messiah who resurrected on this day. This also begins the *Counting of the Omer*. **Join us at 10am for this special First Fruits/Resurrection Day celebration!** There will be a fruit and veggie Oneg (potluck) after service.

Unleavened Bread Service *Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30pm*

Unleavened Bread is the week-long observance of removing the leaven from our homes and the eating of matzah. This also commemorates the Exodus and symbolizes the removal of sin (leaven) from our lives. Messiah, the Bread of Life, was in the grave during this feast. **Join us at 6:30pm for our Unleavened Bread closing service and potluck** (kosher and unleavened foods only).

Shavuot Service *Saturday, May 23 at 6pm*

Shavuot is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah to the entire Israelite nation assembled at Mount Sinai, although the association between the giving of the Torah and Shavuot is not explicit in the Biblical text. The holiday is one of the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer. In the Brit Hadashah, this was also known as the Day of Pentecost (Greek for 50/Shavuot) and the Day that God sent his Ruach (Spirit) to His disciples. **Join us at 6:00pm for a Torah Service and Ice Cream Social.**

All upcoming events and services are listed on our online calendar at houseofcovenant.org.

CLASSES AND GROUPS **All events meet at 21300 Bear Creek Rd unless noted.*

Davidic Dance Class

Mondays, 7pm

Darla Estes: 541-550-6750

Isaiah Study Group

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Sherel Stosik: 808-778-1172

Men's Group

*Every other Thursday, 6:30pm**

Jeb Anderson: 541-316-3570

**Location to be determined*

FEATURED AND DEALS - SPRING FEASTS

Counting the Omer Bundle: \$13.95

Discounted bundle available at the bookstore counter through April 9th!

God's first three festivals occur within one week. During this exciting week is Firstfruits – the day of our Lord's resurrection and the day on which Leviticus 23:15–16 tells us to start the Omer (OH-mehr) count. To help make the count simple and meaningful, we've created two tools:

Counting the Omer: S'firat HaOmer booklet

This book makes it simple, with one page for each day of the count. The short blessing and the count are in Hebrew and English, with easy-to-pronounce phonetic Hebrew. We have not seen another book that makes it so easy for you to fulfill the Leviticus 23:15-16 command, and you'll end up learning some Hebrew while you're at it.

Laminated Omer Painting

This educational tool gives a clear visual of the seven sets of seven days as a reminder that God has told us to count the 49 days from the festival of Firstfruits to the festival of Shavuot. This beautiful laminated 8 1/2" x 11" menorah can be wiped clean and used year-after-year for the count.

