

Message on the Observance of Passover, 5763
April 17, 2003

I send greetings to those who are observing Passover this week, beginning at sundown on April 16.

For Jewish families across the United States and around the world, Passover is a time of joy and renewal. This holiday celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from oppression and marks their birth as a nation. In remembering the Israelites' liberation from enslavement and their Exodus from Egypt, Passover reminds individuals of God's faithfulness and of the triumph of good over evil. It is also a time for families and friends to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers and to gather at the Seder table to eat special foods, offer prayers, and sing songs that celebrate their rich heritage, the power of faith, and the eternal blessings of liberty.

The story of the Exodus, as found in the Scriptures, is timeless and universal. More than 3,000 years ago, the children

of Abraham learned of our Creator's love and mercy as they reaffirmed man's natural desire for liberty. Every year since then, Jews remember the miracles that led their ancestors out of bondage and to the Promised Land.

As the international community works to face great challenges and embrace important opportunities, the United States remains committed to peace, justice, and opportunity. During this time of great consequence, we resolve to bring about a re-birth of freedom and promise in troubled regions around the world.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a Happy Passover. We also hope the holy season will bring a renewal of faith, comfort, and hope for all.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2003
April 17, 2003

I send greetings to those observing Easter. Easter is the most important event of the Christian faith, when people around the world join together with family and friends to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the hope of life to come.

For Christians, the life and death of Jesus are the ultimate expressions of love, and the supreme demonstrations of God's mercy, faithfulness, and redemption. Since Christ's miraculous Resurrection on Easter, more than 2,000 years ago, Christians have expressed joy and gratitude for this wondrous sacrifice and for God's promise of

freedom for the oppressed, healing for the brokenhearted, and salvation.

Though this year's observance comes at a time when our world faces many challenges, the message of Easter remains unchanged—though sorrow may last through the night, joy comes in the morning. This holiday comforts us, as we remember that suffering will pass and goodness will prevail.

This Easter season, join me in praying for peace, wisdom, and resolve. During this holy time, may Christ's example of love and sacrifice compel us towards justice and compassion, and renew us with an assurance of hope and everlasting joy.