

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.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a Happy Easter.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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## The President's Radio Address *April 19, 2003*

Good morning. This weekend, families across America will come together to celebrate Easter and continue the observance of Passover. This holy season reminds us of the value of freedom and the power of a love stronger than death.

This year, Easter and Passover have special meaning for the families of our men and women in uniform who feel so intensely the absence of their loved ones during these days. More than 250,000 American troops are serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom to protect our security and to free an oppressed people. Their families await their safe return, and our grateful Nation remembers them in prayer.

Our whole Nation has also shared in the happiness of learning that seven American prisoners of war were rescued in northern Iraq earlier this week and are now safe. Thanks to the courage of our marines and the help of Iraqis, their families have even more reason to celebrate this weekend.

After hearing the good news, the parents of rescued helicopter pilot Ronald Young, Jr., of Georgia thanked people from across America and as far away as Australia and Japan for their cards and flowers and prayers. Kaye Young, Ronald's mother, said, "You can't believe the blessings that have come out of this. Even as sad as we were, as upset as we were to think that he was being held, there have been so many blessings." Mrs. Young continued, "All over this country, people cared so much about us and about our son."

As a nation, we continue to pray for all who serve in our military and those who

remain in harm's way. We also pray for those who have lost people they love in this war. I have met with some of these grieving families, and I have seen their sorrow and their strength.

Corporal Henry Brown, a 22-year-old soldier from Natchez, Mississippi, was lost in battle earlier this month. After the news arrived, his best friend, Frank Woods, Jr., said this about Henry: "He believed God was working through him, and he was part of the plan. I guess part of the plan now is God calling his soldier home."

America mourns those who have been called home, and we pray that their families will find God's comfort and God's grace. His purposes are not always clear to us, yet this season brings a promise that good can come out of evil, that hope can arise from despair, and that all our grief will someday turn to joy, a joy that can never be taken away.

Laura and I wish you all a happy Easter and a blessed Passover. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:05 a.m. on April 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.