

PESACH: THE FEAST OF FREEDOM

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The History of Passover

The sons of Jacob (Israel) came down into Egypt and settled in the land of Goshen. Scripture tells us that a new Pharaoh rose up that did not know Joseph or the God of Joseph. This Pharaoh saw the blessing of God upon Israel because they prospered at all they did. Their cattle and their crops were greater and even their sons and daughters multiplied greatly. Pharaoh became fearful that the children of Israel would try to take over Egypt so he devised a plan of putting them under slavery to keep them from multiplying any further. For 400 years the children of Israel served Mitsrayim (Egypt) and it became known to the Pharaoh that a deliverer was coming to set the people of Israel free who would be born among the Hebrews. Moshe (Moses) was that deliverer and through 10 judgments or plagues the hand of God through the prophet Moshe slew the “Goliath” nation of Egypt and cut off the head or posterity of the King of the known world. It was at the 10th judgment that the children of Israel would be set free. It was the judgment of death to the first born and the only judgment that offered instruction for those that would obey to escape this death penalty. Through the blood of a spotless yearling lamb placed on the door posts and lintel anyone (Hebrew or non-Hebrew) would be saved from death. The blood was a sign so that the death angel would “pass over” the homes that had it and only enter the homes that did not have the sign. The Passover meal is a remembrance of this day and includes elements that are to remind and teach future generations about the deliverance of the children of Israel with a “mighty hand and an outstretched arm.”



What's a Seder?

Passover, also known as **Pesach** (**PAY-SOCK**), is a Biblical holy day that is celebrated with traditions that date back to the time that Israel made their exodus out of Egypt. The traditions that accompany Pesach were passed down orally in Israel for many generations until a Haggadah (telling) was compiled sometime between the 2nd and 5th century C.E. A Haggadah is the religious literature that explains the order of the Passover. The Hebrew word for order is **Seder**. That is where we get the **Passover Seder**. Preparing for Pesach usually starts several weeks before Pesach by “spring cleaning.” The night before the Passover begins, the house is searched for **chametz** (**HA-METS**) (*leaven*), which is to be removed from the house. One tradition has children hide the last bit of leaven found in the home and the fathers search the house to find it and remove it. At twilight the next day is when the family celebrates Passover in their dwelling. The Haggadah tells the story of when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt; symbolic food is eaten and songs are sung.

THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF A PASSOVER SEDER ARE...

***Cups**: The cup of sanctification, the cup of deliverance, the cup of redemption, and the cup of the kingdom.

***The four questions**: *Why is this night different than all other nights?* **1st**: Why is it that on all other nights we eat either bread or matzah, but on this night we eat only matzah? **2nd**: Why is it that on all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on this night we eat bitter herbs? **3rd**: Why is it on all other nights we do not dip even once, but on this night we dip twice? **4th**: Why is it that on all other nights we eat either sitting or reclining, but on this night we eat in a reclining position? Traditionally these questions are asked by the youngest participant of the Pesach Seder.

* **The Four Traditional Foods**: **marar** (bitter herbs, typically horse radish and romaine lettuce that symbolizes the bitterness of slavery), **charoset** (chopped apples and nuts in a wine sauce that symbolizes the mortar used for making bricks), **karpas** (a vegetable that is not bitter, typically parsley, which is dipped into salt water to represent tears of slavery), **zeroh** (the roasted lamb shank bone, which symbolizes the Passover lamb).

***Three Pieces of Matzah**: There is a stack of three matzahs. The middle matzah is taken out and broken. The smaller half is returned to its place in the middle and the bigger half (called the afikomen or dessert) is wrapped and hidden by the adults, then the children search for the afikomen.

***Cup of Elijah**: a cup is filled to overflowing and a child opens the door and calls out for Elijah.

***Songs**, such as “Horse and Rider” and “Dayenu.”

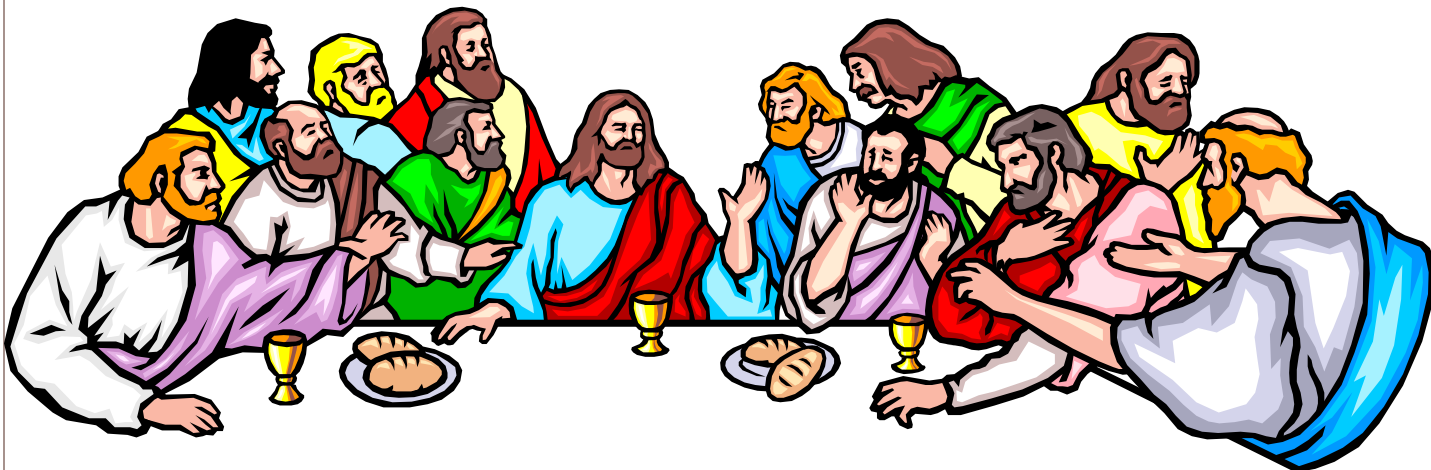
CONNECTING WITH OUR MESSIAH: The Cup of Elijah, Afikomen, and Chametz...

The **Cup of Elijah** represents looking for Elijah (who will prepare the way for the Messiah). We know that this has already happened and the Elijah we were looking for was John the Baptizer (Matt 17:11-13).

In the Passover Seder there are **three pieces of matzah**. The middle piece of matzah is taken out and broken. Many see that middle matzah as being the second person of the trinity, who is the son. The bigger half is wrapped up and hidden. This is symbolic of Yeshua being wrapped and hidden in the tomb after he died. The children then seek for the portion of matzah that has been hidden. When the child finds the afikomen, he or she is rewarded with a gift. When we find Yeshua, we are given the gift of salvation. This portion is called the afikomen (or dessert).

On the evening before Passover, the children hide leaven (*items containing leaven such as bread crumbs*) around the house and traditionally the father of the house searches for it. This is symbolic of preparing our hearts to receive His Passover. We should ask Yahweh to search our hearts and clean out the leaven (*which represents sin*). It is not good to partake of the Passover with sin in our hearts (1Cor 11:28-31).

The New Testament Connection



“The matzah is striped, bruised, pierced, without leaven (sin), and broken.”



If you’ve never experienced Passover as a believer, you might be wondering, “What does the Passover have to do with Yeshua (Jesus)?” The answer is, “Everything!”

Yeshua is our Passover Lamb (1Cor 5:7, John 1:29, Isaiah 53:7). Right before Yeshua went to the cross, he kept a **Passover Seder** with his disciples (Matthew 26:18-19). The parts of the Seder that we see Yeshua explaining to his disciples are the **third cup**, which is called the cup of redemption, and the **matzah**. The cup of redemption is explained in this verse, “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins (Matt 26:27-28).”

The symbolism of the matzah is evident in its appearance. To look at the matzah you can see that it is striped, bruised and pierced, which are all characteristics of the Messiah (1Pet 2:24, Isaiah 53:4-5, John 19:34). Another characteristic of the matzah that aligns with our Messiah is that he was without leaven (Heb 4:15). In the scriptures leaven represents sin, so he was without sin. In the Seder, the matzah is broken. “As they were eating, Yeshua took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body (Matt 26:26).”

The feast of Passover is not only a commandment of Yahweh (Lev 23:5), which should be enough, but this is also a commandment of Yeshua. When Yeshua was keeping the Passover with his disciples he said, “*This **do** in remembrance of me (Luke 22:19).*” “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1Cor 5:7-8).” “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do proclaim the Lord’s death till he come (1Cor 11:26).”

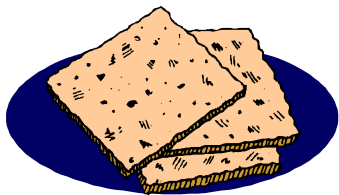
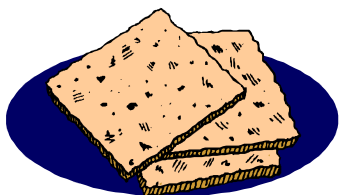
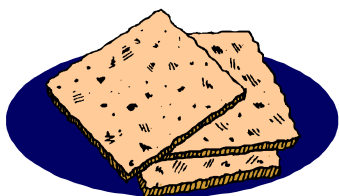
PESACH



Recipe Fun! Pesach Charoset

6 peeled apples, coarsely chopped
 2/3 cup chopped almonds
 3 tablespoon sugar, or to taste
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
 grated rind of 1 lemon
 4 tablespoon sweet red wine or grape juice

Combine all, mixing thoroughly. Add wine as need. Blend to desired texture ~ some like it coarse and crunchy, others prefer it ground to a paste. Chill. Makes 3 cups



Recipe Fun! Best Homemade Matzah

2c flour
 1c water (or 2/3c water and 1/3c cooking oil)
 dash salt

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease cookie pans or use parchment paper to prevent sticking. Place flour in a bowl. Gradually add the water (and oil or salt, if used) until all is mixed well ~ add more water or flour if needed. Knead dough until the dough is no longer sticky - I usually add a dash more flour while kneading. Roll dough out on a cookie sheet thinly, no more than 1/4 an inch thick. Use a fork or a toothed comb to puncture the matzah, making rows of perforations across the full length of rolled-out dough. Then lightly stretch dough a bit closer to sheet/pan edges to enlarge the perforations made. Bake for 15 - 20 minutes ~ watch for browning ~ when it's browned and crispy, it's done. From the time water is added to flour until put into oven should be less than 15 minutes, to prevent any fermentation from occurring.

Craft Fun! Reclining Pillow Cases

Materials:

1 [solid color] pillowcase per person

Assorted fabric paints

Stencils (optional)

Directions:

Decorate your pillowcase for “reclining” after your Pesach seder using fabric paints (and optional stencils). Remember to allow ample time for it to dry before you use it.



Songs of Pesach



Dayenu [die-YAY-new]

Ilu natan natan lanu Natan lanu et haTorah
et haTorah natan lanu Dayenu.

Ilu hotzi, hotzianu Hotzianu miMitzrayim
miMitzrayim hotzianu Dayenu.

Chorus:

Day, day, yenu / Day, day, yenu
Day, day, yenu / Dayenu dayenu.

If He had given us His instructions it
would've been enough.
If He had freed us from Egypt (Mitzrayim)
it would've been enough.
If He had given us His rest it would've
been enough.
If He had given us salvation it would've
been enough.

Ilu natan natan lanu Natan lanu et haShabbat
et haShabbat natan lanu Dayenu.

Chorus

Ilu natan natan lanu Natan lanu et Yeshua
et Yeshua natan lanu Dayenu.

Chorus



The Horse and Rider [Exodus 15:1-18]

I will sing unto the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and rider thrown into the sea.
The Lord, my God, my strength, my song,
Is now become my victory
The Lord is God and I will praise Him, my Father is God and I will exalt Him!
The Lord is God and I will praise Him, Just like my fathers, I will exalt Him!
Our Lord, His right hand is majestic in power, His greatness shatters the enemy
They went down like a stone into the depths they were thrown
Pharaoh's army was cast into the sea.
The Lord shall reign forever, and ever His dwelling shall be a sanctuary
His people walked on dry land, protected by His mighty hand
While the chariots sank into the Red Sea
You are my God and I will praise You, You are my God, and I will exalt You!
You are my God and I will praise You, Just like my fathers, I will exalt You!
You are our God and we will praise You, You are our God, and we will exalt You!
You are our God and we will praise You, Just like our fathers, we will exalt You!

The Ten Plagues: Exodus (Shemot) 7-11

Water to Blood (Exodus/Shemot 7:19): And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

Frogs (Exodus/Shemot 8:2-4): And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bed-chamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneading troughs: And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants.

Gnats or Lice (Exodus/Shemot 8:16): And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Swarms (Exodus/Shemot 8:21): Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms, and also the ground whereon they are.

Livestock Diseased (Exodus/Shemot 9:3) Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.

Boils (Exodus/Shemot 9:8-9) And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

Thunder and Hail (Exodus/Shemot 9:18) Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.

Locusts (Exodus/Shemot 10:4-5) Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast: And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field.

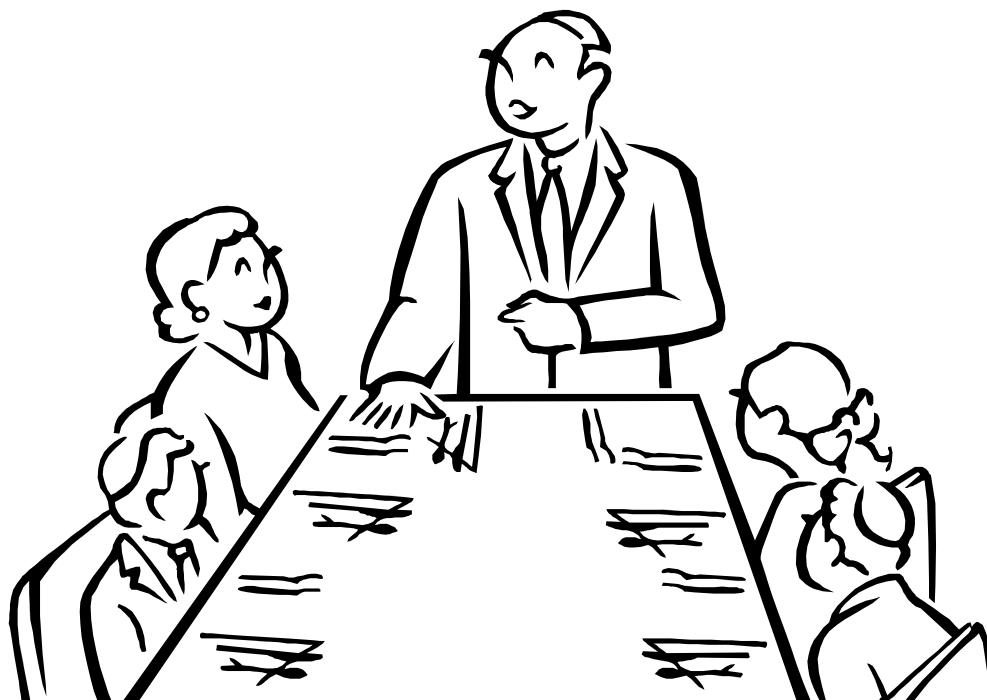
Darkness (Exodus/Shemot 10:21-22) And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days

Death of the Firstborn (Exodus/Shemot 11:4-5) And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first born of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.



A Basic Haggadah...

Begin your celebration of Pesach by removing leaven from your home. Part of the fun of Pesach is eating in haste as the Bible instructs with “your staff in your hand and your shoes on your feet” so you may wish to dress as though you were preparing to leave home immediately following your seder. Next, roast your lamb/shank bone (you may season it if you wish), prepare your charoset, and place all symbolic food items (lamb, charoset, karpas, marar) onto a plate. A small bit of each traditional food is sufficient as the seder is not meant to be a filling meal for the family; it is simply a teaching tool to remind us of our past, our freedom from slavery, the sacrifice of our Messiah, and his next coming. Finally, take three whole pieces of matzah and stack them together. Wrap them in a piece of cloth or clean dish towel.



After the seder is complete, many families go outside. This symbolizes eating in haste and leaving Egypt as the Israelites did in the days of Moses. Read: Exodus 12:11/ Matthew 26:30

Today, many believers do this to symbolize a willingness to leave the present world to be with Yahweh in the New Jerusalem. That is why they say “Next year in Jerusalem” at the end of the seder. Next, you may feast on a bountiful, prepared meal and recline (or relax as kings) as Yeshua and the disciples did. Read: Matthew 26:20

... How to Host a Pesach Seder at Home

THE SEDER (ORDER)

1. **First Cup (Cup of Sanctification):** This cup symbolizes being sanctified or set apart. You may also have the youngest child read/ask the Four Questions at this time. Read: Exodus 6:6-8
2. **Karpas (parsley) Dipping:** Dip fresh parsley in salt water. Watch the drops fall. Remember the tears of those who were bound in slavery in Egypt (Mitsrayim). Read: Psalm 80:5-7
3. **Three Matzos:** Unwrap the stack of matzos. Break middle matzah and hide afikomen somewhere in the house where the others at your seder cannot see it. Read: Exodus 12:8, Numbers 9:11, 1 John 5:5-8
4. **Second cup (Cup of Plagues):** This cup is to remind us of the plagues. As the story of the exodus is being told, it is traditional to dip one's little finger into their own cup of wine and place a dot onto their own plate. Ten dots will form a ring around each person's plate symbolizing the ten plagues. Read: Exodus 6:6-8, Psalm 113-114 Also during this time, eat the charoset. Read Exodus 1:14
5. **Lamb, Bitter Herbs, and Matzah "sandwich":** The lamb represents our sacrificed Messiah, the bitter herbs represent the bitterness of slavery and sin, and the matzah represents our Messiah's sinlessness. As your group eats this "sandwich," you may want the leader of the seder to answer the child's four questions. Read: Exodus 12:5-8
6. **Third cup (Cup of Redemption) and Songs:** This cup represents redemption from slavery, sin, and death. Read: Exodus 6:6-8, Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Cor. 11:23-29
7. **Cup of Elijah:** At this time, you may fill an additional cup to the very top (overflowing just a little bit) to "entice" Elijah to come. The youngest members of the household traditionally run to the door and call out to Elijah. Read: Elijah must come before the Messiah returns (Mal.4:5) John the Immerser was in the spirit of Elijah (Matthew 11:7-15) The spirit of Elijah must return before the second return of the Meshiach. (Revelation 11:1-6)
8. **Finding the Afikomen:** The youngest participants at the seder look through the house for the Afikomen. Once found, it is brought back to the table. Everyone rejoices. Remember, our Messiah was striped, bruised, pierced & broken (died), wrapped, and hidden (buried), and resurrected on the 3rd day Isaiah 52:13-15, Isaiah 53, Psalm 22
9. **Fourth cup (Cup of Praise) and rejoice saying "Next year in Jerusalem!"** This cup represents the cup drank at the wedding of the Messiah and His Bride in the New Jerusalem. Read: This is the cup that Yeshua said He would not drink of until we are in the kingdom (Mth 26:29). Also read Psalm 118.

PASSOVER TERMS

Seder (**Say**-dur): "Order"

Chametz (Ha-mets): "Leaven"

Pesach (**Pay**-sock): "Passover"

Haggadah (**Hah**-gah-duh): "Telling"

Zeroh (Zare-row): roasted lamb

Marar (Mah-roar): Bitter herbs

Karpas (**Car**-pass): herbs for dipping

Dayenu (Die-yay-new): It would've been enough

Messianic (Messy-an-ick): believes in Yeshua

Afikomen (**Ahf**-ee-ko-man): dessert

Charoset (Hair-o-set): brick mortar

Yeshua (Yah-shoe-uh): Salvation (Jesus)

Yahweh (**Yah**-way): God

Torah (Tore-ah): Instruction

Mitsrayim (**Mits**-rye-eem): Egypt

Yerushalayim (Yah-rue-shuh-lie-em): Jerusalem



Next year in Jerusalem!

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H- Help those in need

E- Educate families from all walks of life with the life changing Word of God

A- Alert believers to the times and seasons of Yahweh (the LORD)

R- Restore the Hebraic roots of our faith

T- Teach timeless Torah principles in a modern age and application

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