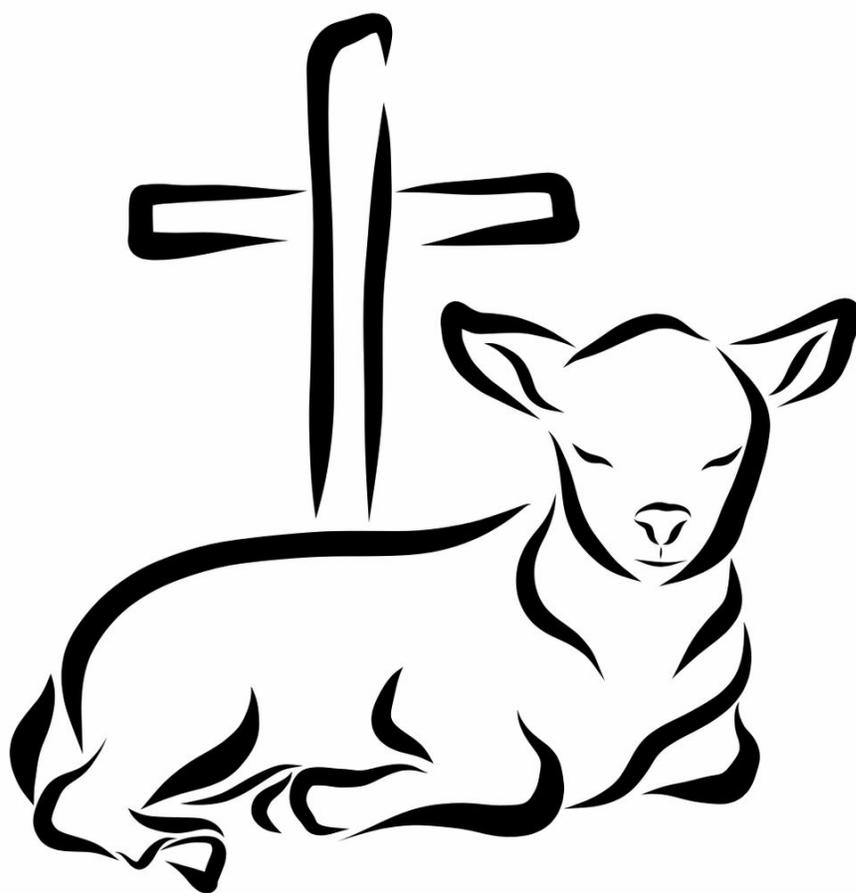


A Christian Passover Seder



Administrative suggestions--How to perform this Seder:

- Yellow highlighting is a signal for a child to ask the highlighted question. We have kids raise their hand to read the next question. This keeps them engaged and focused on the story, helps them to learn and enjoy. Blue highlighting signal everyone to read that line.
- Right-justified text are 'stage directions.' They're not meant to be read.
- We alternated readers throughout the Seder, with a leader and two adult readers having assigned parts. This successfully prevented the monotony (and burden) of one person reading the whole script. These three practiced together the week before the Seder, reading the whole script twice before the actual event.
- In our 2022 'Christian' Seder we had 7 families totaling about 30 people. We held it at on Sunday, April 10 at 4pm in a grassy backyard, with temps in the 50s and occasional wind gusts up to 30mph. (We made sure to warn people to dress warm, which they did.) Our head table had the leader, 2 readers, and Elijah's empty place. Then, we had five 6-foot tables, each with settings for 6 people. We bought 4 tables, and borrowed two tables and 30 chairs from the local American Legion.
- At the end of the Seder, we asked two fathers to responsively read the 'left' & 'right' parts. We believe this enables everyone else to focus on the message that's being spoken, rather than trying to speak the words themselves as part of a group.
- People (especially children) are frequently doing things as part of the Seder, which keeps things interesting for everyone.
- When we got to Egypt's 10 plagues, we asked for volunteers to read one of the plagues, assigning a plague number to each child or adult who raised their hand. This worked nicely, and nobody forgot their number.
- For the ceremonial lamb, we simply cut about 1 pound of Lamb roast into thin strips, sprinkled them with McCormick's Spicy Montreal Steak Seasoning, then grilled them on a BBQ grill until they were cooked medium to medium-well done. Then, we cut the strips into bite-sized cubes and refrigerated them until it was time to set the tables (the next day) for the Seder. We had six people per table, so each table got at least six cubes of roasted lamb. People raved about these delicious tasty bits.
- For the pot-luck feast we cooked two large, boneless legs of lamb in crock pots, each coated inside & out with a different spice mixture, along with potatoes, carrots, celery, and onions. We also had roasted chickens, Calypso rice, Jewish kugel casserole, mac & cheese, veggie tray, and others. Three boys enjoyed roasting kosher wieners on the campfire. One girl chose to eat mac & cheese and veggies. For desserts we had cheesecake, almond & dark chocolate cookies, baklava, eclairs, brownies, and others.
- Hosts provided gallons of Welch's grape juice, enough for everyone. A few guests brought wine, which they freely shared. During dessert, the hosts provided homemade iced tea and Starbucks 'Pike's Place' coffee.
- We gave a printed copy of this Haggadah to every person old enough to read.

Introduction

Let us pray: Our Father in heaven, please bless us with a sense of Your presence as we celebrate this Passover Seder. Help us to understand how You deliver Your people from bondage, from ancient times up to today. Help us to respond appropriately to Your grace and love. Bless our fellowship with shalom—Your perfect peace. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Welcome. Long ago, Israel’s God established Passover as the first of seven festivals that He wanted His people to celebrate each year.

This Passover Seder is for adults and children of all ages. You can expect this to be a time of joyful learning, worship, and delicious feasting.

Explain that yellow highlighting is a signal for kids to ask that question.

What is a Seder?

The Hebrew word ‘Seder’ simply means ‘order of events.’ The order of events in tonight’s Seder are more than 3,400 years old.

The Jewish Seder

Tonight, you’ll learn about the original Passover in 1446BC, an event that included a sacrificial lamb whose blood protected the Israelites from God’s judgment against the Egyptians. Every year since then, Israeli families worldwide remember this event in a Passover Seder.

A Passover Seder is traditionally celebrated in the home of one family, or a small group of families, as we’re doing tonight. The father told the Passover story using symbols and object lessons to teach and entertain his children.

In Luke 22:8, Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” The Passover Seder we celebrate tonight will be done in basically the same order as Jesus and His disciples celebrated at the Last Supper, on the night before His crucifixion, nearly 2000 years ago.

Keeping traditional ceremonies like the Passover Seder are a big reason why the Jewish people have survived for thousands of years, while all the nations who tried to destroy them no longer exist.

This Christian Seder

Tonight, in this 21st century Christian Seder, we’ll learn about the historical Passover event in Egypt, and then we’ll see how Jesus became the true Passover Lamb, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

Finally, we’ll see our Lamb of God’s current, heavenly position, as we look forward to His return as the King of kings over all nations.

Civilizations, nations and empires that have tried to destroy the Jewish People:

NATION	STATUS
Ancient Egypt	X-GONE
Philistines	X-GONE
Assyrian Empire	X-GONE
Babylonian Empire	X-GONE
Persian Empire	X-GONE
Greek Empire	X-GONE
Roman Empire	X-GONE
Byzantine Empire	X-GONE
Crusaders	X-GONE
Spanish Empire	X-GONE
Nazi Germany	X-GONE
Soviet Union	X-GONE
Iran	???

The Jewish People
The smallest of nations
but with a Friend
in the highest of places!
So ... BE NICE!

What is the Ancient Passover Story?

Here's the story of the first Passover: [BibleProject video Overview: Exodus 1-18.](#)

(If audio/visual setup isn't available, read the Passover story from Exodus 12:3-20.)

Just after the Passover, Yahweh declared His goal for His covenant people:

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and **you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**” (Exodus 19:4-6)

Remember this last line...“you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

What Does Passover Mean To Us Today?

Passover teaches us how Yahweh delivers His followers from slavery, whether it's Israel's slavery in Egypt 3,400 years ago, or our slavery to sinfulness today. In both cases, this deliverance involves sacrificing a lamb. So, Passover is relevant for both Jews and Christians.

Jewish Passover: Every year Jewish people around the world remember the liberation of their ancestors after 430 years of slavery in Egypt. For them, Passover is both historic and prophetic. It remembers Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage, and they also look forward to the time when Yahweh will deliver them from all bondage through their future Messiah.

What is a Messiah?

The Hebrew word “Messiah” is translated as the word “Christ” in our English Bibles. Both words, ‘Messiah’ and ‘Christ,’ simply mean “anointed one.” Israel's Messiah (or Christ) is the promised deliverer who will bring freedom to Yahweh's people, establishing His kingdom of righteousness over the entire earth.

Christian Passover: Most of us tonight already believe Jesus is the Messiah, and that He is not just the Messiah for Jewish people. Jesus is the Messiah for anyone who will enter into a covenant with Yahweh in the name of Jesus.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

John the Baptist testified that Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29, 36)

The apostle Paul said, “Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

The original Passover lamb in Egypt was a symbolic picture of what Jesus would accomplish as the Lamb of God on the cross. Therefore, I believe Passover is even more applicable for Christians—who are disciples of the Messiah—than it is to the physical descendants of Israel who haven't (yet) recognized or accepted Jesus as their Passover Lamb.

So, what does Passover mean to us today?

1. Passover's (feast of unleavened bread) is one of the three feasts Yahweh commanded

His people to enjoy each year. (The other two are Pentecost and Tabernacles.)

2. Passover is a remembrance of how Yahweh delivered His people, both in ancient Israel and today—in the heart of every disciple.
3. Passover is a worshipful remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Divine naming conventions

Before we start the actual Seder ceremony tonight, I want to discuss the names I'll be using for 'God the Father' and 'God the Son.'

Many people in Jewish and Messianic Christian circles have strong opinions about God's names, and how to write or pronounce them. So, if your opinion differs from mine, or if you don't believe Jesus is the Son of God, I ask for your grace on this topic during tonight's Seder.

YHWH

In our English Bibles, everywhere you see the words "the LORD," the actual Hebrew word is God the Father's personal name, which is spelled YHWH.

Since it has no vowels, there are many opinions about how to pronounce YHWH. For example: Jehovah, Yahweh, Yahovah, and Yahuah.

In this Seder I'll use the commonly-used name "Yahweh" when referring to God the Father.

Jesus' Name

There are also many opinions about how to pronounce our Savior's name, including: Jesus, Yeshua, Yahshua, Iesue, and Yehoshua.

The name 'Jesus' is fairly modern, first appearing about 400 years ago, having evolved from Aramaic to Hebrew to Greek to Latin to English.

I personally believe Jesus' family called Him Yeshua, but in this Seder I'll use the commonly-used name "Jesus," since it's the name we all know Him by.

In Summary

With all that said, I don't believe God the Father or Jesus are concerned how we pronounce their names, as long as we're saying them with a reverent attitude.

The Passover Seder

Ceremonial Cleansing

Let's remove all leaven from our presence

To symbolize removing all the sin from our lives, I'll ask the children to search for all the leaven scattered in our midst and throw it into the fire.

Before the Seder scatter enough small packets of yeast so that every child can find one.

The leader demonstrates dropping yeast into a campfire, then supervises the children safely dropping yeast they've found into the fire.

Later, the campfire can be used for cooking.

After everyone returns to their seats, continue...

On Passover we eat unleavened bread, which is called 'matzah.'

We usually eat bread with leaven in it. Why do we only eat unleavened bread on Passover?

There are two reasons we eat matzah on Passover:

1. First, historically, to remember that Israel didn't have time to leaven their bread before they left.

Exodus 12:39 says, "Since their dough had no leaven the people baked what they had brought out of Egypt into unleavened loaves. For when they had been driven out of Egypt they could not delay and had not prepared any provisions for themselves."

2. Secondly, we remove all the leaven on Passover because leaven represents our sinful nature in the Bible. Eating unleavened bread reminds us of our new life of sincerity and truth.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old leaven, that you may be a new unleavened batch, as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with the old bread, leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth." (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

Candle Lighting

Now that we've ceremonially purged sin from our presence, our Passover Seder can begin.

A mother stands and lights a pair of candles.

The Blessing over the lights:

It is appropriate that a woman lights the Passover candles, since it was through a woman that the light of the world, our Messiah Jesus Christ, came into the world.

"Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us through faith in Jesus, our Messiah, the Light of the world, and in His name we kindle the Passover lights, Amen."

What is the Passover Seder's Sequence?

A traditional Passover Seder is organized around the drinking of four cups of "the fruit of the vine." Each of the four cups stands for one of the four "I will" statements recorded in Exodus 6:6-7.

"I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am Yahweh, and **I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will deliver you** from slavery to them, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. **I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God**, and you shall know that I am Yahweh your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

For those who counted, Yahweh actually said “I will” five times in this passage. But, according to Jewish tradition the last two “I Will” statements—“I will take you to be my people and I will be your God”—are counted as a single statement.

The drinking of these four cups provides the sequence for our Passover Seder tonight.

1. The cup of **sanctification**: I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians

For us, Yahweh fulfilled this cup by “rescuing us out of the Devil’s dominion of darkness, transferring us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.” (Colossians 1:13)

You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

2. The cup of **judgment**: I will deliver you from bondage.

Yahweh fulfilled this cup by judging Jesus on the cross for our sins.

“He was handed over to death for our sins...” (Romans 4:25)

3. The cup of **redemption**: I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.

Yahweh fulfilled this cup when He raised Jesus’ body from the dead.

“He was raised to life for our justification.” (Romans 4:25)

As pictured in the ritual of baptism, when Jesus was raised from the dead, we were raised with Him.

4. The cup of **praise**: I will take you to Me for a people, and I will be your God.

Jesus has now made us a kingdom, and priests to Yahweh, and we shall reign on the earth.

In this cup we’ll recite the song that millions of angels in heaven are now singing to praise the Lamb of God.

Jesus promised,

“To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21)

The First Cup - Sanctification

Let’s prepare our cups for drinking the first cup—the cup of sanctification.

To prepare your cup, pour juice or wine into your cup, as if you were preparing to ‘toast’ with it.

What is sanctification?

Sanctification is a big word that simply means to set something apart, make it different, or make it holy.

- For ancient Israel, this meant Yahweh would make them His nation. He made them different from all the other nations—Israel became Yahweh’s chosen people, called to be “a holy nation.”

- Today, for the followers of Jesus, sanctification means the same thing, but on a spiritual level.
 - Yahweh doesn't just take us out of an earthly king's physical kingdom.
 - Yahweh takes us out of the Devil's kingdom of darkness and death, transferring us into the kingdom of His beloved Son Jesus, into His kingdom of light, life, and glory. He gives us a new spirit now, along with the hope of eternal life and authority in the promised land of His kingdom.
- Sanctification is the process whereby God makes us holy, like Himself. Holiness is defined as being perfect in goodness and righteousness, so sanctification is Yahweh's process to make us good people, fit to be citizens in the kingdom of God forever.

You are clean, but not every one of you.

We're now at the point in the Seder when Jesus washed all the disciples' feet. Here's how the apostle John remembered this event:

It was now just before the Passover Feast, and Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the very end. The evening meal was underway, and the devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had delivered all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was returning to God. So, Jesus got up from the supper, laid aside His outer garments, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel that was around Him.

Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." (John 13:1-11)

Symbolic Handwashing

Don't panic, we're not planning to wash feet tonight. But, in a few moments I'm going to invite everyone to join me in ceremonially washing our hands.

Why do we wash our hands?

The first step a person can make toward Yahweh is to admit they have dirty hands. That is, each one of us must admit that we've sinned.

"if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 Jn 1:7

Our children just removed the leaven from our presence, which represents our sinful nature, but since we've sinned in our past our conscience can still condemns us for some of our past

sins. So, even for people who believe in Jesus, our conscience must be cleansed before we can feel clean—before we can believe that we’re ‘good enough’ to enter Yahweh’s presence.

This ceremonial handwashing represents how we wash away our guilt, not because we’re good enough, but because the sacrificed Lamb of God is good enough, and applying His blood to our sins makes them forgiven and forever forgotten.

So, today, faith in His sacrifice makes us forgiven from Yahweh’s perspective. But, from our perspective we must actively wash our conscience to cleanse-away our guilt.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

“...the blood of Christ will purify your conscience from dead works so that you can worship the living God.” (Hebrews 9:14)

Yahweh promised Israel, “I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.” Today, many Christian believers are still ‘under the yoke’ of bondage to a guilty conscience. It still condemns them for sins that Yahweh forgave long ago.

The leader gets up and ceremonially wets the hands of a child volunteer using a water pitcher, then hands the pitcher to the child who pours a small amount of water over the leader’s hands.

Everyone rinses and dries their hands. Paper towels and a trash can are provided nearby for drying.

After everyone returns to their seats...

So, this first cup is to thank Yahweh for setting us apart, forgiving us, sanctifying us, and giving us the ability to cleanse our conscience.

It’s customary to recline as we drink the cups.

Why is it customary to recline while drinking the cups?”

For thousands of years, reclining symbolizes the luxury of freedom. In ancient times, only free people could recline while eating or drinking. John 13:12 tells us that Jesus and His apostles reclined at the Last Supper.

Since it’s no longer customary to recline as we eat, the alternate tradition is to simulate reclining by leaning to the left momentarily before drinking the fruit of the vine.

At the Last Supper, Jesus would have pronounced this traditional Jewish Kiddush blessing (in Hebrew) over the cup:

Baruch ahta Adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam, bo-ray paree ha-gafen. Amen.

Let’s all say this blessing together in English.

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Amen.

Now, let's momentarily recline to the left (and then straighten upright) to drink the cup of sanctification.

The Second Cup - Judgment

Let's prepare our cups for drinking the second cup—the cup of judgment.

In the second "I will" statement God said, "I will deliver you from their bondage."

The children of Israel were slaves 430 years. After so much time they had forgotten what freedom was like. They'd grown accustomed to their bondage as slaves, just as we were all accustomed to our lives as sinners.

The Israelites could not free themselves from bondage, just as we could not free ourselves from our sinful nature. Only through Yahweh's miraculous deliverance, in the name of Jesus, can we be freed from this bondage.

Both in Israel's deliverance and in ours, Yahweh's deliverance is preceded by His judgment.

The Ten Plagues

In the case of ancient Israel, Yahweh sent Moses to Pharaoh 10 times to command him to let the people of Israel go. Nine times Pharaoh refused. But, after the 10th plague—the death of every Egyptian firstborn—Pharaoh finally relented.

Each of the 10 plagues targeted one of Egypt's false gods, humiliating them by their powerlessness against Yahweh, proving that He alone is the Almighty God.

Ask for volunteers to read one of the plagues, assigning a plague number to each child or adult who raised their hand.

The ten plagues included:

1. Turning all the waters of Egypt into blood
2. Frogs that covered the whole land
3. Gnats on men and beasts
4. Swarms of flies in all the Egyptians' houses, but not in the Egyptian region of Goshen where Israel lived
5. All the Egyptians' livestock died of a plague, but none of Israel's livestock died
6. Boils and open sores covered the skin of all the Egyptians
7. Thunder, hail, and fire from heaven killed every Egyptian man and beast who didn't heed Yahweh's warning to stay under shelter. The hail also destroyed every plant and broke every tree in Egypt, but there was no hail in Goshen.
8. A swarm of locusts so thick it darkened the sky. The locusts ate every plant not destroyed by the hail. Not a green thing remained in all of Egypt.
9. For three days all of Egypt experienced total darkness; a 'darkness that could be felt,' but there was light for Israel in Goshen.
10. The death of every first-born child and beast, from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon. There was not a house where someone wasn't

dead. Meanwhile, Yahweh's judgment "passed over" the houses of every obedient Israelite who applied lamb's blood over their doors.

A full cup is a symbol of our joy. And yet, our joy is tempered by the knowledge that innocent Egyptians suffered in the process that made Israel free.

Jews celebrating Passover remember the suffering of innocent Egyptians who suffered the 10 plagues.

In the same way, we remember the tremendous suffering our innocent Savior experienced when He died to set us free.

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Like one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered Him stricken by God, struck down and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth... He was cut off from the land of the living; He was stricken for the transgression of My people." (Isaiah 53:3-8)

Let us pray: We thank you Yahweh, for the terrible price paid for our deliverance. In the case of Israel's deliverance from Egypt—the death of all the Egyptians' first-born. In the case of our deliverance from sinfulness—the sacrificial death of your firstborn, your only-begotten Son.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Baruch ahta Adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam, bo-ray paree ha-gafen. Amen.

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Amen.

Let's recline to the left and then drink the Cup of Judgment.

Two Passover Meals

Tonight, we'll eat two Passover meals.

Why will we eat two Passover meals?

Exodus 12:8 says, "They are to eat the lamb that night, roasted over the fire, along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs."

1. So, first we'll eat a ritual meal that includes a token amount of the three required elements: roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs.
2. Then, we'll enjoy the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This is a full dinner feast, in fellowship with Yahweh and each other.

The Ritual Passover Meal

Our ritual Passover meal includes roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs.

Roasted Lamb

Roasted lamb reminds us of the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our deliverance from sin and death.

“Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

Let’s eat the roasted lamb.

Matzah (Unleavened Bread)

Matzah is the bread of haste, since the Israelites didn’t have time to leaven it.

In our future, many people believe that we may likewise need to leave our homes in haste. If so, remember how Yahweh miraculously provided manna and water for more than a million people for 40 years in the desert. He can provide our needs too.

Break off a small piece of matzah bread and inspect it. You’ll notice it has both piercings and stripes.

“He was pierced for our transgressions...and by His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

Let’s eat the bread of haste.

Bitter Herbs

Next, the bitter herbs.

Why, on this night, do we eat bitter herbs?”

For the Jews, the bitter herbs remind Israelites of the bitterness of their slavery in Egypt.

For us, it reminds us of the bitterness of our lives as sinners.

Please use the herb on your table to dip some horseradish, making sure to get enough so that you get at least one tear from your eyes.

Let’s eat the bitter herbs.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Every year, the Passover lamb was killed at 3pm on the 14th day of the first month of the Jewish calendar. Then, just after sunset, each family would ceremonially eat the roasted lamb, bitter herbs, and matzah bread, as we just did, followed by a feast with all sorts of other good foods.

And so, having fulfilled the requirement to eat the three ceremonial foods, we can now enjoy feasting at Yahweh’s table.

This is how Jesus would have prayed to ‘say grace’ before He and His disciples ate their food at the Last Supper:

Baruch ahta Adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam, ka-mo-tzee leh-chehm meen ha-aretz.
Amen.

Let’s all say this blessing together in English.

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.

Enjoy the feast! We’ll continue the Seder when most of us are done eating.

30-60 minute break for feasting and fellowship.

Blessing after the meal

Deuteronomy 8:7-10 says, “Yahweh your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks and fountains and springs that flow through the valleys and hills; land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; land where you will eat food without scarcity, where you will lack nothing; a land whose rocks are iron and whose hills are ready to be mined for copper. When you eat and are satisfied, you are to bless Yahweh your God for the good land that He has given you.”

If you have eaten and are satisfied, please join me in giving thanks for the food and ‘the good land’ He has given us.

The following blessing is a small portion (in English) of the ancient Jewish blessing called the Birkat Ha-mazone:

All: “For all, Yahweh our God, we thank You and bless You. May Your name be blessed continuously forever by the mouth of all the living. As it is written, ‘And you shall eat and be satisfied and bless Yahweh your God for the good land which He gave you.’ Blessed are You, Yahweh, for the land and for the food.”

The Matzah Tash

This is a ceremonial ‘Matzah Tash.’

The leader stands to display a Matzah [Tash](#) while a reader reads this part.

The Matzah Tash symbolizes “echad,” which (in Hebrew) means ‘one,’ but you’ll notice that it has three sections inside it. For us, these three sections represent the ‘three in one’ trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus is represented by the central third of the Matzah Tash

There is unleavened bread in each of the three parts of the Matzah Tash. The matzah in the central part, representing the Son of God, is traditionally called ‘the Afikomen.’

The meaning of the word ‘Afikomen’ is lost in antiquity, but many scholars believe it comes from a root word meaning “I have come,” and it refers to the Messiah. King David wrote:

“Then I said, Behold, I have come. In the scroll of the book it is written about me: I delight to do Your will, O My God. Your law is within My heart.” (Psalm 40:7-8)

For thousands of years, without knowing why, Jewish fathers removed the Afikomen matzah and broke it in two. The first half was replaced into the center of the Matzah Tash. The second half was wrapped inside a small cloth and hidden, to be discovered by the children later.

The leader performs this action as it’s read, then gives the small cloth to someone who will discreetly hide it.

The Third Cup - Redemption

Let’s prepare our cups for drinking the third cup—the cup of Redemption.

In the third “I will” statement Yahweh said, “I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”

This cup refers to Yahweh’s promise that He Himself would redeem Israel from slavery. The

word 'redeem' means to ransom by payment.

Redemption Through Sacrificial Blood

In ancient Israel, God told them to use the blood of innocent Passover lambs to protect them from the final plague—the death of the firstborn. This was a symbolic picture of how Yahweh would later redeem His people from their slavery to sin by paying the price that was necessary to obtain their freedom. This price was the blood of Yahweh's own Son, Jesus.

Leviticus 17:11 states, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." (Hebrews 9:22)

"And Jesus took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:27-29)

Former and Renewed Covenants

Under the former (Mosaic) covenant that Yahweh made with Israel on Mount Sinai in 1446BC, Israel's sins were covered by the blood of bulls and goats. This former covenant was only a temporary, symbolic solution to cover the sins of just one nation until Yahweh could complete His plan to redeem all of mankind through the blood of His Son Jesus.

Unfortunately, Israel broke the former covenant many times, resulting in Yahweh casting Israel out of their land in 70AD, and the complete desolation of their physical temple in Jerusalem.

The apostle Paul wrote:

After supper Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is the renewed covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:25)

In the renewed covenant, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world. And, through faith in His sacrifice, our sins are not just temporarily covered; they are totally, 100% forgiven, and forever removed.

As Jesus stated, when we drink this third cup it symbolizes our entering into a blood covenant with Yahweh, a renewed covenant, sealed in Jesus' blood. If we are faithful to this covenant, our sins are now and forever forgiven, and we are 'born again' to forever share His resurrection life.

Psalms 103:10-12 is a great comfort for those in covenant with Yahweh. It says:

"He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

Baruch ahta Adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam, bo-ray paree ha-gafen. Amen.

All: "Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Amen."

After reclining to the left, let's drink the Cup of Redemption.

Ransoming the Afikomen

Where is the Afikomen?

Children, please search and find the missing part of the Afikomen and bring it to me.

Children find the hidden Afikomen, returning it to the Leader. The leader pays the child a redemption fee for the Afikomen.

When the Afikomen was broken in two, this represented our Savior's death, when His body was broken for us.

Hiding the Afikomen represented His burial in the earth, hidden for three days. Reuniting the Afikomen with the original piece represents our Savior's resurrection.

The leader removes the half-piece of matzah from the middle part of the Matzah Tash. He holds it up alongside the Afikomen piece to show them reunited as one, then returns both halves into the center part of the Matzah Tash.

Think of it—the three parts of the Matzah Tash represent our triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—and now, this Trinity includes the glorified Son of God—a resurrected man!"

Afikomen Communion

We'll now share the Afikomen.

"In his first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul wrote...is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Before we share the Afikomen, which represents the resurrected body of our Savior, take a minute to think about your life. Is there any sin that you still struggle with? Do you have any physical or mental infirmities? Do you need emotional healing? No matter what your need is, our Father stands ready and able to deliver you, just as He delivered Israel long ago.

Jesus promised, "Ask and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

The leader gives a portion of the Afikomen to the head of each family, to distribute to each person.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Matthew 26:26, Luke 22:19)

Just as we all now share in eating part of the resurrected Afikomen, the spiritual reality is that Jesus' disciples all share His resurrection life.

"Let us eat the bread of communion."

Calling Elijah

You've probably noticed there is an empty place at our table.

Why is there an empty seat at your table?

This place is set for Elijah, who will come before Jesus' return in our future. About 400BC, the prophet Malachi wrote,

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome Day of Yahweh. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5-6)

Jesus said that John the Baptist partially fulfilled Malachi's prophecy when John announced Jesus' first coming, but after John's death Jesus told His disciples that “Elijah will indeed come, and he will restore all things.” (Matthew 17:11)

So, in our future a man with the spirit of Elijah will come to herald Jesus' second coming. In His first coming Jesus came as a sacrificial Lamb. But, in His second coming our Messiah will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Everyone, let's call for Elijah to come.

All: May the prophet Elijah come soon, in our lifetime. And let our Messiah's kingdom reign on the earth!

The Fourth Cup – Praise

As our Seder draws to a close, let's prepare our cups to drink the final cup—the cup of praise.

This cup represents the fourth “I will,” where Yahweh promised, “I will take you to Me for a people, and I will be your God.”

The Hallel

In a traditional Jewish Passover Seder, a hymn called “the Hallel” is sung. It's a compilation of verses from Psalms 113-118, and it's likely what Jesus and His disciples sang after the Last Supper.

The gospel of Matthew tells us,

“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (Matthew 26:30)

Unfortunately, we no longer know which verses comprise this hymn, or its musical melody. But, the good news is, we now have something better.

A New Song, in Heaven

About 60 years after Jesus defeated death itself, the apostle John received the “Revelation of Jesus Christ,” which is commonly called the Book of Revelation—the last book in the Bible. This revelation includes the words of ‘a new song’ that the 24 Elders and millions of angels now sing to praise Yahweh and His immortal Son—the resurrected Lamb of God in heaven.

John's revelation gives us a current picture of the glorified Lamb of God as He exists today. It

also provides a valid and timely way to praise our God. It's how the elders and angels in heaven are worshiping Yahweh and Jesus right now.

The Bible passage below is from the Book of Revelation, from chapter 4 verse 8 through the end of chapter five.

Two disciples (left and right) will now read this passage responsively.

Left: Day after day and night after night they keep on saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

Right: And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One seated on the throne who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne, and they worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist and came to be."

Left: "Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Right: And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

Left: And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Right: And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered**, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Left: And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders **I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain**, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Right: And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

Left: And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, with these words:

Right: "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and **you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.**"

Left: Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus:, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom

and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Right: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them. They sang, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Left: And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Amen! Praise the Lamb of God!

By the blood of this Lamb we’ve been ransomed. We are now a kingdom and priests to Yahweh, and we shall reign on the earth.

With this cup we praise Yahweh and Jesus for what they’ve done. And, as members of the Body of Christ, we look forward to our immortal glorification with Him in the near future. Though we haven’t arrived to possess our eternal promised land yet, His Spirit continually blesses us and leads us toward that destination, providing all our needs as we follow His leading by faith.

Baruch ahta Adonai, elohaynu melech ha-olam, bo-ray paree ha-gafen. Amen.

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Amen.

After reclining to the left, let’s drink the Cup of Praise.

Benediction

And now it’s time for our final blessing.

From the book of Numbers (6:23-27), this is how Yahweh said to bless His people:

“May Yahweh bless you and keep watch over you; may Yahweh enlighten His face to shine upon you and show favor to you; may Yahweh lift up His face toward you and establish you in perfect and complete peace.” Amen.

Our Passover Seder is now complete.

Shalom, the peace of Yahweh be unto you all in the name of Yeshua ha-Mashiach, Jesus our Messiah.

Closing hymn: Chris Tomlin’s [Is He Worthy](#)