



# Your Partner Teaching!

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## THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD (7 JEWISH FEASTS) P 2

Dearly beloved, God Almighty pronounced no rain on all the families of any nation who do not go to keep the feast of Booths. *"All the nations that went against Jerusalem will celebrate the Feast of Booths...all of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, there will be no rain on them"*. (Zechariah 14:16-17). You and I are privileged to receive this promise of rain. It also means spiritual rain, the rain of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate the feasts.

### The Passover (Pesach)

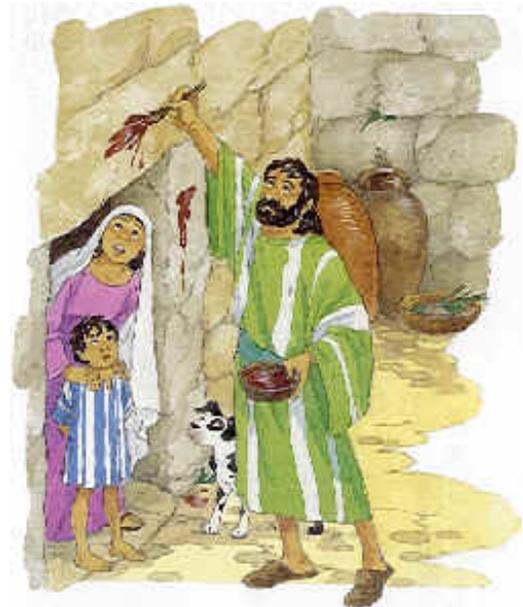
The name of the festival, Pesach in Hebrew is passing over, protection and deliverance. Moses was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God commanded Moses to tell the children of Israel:

*"Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD"*. (Ex. 6:6-8).

Passover is celebrated on the fourteenth day of the first month of the Jewish calendar Abib, later called Nisan. Each of these pilgrimage festivals Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles have an agricultural and historical basis. Many different things are celebrated here and a few of these include: the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the growing season; the new lambing time, and the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt during Passover.

The Passover is the foundational feast in God's eternal redemption plan. Though other feasts of the LORD are important, it is the sacrifice of the Lamb that gives it all meaning. Except for the sacrifice of the Passover and the blood on the doorposts, Israel would have suffered the same fate as the Egyptians.

God directs parents, this special night of the year, to take on the role of teacher, and pass down His story of the great redemption and deliverance from the 'bondage and slavery in Egypt to the land of milk and honey' to future generations. This ceremony not only looks back to the miraculous story of God delivering His people from the bondage of Egypt, but it also presents the promise of Messiah's death and resurrection. It is an exciting experience centering on a mixture of ceremonial foods which will be explained in detail later on.



### The Meal (Seder)

During the Passover celebration, Jews and Christians remember this great event by eating special foods associated with the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of freedom. The entire meal, called the seder, is eaten as the story of Israel's freedom is told. Everything in the Seder is directed toward the prime command from the Bible: *"And thou shalt shew thy son in that day saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt"* (Exodus 13:8).

## Jewish Customs of Passover Today



Passover is the most popular Jewish holiday. The dinner celebration is called a seder. The Passover Seder is a meal with special foods, practices, and Scripture readings that commemorate the liberation from Egyptian slavery, in accordance with God's instructions (Lev. 23: 1,4, Exod. 12: 14,24-27).

Seder means "order." The seder invites each family to recount its own version of the great story of Passover with each family member actively involved. The meal induces the experience of going from slavery to liberty through the food experiences and story as the meal turns into an elaborate feast. There is no "right way" to conduct a seder.

The seder is usually a family dinner but can also be held with your family or with a church group. During the Seder, the narrative of the exodus is related and prayers of thanksgiving are offered up to God for his loving protection. The dinner table is beautifully set with fancy dishes and candles. There is a special pillow on the chair for the leader of the seder to lean on to symbolize the comfort of a free person reclining (as opposed to a slave who never rests). Orthodox Jewish tradition directs that, during Passover, meals be prepared and served using sets of utensils and dishes reserved strictly for that festival. The readings, songs, and prayers of the Seder are included in the Haggadah.

### The Haggadah

The Haggadah is the prayer book used at the Seder, or ritual dinner observed at Passover. Sometimes there is a small book for each person participating in the seder. Haggadah means "telling." The Haggadah is a "script" of what the leader and participants should say and the order of eating and drinking during each part of the meal as it tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadahs were not used until the eighth century A.D. before this oral tradition was used to tell the Passover story. There are over three thousand different Haggadah versions available.

We have included a Messianic Haggadah in this teaching that you may reproduce, for your family only. This Haggadah is written to be used with a family with children who can read and write. If your family has small children you can simplify accordingly. The main purpose is to teach and celebrate. We have also included a Messianic Seder Outline so you can make your own Haggadah, if desired.

### The Seder Plate

There is a special plate in front of the leader called the seder plate. The Seder consists of three directive foods listed in Exodus 12 and customary foods later added by the Rabbis. Each of the foods symbolizes some aspect of the ordeal undergone by the Israelites during their enslavement in Egypt.

#### Foods listed in Exodus 12

- Bitter Herbs (usually horseradish) representing the bitterness of bondage.
- Shank Bone of a Lamb symbolizes the lamb eaten before they fled Egypt.
- Matzah-- must be made solely of special flour and water (no leaven).

#### Customary foods later added by the Rabbis

- Haroset (it looks unappetizing but is delicious) is a mixture of apples, nuts, grape juice, and cinnamon. It represents the mortar the Israelites used to build the Egyptian cities and the sweetness of a better world.
- Roasted Egg is said to be the symbol of life, but it came in with the pagan fertility rituals. (Our family decided to leave off the egg.)
- Karpas or fresh greens (usually parsley or celery) symbolizes the new life for the Jewish people and the hyssop used to sprinkle blood on the door post. The parsley is dipped into salt water representing the tears of slavery.

# Celebrating Passover

## The Messianic Seder



There are no set rules for the basic order of the seder. Just like with Thanksgiving dinner, traditions vary among families. In this chapter is an example of:

- 1.) A very **simple seder** with no specific readings.
- 2.) A **traditional seder** outline. This outline consists of eighteen traditional steps you can adapt for your family.
- 3.) An easy-to-use nineteen page step-by-step Haggadah\* (you may reproduce for your family's use) that explains just what to say for each blessing as you pour the wine, when to eat and drink, and a list of the Bible verses to read. The leader simply reads aloud the text on each page as the rest of the group follows the directions. I have
- 4.) A basic **seder checklist** of what you need to have at (or close by) the dinner table.

The one thing you should not do is get all bound up in "doing it right" and ruin the dinner. That would defeat the purpose. Pray and trust God to lead you. Passover was reintroduced by Hezekiah in Bible times (Numbers 9). They were unable to follow every step outlined in Leviticus; however, God knew their hearts. He had grace towards them and healed their people.

### 1) A Simple Seder



Don't be reluctant to observe Passover because it seems like a fancy elaborate meal. Families with many small children may enjoy a simple seder that doesn't last quite as long as the traditional seder. The main focus is to teach the children about both Passovers the Exodus and Christ.

A seder can be this simple: Let the children decorate by drawing, coloring and hanging pictures connected to the Passover. Dinner can include the three elements from scripture such as broiled lamb chops, bitter herbs (horseradish or raw turnip greens), and bread. Make a regular bread recipe without the yeast (roll flat and pierced with a fork before baking). You really don't even need to have lamb. You may want to just place a shank bone from your butcher on a seder plate, or put a small stuffed lamb as a centerpiece, add some candles and festive dishes for this special meal. During dinner, read the Passover story from the Bible or a storybook and asked the children to retell their favorite parts. Explain how Christ is our Passover Lamb.

### 2) Traditional Seder



## Traditional Seder Outline

1. This begins with the lighting of the two candles, by the mother of the family, the Passover lights which symbolizes Jesus the light of the world and a sanctification blessing over grape juice in honor of the holiday. The grape juice is drunk, and a second cup is poured, which is symbolic of the blood of Jesus (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:23,24; Luke 22:20; John 6:53-56).

2. The father or leader pours water into a basin and washes his hands. This symbolizes the foot washing Jesus did before He ate the Passover meal. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded (John 13:5).

3. The Karpas (a vegetable-usually parsley) is dipped in salt water and eaten. The vegetable is said to symbolize the lowly origins of the Jewish people; the salt water symbolizes the tears shed as a result of our slavery.

4. There are three pieces of matzah, two for the blessing and one to be broken. There is a special cloth holder with three sections called matzah tash. The three pieces of matzah are inside, one in each compartment. The leader takes the middle sheet of matzah and lifts it for everyone to see. He then breaks the bread in two. This symbolizes Christ. Next he takes one piece and places it back in the matzah tash. Then he takes the other piece and wraps it in a linen cloth. This linen-wrapped matzah is called the Afikoman. The matzah tash forms a unity of one which speaks of the unity of God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

5. The leader hides the Afikoman. This is a picture of Yÿshua (Jesus), the middle part of the tri-unity, which was broken, wrapped up in cloth, buried and brought forth again (as bread brought forth from the earth.) Yÿshua (Jesus), the bread of life, was without sin (leaven), pierced, and striped just as the unleavened matzah. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb...(Matt. 27:59-60).

6. There should be a retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt and the first Passover. This may begin with the youngest person asking The Four Questions (see below). Then the leader reads the Passover story in Exodus 12. We should try to motivate our children to ask their own chain of questions, by pointing out small items that will lead them along a path of discovery to ever bigger and more important items.

7. A blessing is recited over the second cup of wine and it is drunk.

8. A second washing of the hands, this time with a blessing, in preparation for eating the matzah.

9. A blessing specific to matzah is recited, thanking God for bread that symbolizes the body of Christ (Matt. 26:26). Then a piece of matzah is eaten.

10. A blessing is recited over a bitter herb (usually raw horseradish), and it is eaten. This symbolizes the bitterness of slavery and the bitterness of our sin. The bitter vegetable should be eaten together with matzah.

11. The bitter vegetable is eaten again, but with a mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine, which symbolizes the mortar used by the Jews in building during their slavery. This mixture symbolizes how the sweetness of Yÿshua can overcome bitter sin.

12. A festive meal is eaten. There is no particular requirement regarding what to eat at this meal except that leaven cannot be eaten. Traditionally, some Jews eat gefilte fish and matzah ball soup at the beginning of the meal.

13. The piece of matzah set aside earlier is eaten as dessert, the last food of the meal. The children look for the Afikoman. Once it is found it is ransomed to the leader for a price as the Messiah was our ransom.

14. The third cup of wine, called the redemption, cup is poured. Grace is recited afterward. Then a blessing is said over the third cup and it is drunk.

15. The fourth cup is poured.

16. Some items are set aside for the prophet Elijah (see previous section Jewish Customs of Passover Today.) The door is opened for awhile at this point for Elijah.

17. Several psalms of praise are recited. A blessing is recited over the last cup of wine and it is drunk.

18. The Passover is completed with the phrase:

**Lashanan Habaÿah Bi Yerushalayim!  
Next Year in Jerusalem!**

This is sometimes followed by various hymns and stories.

Thanks a million beloved partner for your love, prayers and support for our wonderful Lord's work in Sri Lanka! Without you and our precious Lord these would not be possible. Keep sowing your seed for your harvest and the Lord's harvest!

With my love for you and the lost!



Errol Eardly

Continued next month.....

**Quote of the  
Month!**

**"A Revived Church is the  
only hope for a dying  
world".**

**Pastors!  
Please contact us for a  
Miracle Crusade in your  
Church!**

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