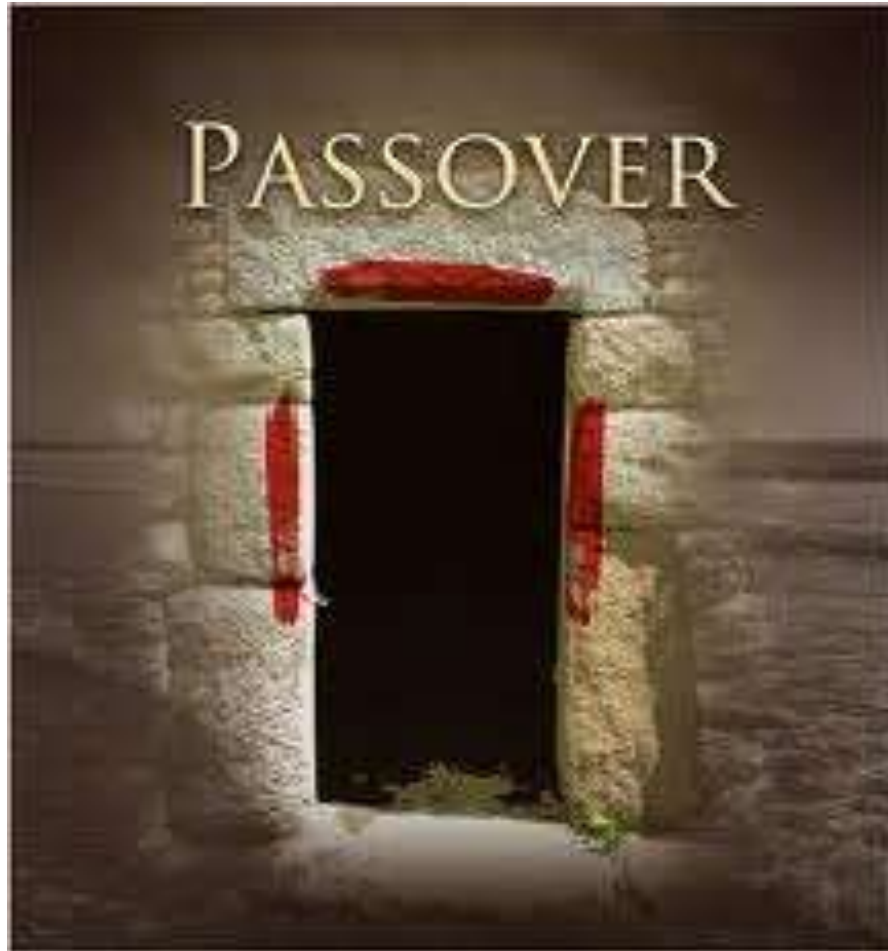


*Passover
&
The Feast of Unleavened Bread*



Passover Seder (Order)

Leader:

We gather this evening to take part in a ceremony that has been observed by Yahweh's people for over three-thousand years. As He led them into the wilderness, He spoke to Moses, saying:

Leviticus 23:2-7

"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the Yahweh, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of Yahweh in all your dwellings. 'These are the feasts of the Yahweh, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Yahweh's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

When He walked the Earth, our Messiah did not neglect this command. His last supper with the Disciples was a Passover Seder, much like the one we celebrate tonight. During that time, Y'shua revealed a deeper meaning to the feast, beyond a simple recognition of Elohem's deliverance of His people from bondage in Egypt. It is no coincidence that the Passover became the setting for the Messiah's death. The plan of Yahweh was laid from the foundation of the world. The disciples were well aware of the story of Passover, having celebrated it each year all of their lives. But on that particular night, they came to understand that their friend and teacher was the Messiah, that He was soon to leave them, and would return in power to redeem His people in a way they could not yet imagine.

As we partake of this ancient ceremony, we pray that Yahweh will continue to provide a fresh revelation of His deliverance. He has not changed. He continues to care for His people, to reveal Himself to them, and to deliver them as they obey the admonitions of His Word.

And so we gather again to the Passover table, to relive once more an event that has been retold for a hundred generations. Many of us have prepared ourselves for this night, removing all of the leaven from our homes as Yahweh commanded (Exodus 12:15). This ceremony is called the **Bedikat Khomeytz**. In ridding our homes of leaven, a symbol of sin, we recognize the need to continually search our hearts and lives for those things that are displeasing to Yahweh.

On the table before us is a seder plate which holds the items which symbolize the elements of the Passover: **bitter horseradish, a sweet mixture of apple and honey, parsley, and the shank bone** of a lamb. Each of these items will play a part in the retelling of our story. They allow us to experience the taste and the sense of the events,

not just the memory. We have prepared **unleavened bread and wine**, central to the telling, and a reminder that our Messiah is the sinless bread of life and the fruit of the vine.

Let us begin.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Leader:

Let the daughter of Zion come forward and kindle the **festival lights**. As these lights are lit in the homes of Israelites throughout the world, we usher in the Passover of the Yahweh.

Mother- SISTER NONA: (Lighting the candles)

Blessed are You, Yahweh our Father, King of King,
Who has sanctified us by His Word, and in Whose name we light the festival lights

THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

Leader: At Passover we drink four cups of wine. Each cup symbolizes a vital element of the telling; Sanctification, Plague, Redemption, and Praise. As we lift our first cup together, let us remember that we are sanctified by our relationship with our Father and praise Him, saying:

Blessed are You, Yahweh our Elohim, King of kings, Creator of the Fruit of the Vine.

Leader: Let us drink together this first cup of Passover.
(All drink.)

THE WASHING OF HANDS

Leader: (Lifting the bowl of water and the cloth)

At the entrance to the Temple in Jerusalem there stood a great bronze laver, a basin in which the priests ceremonially cleansed themselves before entering into the presence of Elohim. As we offer the bowl to one another, we remember that we who are believers in Messiah have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb of Yahweh. We cleanse our hands in memory of the redemption that took place for us in this season, long ago.

(All pass the bowl and dip the tips of the fingers into the water, drying them with the cloth)

We also recall the example of our Messiah when, at His own seder with the disciples, He laid aside His garments and girded Himself with a towel.

All: John 13:5, 12-14

After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. [12] So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? [13] You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. [14] If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

THE KARPAS

Leader: (Lifting the **parsley**)

This parsley represents the newness of life, created by Yahweh, which begins to bloom around us at this season of the year. It reminds us that Yahweh is a faithful provider of sustenance for His people.

(Lifting the **salt water**)

And yet the children of Israel were in bondage, toiling under cruel taskmasters to build palaces for Pharaoh. This salt water represents the tears of affliction that come in life. Let us dip our vegetables in the salt water and reflect on the mystery that, in the midst of Yahweh's provision, life is sometimes immersed in tears.

Blessed are You, Yahweh our Elohim, King of king, Creator of the Fruit of the Earth.

Leader: Let us eat the parsley together. (All eat.)

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Leader:

In the wilderness, Yahweh said to Moses:

Exodus 12:26-27 And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

It is our duty to pass on to our children the lessons we have learned, and never let them be forgotten throughout all generations. As we answer the children's' questions tonight, it is encouraging to think that, on a Passover night many years from now, these children will carry on this obligation and tell the tale again to a generation yet unborn. In this way, these things will never be forgotten and will never cease to be observed throughout all generations.

THE MATZAH (unleavened bread)

A Child - ARIANNA: How different this night is from all other nights!
On all other nights we eat bread. On this night why do we eat only unleavened?

Leader: The children of Israel fled Egypt in a hurry. There was no time to allow their dough to rise. It was baked flat by the harsh desert sun. Aside from the historical significance of the unleavened bread, Yahweh revealed a symbolic meaning that is relevant to our lives today. The Apostle Paul, used this familiar element to teach an important lesson in a letter to the church at Corinth:

All: 1 Corinthians 5:7

Do you not know the saying, "It takes only a little leaven to leaven the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old leaven, so that you can be a new batch of dough, because in reality you are unleavened. For our Passover lamb, the Messiah, has been sacrificed.

Leader: (Lifting the three matzot)

This bread is the bread of affliction and deprivation which our fathers ate in the land of their bondage. And yet, it is life and sustenance. It represents the hope and the promise of salvation. All who are hungry, let them come and eat. All who are in need, let them come and share the Passover with us. These three matzot are wrapped together in a **white linen cloth**. They represent a mysterious unity, three in One. We who are believers in the Messiah can easily see the significance, a perfect picture of the fulness of Yahweh God.

(Removing the middle matzah)

As we remove the middle part of this unity, we recognize the symbol of Messiah. See how it is **striped**.

All: Isaiah 53:5

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Leader: See how it is pierced through.

All: Zechariah 12:10

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son,

Leader: (Breaking the middle matzah in half)

As we break the middle piece of the bread of affliction, we recall the brokenness and the affliction of our Messiah in His sacrifice for us.

(Holding up one half)

Half of this matzah is called the Afikomen, a Greek word meaning "that which comes last". It is wrapped in a white linen, as our broken Messiah was wrapped for the tomb.

(Wraps the Afikomen)

If the children will now cover their eyes, I will hide the Afikomen. It will remain hidden for a time, but it will return to us at the completion of our Passover seder.

(Hides the Afikomen)

Let us now share the piece that remains.

(Breaks the matzah and distributes it about the table)

All: Blessed are You, Yahweh our Father, King of kings, Who Brings Forth Bread From the Earth. (All eat.)

MAROR (bitter herbs)

A Child - JONATHAN: On all other nights we eat all sorts of vegetables. On this night why do we eat bitter herbs?

Leader: (Lifting the horseradish)

Take a bit of horseradish on a piece of matzah. As we eat it, allow the taste to bring tears to your eyes, the tears of a people in bondage. As bitter as captivity in Egypt was, our bondage to sin was no less bitter. Let us recall the years of bondage, both theirs and ours.

All: Blessed are You, Yahweh our Elohim, King of kings,
Who has sanctified us by His Word, and commanded us to eat bitter herbs. (All eat.)

KHAROSSET (apple-honey mixture)

A Child - MARQUIS: On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once. On this night why do we dip them twice?

Leader: We have already dipped our parsley into salt water representing the tears of affliction. Now we will dip our vegetables for a second time.

(Lifting the apple-honey mixture)

The work in Egypt involved bricks and mortar. This mixture, made of chopped apples, honey, nuts, and wine recalls their labor. Let us once more take a bit of horseradish on

a piece of matzah, but this time, we will dip it into the sweet kharoset, reminding us that all affliction can be sweetened by our hope in Yahweh.

(All eat.)

Leader: It was at this moment during Y'shua's seder with His disciples that He revealed the identity of His betrayer.

All: Mark 14:18-20

As they were reclining and eating, Y'shua said, "Yes! I tell you that one of you is going to betray me... It is one of the twelve... the one who dips matzah in the dish with me.

RECLINING

A Child - SETH: On all other nights we eat our meals sitting or reclining. On this night why do we eat only reclining?

Leader: The first Passover was celebrated in the land of captivity, by a people still in bondage. Yahweh spoke to Moses regarding the manner in which they were to eat the Passover meal:

All: Exodus 12:11

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly: it is a passover offering to Yahweh.

Leader: Today we are a free people by the Messiah's grace. We may recline at the Passover table and fully enjoy the seder.

THE STORY OF PASSOVER

Leader: In the story of Passover, we see Yahweh's compassion and His anger. We see His arm extended to deliver and we see His arm extended to destroy. We see His tender love for His people and we see His awesome fury unleashed against their enemies. Let us recall the great miracles He performed as we praise Him for deliverance.

Reader 1 - CHRIS:

Yahweh chose for Himself a people and vowed to make them as numerous as the sands of the desert and the stars in the sky. He promised to bring them into their own land and to make them a mighty people. Even as slaves in Egypt, He blessed them and caused them to prosper and increase. When Pharaoh saw how this foreign race was faring in his land, his heart grew troubled, and he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us. Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase." They oppressed them with harsh labor. But the more they were oppressed, the more they increased.

Reader 2 - JULIUS:

So the king of Egypt commanded the Hebrew midwives to put to death all of the baby boys they delivered among the women of the Israelites; but the midwives feared Yahweh and allowed the boys to live. When Pharaoh saw that the people continued to increase, he ordered all male children born to them to be cast into the river Nile and drowned. When Moses was born, his mother hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she got a wicker basket for him and caulked it with pitch. She put the child into it and placed it among the reeds by the banks of the Nile. The child was found by Pharaoh's daughter. It was she who gave him the name Moses, meaning "drawn from the waters".

Reader 3 - MARK:

When Moses grew older, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him as her son and took him to live in Pharaoh's palace. He did not know of the suffering of his people. One day he left the palace and walked among his kinfolk and witnessed their labors. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and was filled with rage. He slew the man and hid the body in the sand. When Pharaoh learned of the matter, he sought to kill Moses; but Moses fled from Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian.

Reader 4 - JOHN:

The people cried out to Yahweh and He took pity on their affliction. He remembered His covenant with their fathers. Yahweh spoke to Moses from a bush that burned with fire but was not consumed. I am the God Elohim of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. I have heard the groanings of my people and I am mindful of their sufferings. I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I will send you to Pharaoh and you shall free my people, the Israelites, from Egypt.

THE CUP OF PLAGUES (The second cup)

Leader: But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not free God's people.

All: Exodus 3: 19-20

Yet I know that the king of Egypt will let you go only because of a greater might. So I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with various wonders which I will work upon them; after that he shall let you go.

Leader: And Yahweh sent plagues down among the Egyptians, but Pharaoh's heart was stone. The Egyptians suffered great fear and sickness at the hands of Yahweh, but Pharaoh would not relent. Finally God struck Egypt with a final, devastating plague.

All: Exodus 12:12

For that night I will go through the land of Egypt and strike down every first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and I will meet out punishments to all the gods of Egypt, I Elohim.

Leader: (Take up the second cup) A full cup is a symbol of joy, appropriate to the season. And yet we are moved by the terrible price that was paid to purchase redemption and freedom. In remembrance of that sacrifice, we will recite the plagues. With each recitation, dip a finger into your cup and allow a drop of wine to fall, reducing the fullness of our joy tonight.

All: Blood! Frogs! Lice! Beasts! Cattle Disease!
Boils! Hail! Locusts! Darkness! Death of the First Born!

Leader: Let us also recall that a terrible price was paid to purchase our own redemption. The price of freedom for the Israelites was the first born of Egypt. The price of freedom for all of Yahweh's people was the first born of God. Messiah purchased us with His own death, by His own blood.

THE LAMB

Leader: (Lifting the shankbone)
This shankbone represents the lamb that was slain, whose blood was placed upon the doorposts of the children of Israel, marking them for salvation.

Reader 1 - CHRIS: (Exodus 12: 3-4)
Speak to the whole community of Israel and say that on the tenth of this month each of them shall take a lamb to a family, a lamb to a household. But if the household is too small for a lamb, let him share one with a neighbor who dwells nearby.

Reader 2 - JULIUS: Your lamb shall be without blemish, a yearling male, You shall keep watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month; and all the assembled congregation of the Israelites shall slaughter it at twilight.(Exodus 12: 5-6)

Reader 3 - MARK: They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they are to eat it. They shall eat the flesh that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.(Exodus 12:7-8)

Reader 4 - JOHN: And the blood on the houses where you are staying shall be a sign for you: when I see the blood I will pass over you, so that no plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.(Exodus 12:13)

Leader: We know that it was Yahweh Himself who provided redemption.

All: Deuteronomy 26:7-8
Then we cried out to Yahweh, the Elohim of our fathers, and He heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. [8] So Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

Leader: For that night I will go through the land of Egypt...

All: I, and not an angel.

Leader: and strike down every first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast;...

All: I, and not a seraph.

Leader: and I will give out punishments to all the gods of Egypt,...

All: I, and not a messenger.

Leader: I, Yahweh .

All: I myself and none other.

Leader: The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 A.D. Since that time, the Israelites have had no place to offer the Passover sacrifice. For this reason, lamb is no longer eaten at Passover. We who are believers in Y'shua the Messiah understand Yahweh's purpose in this. At this season, our Messiah, the Lamb of Yah, was slain for our sins. His sacrifice was perfect and eternal. There is no need for further sacrifice. We know that it was God Himself, and not an angel, God Himself, and not a seraph, God Himself, and not a messenger, who purchased our redemption from bondage to sin and death. It is God Himself, in the person of His only Son, who takes away the sins of the world. The shankbone remains to remind us of the sacrificial lamb and the perfect Lamb of Yahweh.

DAYENU ("it would have been sufficient")

Leader: The goodness of God to us is beyond our understanding. As we recall each of His acts of mercy and kindness, we declare "Dayenu" it would have been sufficient.

If the Lord had brought us out of Egypt and not executed judgment against our enemies,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had executed judgment against them and not destroyed their idols,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had destroyed their idols and not slain their first-born,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had slain their first-born and not given us their treasure,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had given us their treasure and not divided the sea for us,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had divided the sea and not drowned our oppressors in it,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had drowned our oppressors and not led us through the desert,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had led us through the desert and not fed us with manna,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had fed us with manna and not given us the Sabbath,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had given us the Sabbath and not given us His Law,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had given us the Law and not brought us into the land of Israel,

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had brought us into the land of Israel and not built for us the Temple.

All: Dayenu!

Leader: If He had built for us the Temple, but not come to dwell among us.

All: Dayenu!

Leader: BUT THE HOLY ONE, BLESSED BE HE, HAS DONE ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE.

He brought us out of Egypt and executed judgment against our enemies. He destroyed their idols, and slew their first-born, He gave us their treasure, and divided the sea for us, He drowned our oppressors in it, and led us through the desert, He fed us with manna, and gave us the Sabbath, He gave us His Law (Torah), and brought us into the Land of Israel, He built for us the Temple, and came to dwell among us.

AS BELIEVERS IN MESSIAH, WE KNOW THAT HE DID FAR MORE.

He left Heaven and came to live as one of us,
He healed the sick and He raised the dead,
He chastised the proud and He exalted the humble,
He taught the disciples and He fed the multitudes,
He gave His own life on the tree and He rose again on the third day,
He returned to His Father in Heaven and sent His Holy Spirit to comfort us,
He makes intercession for us before the Father and will return to claim us as His bride.

All: Blessed are you, Yahweh our Elohim, for all of your blessings and tender mercies toward us. You have given us abundant life on Earth and eternal life in Heaven.
Hallelujah!

Leader: Knowing the depth and magnitude of God's provision, we may now lift our cups and praise Him, saying:

All: Blessed are You, Yahweh our Elohim, King of kings, Creator of the Fruit of the Vine.

Leader: Let us now drink together the second cup of Passover. (All drink).

THE PASSOVER SUPPER

Leader: As a family of God's people, let us eat the Passover meal together.

(Offers thanks for the meal.)

After Passover meal:

THE AFIKOMEN

Leader: Earlier tonight, the Afikomen was wrapped in linen and hidden away. It is now time for the Afikomen to return to us.

(The children leave their tables and search for the Afikomen. When it is found it should be brought to the Leader of the seder.)

Leader: Let us eat together the Afikomen, that which comes last, the final food of Passover. As we eat it, let us allow the taste to linger in our mouths, a reminder as we depart, of what God has done for us.

Y'shua took this matzah and He broke it and gave thanks to God with these words:

All: Blessed are You, Yahweh our Father, King of kings
Who Brings Forth Bread From the Earth.

Leader: And then Y'shua added the following words:

All: Luke 22:19

This is my body which is being given for you; do this in memory of me.

Leader: Let us now eat the matzah, remembering the broken body of Messiah, the Lamb that was slain for the redemption of the world. Let us allow the taste of it to linger in our mouths.

THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

Leader: (Lifting the third cup)

This is the cup of redemption. By tradition, it represents the blood of the Passover lamb.

All: Luke 22:20

He did the same with the cup after the meal, saying "This cup is the New Covenant, ratified by my blood, which is being poured out for you."

Leader: Let us bless Y'shua and drink together this third cup of Passover, in remembrance of our Messiah.

All: Blessed are You, Yahweh our Father, King of kings, Creator of the Fruit of the Vine.

THE CUP OF PRAISE

Leader: Let us fill our cups for the fourth and final time. This is the Cup of Praise. Let us give thanks to our God, Who has worked great miracles and done mighty things to redeem His people. Praise Yahweh; for He is good,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Praise Yahweh God, the only true God,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Praise the King of kings,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who alone works great marvels,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who made the Heavens with wisdom,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who spread the Earth over the water,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who made the great lights,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: the sun to dominate the day,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: the moon and the stars to dominate the night,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who struck Egypt through their first-born,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: and brought Israel out of their midst,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: with a strong hand and outstretched arm,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who split apart the Reed Sea,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Who led his people through the wilderness,

All: His steadfast love is eternal;

Leader: Praise the God of Heaven,

All: His steadfast love is eternal.

Leader: (Lifting the cup) Let us lift our cups and bless the name of Yahweh.

All: Blessed are You, Yahweh our Father, King of kings, Creator of the Fruit of the Vine.

Leader: Our Passover seder is now complete. Together let us join the multitudes of the children of Israel, who look ahead with the hope that next year's Passover will be celebrated in Jerusalem.

Next Year in Jerusalem!

