

# *The Messianic (Leader's) Passover Haggadah*

By Jeff, Elisabeth and Naomi Barnes

Preparing for Passover .....	2
Opening Our Door for the Poor .....	2
Lighting the Candles .....	3
The Four Cups of Wine.....	3
The Cup of Sanctification - Kadesh .....	4
Washing Our Hands - Urchatz .....	4
The Parsley - Karpas .....	4
The Matzot .....	5
The Four Questions – Ma Nishtanah .....	5
The first question .....	5
The Afikomen .....	5
The Second question .....	6
The Maror - horseradish.....	6
The third question .....	7
The Haroset - the sweet apple mixture .....	7
The fourth question .....	7
The Story of Passover - Maggid .....	8
The Cup of Plagues .....	8
The Passover Lamb - Pesakh .....	10
The Egg.....	11
Dayeinu - It Would Have Been Sufficient.....	11
Dinner - Shulchan Orec .....	12
The Afikomen - Tzafun .....	12
The Cup of Redemption .....	13
The Prophet Elijah - Eliyahu Hanavi .....	14
The Cup of Praise - Hallel.....	14
Closing Section - Nirtzah.....	15
Notes on preparing for the Passover Seder .....	16

# Preparing for Passover

## After everyone is seated

1. Assign readers
2. Practice singing Dayeinu
3. Give any comments you feel appropriate to set the mood

During the days before Passover, all leavened items are removed from the home. This includes all breads and cakes that contain yeast. Preparation for the Passover begins with a thorough cleaning, culminating in a ceremonial search for leaven, called *bedikat khameytz*.

📖 *Exodus 12:15 JPS - Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; howbeit the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses; for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.*

Let us also ready our hearts for the Passover Seder - the order of service. Tradition teaches that in each generation, we must consider ourselves personally freed from Egypt. As we prepare for this experience of personal redemption, let us put far from us any leaven of sin hidden within our hearts.

✝ *1 Corinthians 5:8 MKJV - Therefore let us keep the feast; not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

## Opening Our Door for the Poor

Before we start, let us open our door to see if there is anybody outside, and invite them in. Today we are doing this as part of the traditional Passover Seder; however, let us always remember the poor.

Haggadah means "the telling". Passover is a story that has been retold for thousands of years. It is a story of miraculous transitions - from slavery to freedom, from despair to hope, from darkness to light. Its greatness is the greatness of God. Its timelessness comes from the eternal truth of His involvement with His people. As God cared for the children of Israel in ancient times, He cares for all who are His today.

### (Have someone point to the items as you recite them)

Upon the table there are candles, a wash basin, four cups of wine plus a cup for Elijah and, of course, unleavened bread. There is also a Seder plate holding the ceremonial items of Passover. This includes karpas (parsley), salt water, maror (a bitter herb, such as horseradish), the haroset (a sweet apple mixture) and a shank bone. Traditionally the Seder plate also holds a roasted egg. These are curious things, but they are all part of the telling. Let us see, hear and taste the truth of God's love.

✧ *Psalms 34:9 JPS - O consider and see that the LORD is good; happy is the man that taketh refuge in Him.*

One of the Messiah's last earthly acts was the celebration of the Passover. Gathering His disciples in a small room in Jerusalem, He led them in a Seder.

✝ *Luke 22:15 MKJV - And He said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.*

Yeshua passed the food among His disciples. It was there, in the context of this celebration, that Yeshua revealed to them the mystery of God's plan of redemption. He spoke to them of His body and blood. He explained that His death would be the New Testament.

It was no coincidence that Messiah chose the Passover for the setting of what is now celebrated as communion, or the Lord's Supper. As we participate together in the Passover Seder, may we once again experience God's great redemption.

## Lighting the Candles

✠ *1 Peter 2:9 MKJV - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for possession, so that you might speak of the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

As we kindle the festival lights, let us pray for the illumination of the Spirit of God to bring great personal meaning to this, our Passover celebration.

A Woman: (While lighting the candles, says)

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam asher kidshanu bidevaro uvishmo  
anakhnu madlikim haneyrot shel yom tov.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has set us  
apart by His Word, and in whose Name we light the festival lights.

📖 *Exodus 3:2-10 JPS - And the angel of the LORD appeared unto [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said: 'I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.' And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said: 'Moses, Moses.' And he said: 'Here am I.' And He said: 'Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' Moreover He said: 'I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.*

📖 *And the LORD said: 'I have surely seen the affliction of My people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their pains; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. And now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto Me; moreover I have seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people the children of Israel out of Egypt.'*

## The Four Cups of Wine

📖 *Exodus 6:1 JPS - And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh; for by a strong hand shall he let them go, and by a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.'*

Just as the Lord spoke words of encouragement to Moses, the four cups of wine symbolize four promises of God to save His people. (**Exodus 6:6-7**)

Everyone:

I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians . . .

I will free you from being slaves . . .

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm . . .

I will take you as My own people, and I will be your God . . .

At this Passover, let us celebrate these promises of redemption and relationship as we pour the wine into each of our four cups. With each cup, let us remember the union that God desires.

## *The First Cup - The Cup of Sanctification - Kadesh*

**(Fill the first cup)**

✧ *Deuteronomy JPS 7:6 - For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be His own treasure, out of all peoples that are upon the face of the earth.*

Let me define sanctification, in my own words .... **(Define)**  
As we lift our first cup, let us together bless the name of the Lord!

Everyone:

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam borey pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Let us drink of this, the first cup of Passover.

## *Washing Our Hands - Urchatz*

✧ *Psalms JPS 24:3-4 - Who shall ascend into the mountain of the LORD? and who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not taken My name in vain, and hath not sworn deceitfully.*

**(Place a towel on the forearm of the person sitting next to you, then lift up the basin of water)**

Let us now offer the bowl of water to one another, and share in this hand-washing ceremony.

**(Hand the bowl to the person with the towel. Wash your hands, then dry them with the towel. Place the towel on your own forearm and hold the bowl for the next person. In this way, the bowl is passed around the room until everyone has washed their hands.)**

Let us also reflect upon the lesson in humility given to us by the Messiah Yeshua, when, on His last night, He laid aside his garments and girded Himself with a towel.

✧ *John 13:5, 12-14 MKJV - 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.. ... So after He had washed their feet and had taken His garments and had reclined again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me the Teacher, and Lord, and you say well, for I AM. If then I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

## *The Parsley - Karpas*

📖 *Exodus 2:23 JPS - And it came to pass in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died; and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.*

**(Lift up the plate with the parsley.)**

Passover is a holiday that is celebrated in the springtime,<sup>1</sup> when the earth is becoming green with life. This vegetable, called karpas, represents life, created and sustained by Almighty God.

**(Take one piece of parsley, then pass the plate. Next lift up the bowl of salt water.)**

However, life in Egypt for the children of Israel was a life of pain, suffering and tears, represented by this salt water. Let us take our sprig of parsley and dip it into the salt water, remembering to be grateful for life, though it is sometimes immersed in tears.

**(Dip the parsley into the salt water, and then pass the salt water. Wait for everyone to dip their karpas.)**

Everyone:

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam borey pri ha'adamah.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.


Now let us, together, eat the karpas.

## *The Matzot*


**(Lift the plate that contains the three matzot.)**

This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread that our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need share in the hope of Passover.

Three matzot are wrapped together for Passover. Rabbis call these a "Unity".<sup>2</sup> There are various explanations of this symbolism. Some think of it as a unity of the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Others explain it as a unity of worship - the priests, the Levites and the people of Israel. **We who know Messiah can see in this symbol, the unity of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If we look, we will see the story of the Messiah.**


 *Exodus 12:17 JPS - And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore shall ye observe this day throughout your generations by an ordinance for ever.*

## *The Four Questions – Ma Nishtanah*


 *Exodus 12:26 JPS - And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you: What mean ye by this service?*

The Passover tradition needs a young child to ask four questions:


### *The First Question*

 **Young Child:** On all other nights, we eat bread or matzot. On this night, why do we eat only matzot?

It is both a duty and a privilege to answer the four questions of Passover, and to recite the mighty works of our faithful God. On all other nights we may eat bread with leaven, but on Passover we eat only matzot, or unleavened bread. When the children of Israel were forced out of Egypt, they could not wait for their dough to rise. Instead, they made unleavened bread.

 *Exodus 12:39 JPS - And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.*

But even more important, the Scriptures teach us that leaven symbolizes sin. During this season of Passover, let us break our old habits of sin and selfishness and commit to a fresh, new and holy life.

 *1st Corinthians 5:6b-7 MKJV - Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.*

## The Afikomen

**(Remove the middle matzo from the wrapper and break it in half.)**

Just as the middle piece of the bread of affliction is broken, so the Messiah was afflicted and broken. One half is now called the afikomen, or the dessert. One tradition believes that afikomen means *to heal*, another *to end storms*. Some Messianic Jews claim that afikomen is a Greek word that is translated “He Came”.<sup>3</sup> Non-Messianic Jews say that the word means, “the thing that comes after/last.”

**(Wrap the afikomen - one of the broken pieces - separately in a napkin.)**

If the children will cover their eyes, I will hide the afikomen.

**(Those who wish to search for the afikomen later must shut their eyes now.)**

**(After hiding the afikomen)**

Just as I have hidden the afikomen, so our Messiah is hidden for a time, and a veil has been placed over the eyes of the unbelievers. And, just as the afikomen will return to complete our Passover Seder, so the Messiah will also return to complete our Seder.

**(Pass the other half of the middle piece of matzo - the half that wasn't hidden - around the table, and have everyone break off a piece.)**

Let us now share a piece of this unleavened bread of Passover.


Everyone:

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melek ha'olam hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.


**(Everyone eats)**

## The Second Question

 Young Child: On all other nights, we may eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night, why do we eat only bitter herbs?


**(Pass another piece of matzo around, with everyone breaking off a piece, and then lift the maror - the bitter herb or horseradish.)**

On all other nights, we may eat all kinds of vegetables, but on Passover, we eat only maror, or bitter herbs. As sweet as our lives are today, let us still remember how bitter life was for the children of Israel in the land of Egypt.

 *Exodus 1:12-14 JPS - But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And they were adread because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour. And they made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field; in all their service, wherein they made them serve with rigour.*


## The Maror - Horseradish

The bitterness of the maror reminds us of the tears that our people shed when they were enslaved in Egypt. In every generation, each person should feel as though he or she has come forth from Egypt, as our Torah<sup>4</sup> teaches:

 *Exodus 10:2 JPS - And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what I have wrought upon Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them; that ye may know that I am the LORD.'*

**(Scoop some maror onto your matzo and then pass the maror.)**

We will scoop some maror onto our piece of matzo. As we taste the maror, let us remember with compassion the sorrow that our ancestors knew thousands of years ago.

 *Exodus 12:8 JPS - And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*

Everyone:

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam asher kidshanu bidevaro vetzivanu al akhilat maror.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has set us apart by His Word and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.

**(Everyone eats together.)**

### *The Third Question*

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

**(Pass another piece of matzo around the table, everyone breaking off a piece.)**

On all other nights, we do not dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them twice. We have already dipped the parsley into the salt water to remember our forefathers' tears.

## *The Haroset - The Sweet Apple Mixture*

**(Dip your matzo into the maror, pass the maror around the table, and then lift up the haroset.)**

The children of Israel toiled to make treasure cities for Pharaoh, working with brick and clay. We remember this task in a mixture called haroset, made from chopped apples, honey, nuts and wine. We have again scooped some bitter herbs onto a small piece of matzo. This time let us dip the herbs into the sweet haroset before we eat.

**(Scoop some haroset onto your matzo, and then pass the haroset, then lifting your matzo with the maror and haroset on it.)**

As we dip the bitter herbs into haroset, let us remind ourselves that even the most bitter circumstances are sweetened by the hope that we have in God.


Everyone:

Baruch atah, Adonai, eloheinu ruach ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al achilat maror.

Blessed are you, Adonai, Breath of Life, who sanctifies us with the commandment to eat the bitter herb.


**(Everyone eats.)**

### *The Fourth Question*


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

On all other nights, we eat either sitting or reclining, but tonight we eat reclining. The children of Israel were instructed to eat the Passover in haste, their loins girded, their staffs in their hands, and their sandals upon their feet, awaiting departure from the bondage of Egypt. The first Passover was celebrated by a people who were enslaved. Once we were slaves, but now we are free! Today we all may recline and feely enjoy the peaceful rest of the Passover Seder.

 *John 8:36 MKJV - Therefore if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*

 *Matthew 11:29-30 MKJV - Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.*


## *The Story of Passover - Maggid*

 *Exodus 6:5 JPS - And moreover I have heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered My covenant.*


The story of Passover is a story of miracles, a story of redemption and a story of the mighty power of God to overcome evil.

- ✧ The Lord had promised the land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Yet here were their children in Egypt. The Pharaoh who had come to power feared them. "These foreigners in our midst are prospering and have grown numerous", he thought. "Suppose they join with our enemies and turn against us!" Pharaoh decided to exert greater control over this people, imposing harsh and bitter slavery upon the Israelites. Still, God blessed His people in strength and number.
- ✧ Pharaoh grew more frightened and ordered every baby boy among the Israelites to be drowned in the Nile River. One Israelite couple hid their little boy for three months. Finally, entrusting his future to God, they set him in a basket and placed him upon the river. His sister, Miriam, watched as he floated downstream.
- ✧ Coming upon the basket, Pharaoh's daughter took pity on the child and chose to raise him as her own son. She called him Moses, meaning, "drawn from the water".
- ✧ Moses grew and became aware of the travail of his people. One day, in anger, he killed an Egyptian because he was beating a Hebrew slave. Fleeing the palace and the eye of Pharaoh, Moses became a shepherd in the land of Midian, far from the cries of his suffering brothers.
- ✧ The Lord, however, saw the affliction of the children of Israel and heard their groaning. He would raise up a deliverer to lead them out of bondage. It was then that the Lord appeared to Moses in the midst of a bush that burned with fire but was not consumed. Moses drew close and listened as God commanded him to go to Pharaoh. Fearful and reluctant, still Moses agreed to bring God's message to the king of Egypt, "Let My people go!"


## *The Second Cup - The Cup of Plagues*

 *Exodus 6:6 JPS - 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 deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments.*

Moses left the wilderness to return to Pharaoh's palace, the very place where he had been raised, with the message that the Lord had given him. Before Moses returned, God Himself warned him of the resistance that he would encounter.

 *Exodus 3:19-20 JPS - And I know that the king of Egypt will not give you leave to go, except by a mighty hand. And I will put forth My hand, and smite Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in the midst thereof. And after that he will let you go.*

God sent plagues, one by one, yet with each plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart. The Egyptians became afflicted with discomfort and disease, bane and blight. Still Pharaoh would not relent. With the tenth and most awful plague, God broke through the hardness of Pharaoh's stony heart.

 *Exodus 12:12 JPS - For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.*

**(Fill only one cup a second time.)**



Let us fill our cup a second time. A full cup is a symbol of joy and, indeed, on this occasion we are filled with joy at God's mighty deliverance. However, let us remember the great cost at which this redemption was purchased. Lives were sacrificed to bring about the release of God's people from the slavery of Egypt. **Let us also remember the far greater price that purchased our redemption from slavery to sin.**

As I recite each plague, we will pass the cup, pouring a little wine out as I recite each plague. As we empty our cup, let us think about what each plague meant. **Let us also remember that Yeshua drank the cup of God's wrath for us.**

**(Pass the cup, taking turns pouring out a little wine as you recite each plague.)**

Blood!

*Exodus 7:20 JPS - And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.*

Frogs!

*Exodus 8:2 JPS - And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.*

Lice!

*Exodus 8:13b JPS - and Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and there were gnats upon man, and upon beast; all the dust of the earth became gnats throughout all the land of Egypt.*

Flies!

*Exodus 8:20b JPS - and there came grievous swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants' houses; and in all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by reason of the swarms of flies.*

Diseased cattle!

*Exodus 9:6 JPS - And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.*

Boils!

*Exodus 9:10 JPS - And they took soot of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it up heavenward; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man and upon beast.*

Hail!

*Exodus 9:23 JPS - And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down unto the earth; and the LORD caused to hail upon the land of Egypt..*

Locusts!

*Exodus 10:13 JPS - And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all the night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.*

Darkness!

*Exodus 10:22 JPS - 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 12:29-30 JPS - *And it came to pass at midnight, that the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the first-born of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the first-born of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.*

In the second cup, the cup of plagues, we see God's anger. Egypt has become a warning to others who will not listen to God's call to repentance.

✧ Jeremiah 25:15 JPS - *For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto me: Take this cup of the wine of fury at My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.*

As disciples of Yeshua, we do not have to drink the cup of plagues; Our Messiah drank this cup for us.

✠ Matthew 26:42 MKJV - *He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.*

**(If you have done a traditional cup, you may drink the second cup at this time.)**

## *The Passover Lamb - Pesakh*

📖 Exodus 12:13 JPS - *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

Rabbi Gamaliel,<sup>5</sup> one of the most important rabbis in the first century, and the apostle Paul's teacher, taught that in recounting the Passover story one must be certain to mention three things:

1. The Unleavened Bread
2. The Bitter Herbs
3. The Passover Lamb

We have eaten unleavened bread to remind us of the haste with which the children of Israel fled Egypt. We have tasted the bitter herbs to remind us of the bitter slavery that they experienced there.

**(Lifting the shank bone of the lamb)**

Since the Temple in Jerusalem no longer stands, the Passover lamb is not eaten at Passover. This roasted shank bone remains to remind us of the sacrificial lamb. It represents the lamb whose blood marked the houses of the children of Israel, in obedience to God's command.

📖 Exodus 12:3-7 JPS - *Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying: In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household be too little for a lamb, then shall he and his neighbour next unto his house take one according to the number of the souls; according to every man's eating ye shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year; ye shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats; and ye shall keep it unto the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at dusk. And they shall take of the blood, and put it on the two side-posts and on the lintel, upon the houses wherein they shall eat it.*

📖 Exodus 12:8-13 JPS - *And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; its head with its legs and with the inwards thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; but that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it: with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste--it is the LORD'S passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

📖 Exodus 12:46 JPS - *In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.*

We are reminded by Moses that it was the Lord Himself who redeemed the children of Israel from slavery.

✧ Deuteronomy 26:8 JPS - *And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders.*

I would like to comment on the underlined words above and on the previous page. **(Make thy comments)**

**(Ask your family and guests to recite after you)**

On that same night, I will pass through Egypt . . .

Everyone: I, and not an angel.

and strike down every firstborn - both men and animals-

Everyone: I, and not a seraph.

and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt.

Everyone: I, and not a messenger.

I am the Lord.

Everyone: I myself and none other.

✧ John 1:29 MKJV - *The next day John sees Jesus coming to him and says, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

For those of us who have trusted Yeshua the Messiah, He is our Passover lamb. Like the ancient Israelites, we know that it was God Himself, and not an angel, God Himself, and not a seraph, God Himself, and not a messenger, God Himself, and not another who achieved final redemption from sin and death. God Himself, through Yeshua, takes away the sin of the world.

## *The Egg*

I will comment on the missing egg. ... **(In your own words)**

## *Dayeinu - It Would Have Been Sufficient*

✧ Psalm 145:7 JPS - *They shall utter the fame of Thy great goodness, and shall sing of Thy righteousness.*

How great is God's goodness to us! For each of His acts of mercy and kindness we declare 'dayeinu', which means 'it would have been sufficient.'

# Dayeinu

Musical notation for the song "Dayeinu". It consists of two staves of music in G major. The first staff has a G7 chord above the first measure and a C chord above the last measure. The lyrics are "Da, da - yei - nu, da, da - yei - nu,". The second staff has a G7 chord above the first measure and a C chord above the last measure. The lyrics are "da, da yei - nu, da - yei - nu da - yei - nu!".

(Everybody sings chorus, after you recite each line.)

If the Lord had merely rescued us, but had not judged the Egyptians,

Everyone: dayeinu!

If He had only destroyed their gods, but had not parted the Red Sea,

Everyone: dayeinu!

If He had only drowned our enemies, but had not fed us with manna,

Everyone: dayeinu!

If He had only led us through the desert, but had not given us the Sabbath,

Everyone: dayeinu!

If He had only given us the Torah, but not the land of Israel,

Everyone: dayeinu!

But the Holy One, blessed be He, provided all of these blessings for our ancestors. And not only these, but so many more.

Everyone:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, You have, in mercy, supplied all our needs. You have given us Messiah, forgiveness for sin, life abundant and life everlasting.

## *Dinner - Shulchan Ore*

(You can serve the festive meal now or at the end of the service.)

## *The Afikomen - Tzafun*

☞ *Matthew 23:39 MKJV - For I say to you, You shall not see Me from now on until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."*

The Children can now search for the Afikomen.

**(After a child has found the Afikomen, the matzo that was hidden earlier, you may ransom it.)**

As we ransom the Afikomen, let us remember that Yeshua's life was given as a ransom for many.

✠ *Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

It is time for us to share the Afikomen, the dessert, the final food eaten during our Passover Seder. It is shared, just as the Passover lamb was shared from the time of the exodus until the destruction of the Temple. It is said that the taste of the afikomen should linger in our mouths.

During the Last Supper, the Messiah gave thanks to the Lord, broke the Afikomen and gave unto his disciples.

**(Pass the Afikomen around, everyone breaking off a piece.)**

It was then that Messiah added the words,

✠ *Luke 22:19b MKJV - This is My body which is given for you, this do in remembrance of Me.*

Let us allow the taste to linger in our mouths, as we eat the matzot. **Our Messiah said to do this in remembrance of Him.**

Everyone: Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melkh ha'olam hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.  
Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

**(Everyone eats)**

### *The Third Cup - The Cup of Redemption*

📖 *Exodus 6:6 JPS - 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 deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments.*

Let us fill our cup for the third time this evening. **This is the cup of redemption, which symbolizes the blood of the Passover lamb. It was with this cup of redemption that Messiah identified himself.**

**(Fill and hold the third cup)**

The prophet Isaiah reminds us,

✠ *Isaiah 59:1 JPS - Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.*

It is our own righteousness that falls short.

✠ *Isaiah 59:16 JPS - And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation unto Him; and His righteousness, it sustained Him.*

After the supper, Yeshua the Messiah lifted this cup of redemption saying,

✠ *Luke 22:20b NKJV - This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is being poured out for you.*

Just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation to those in Egypt who believed, so the blood of Messiah will bring salvation to all who believe.

Everyone: Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melkh ha'olam borey pri hagafen.  
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Let us gratefully drink in remembrance of Him. **(Everyone drinks)**

## *The Prophet Elijah - Eliyahu Hanavi*

**(Lift up the cup from Elijah's place at the table and fill it if it is not already full.)**

This cup is for Elijah the Prophet, Eliyahu HaNavi. At this time let the children open the door to welcome Elijah to our Seder.

**(While the children open the door, an adult drinks the wine. You can explain this tradition to the younger children.)**

✧ *Malachi 3:23 JPS - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.*

Elijah did not see death, but was swept up to heaven by a great whirlwind, in a chariot of fire. It is the hope of all Jews that Elijah will come at Passover to announce the Messiah, the Son of David.

While the New Testament teaches that Elijah did come in the person of John the Baptist, we also expect him before our Lord's second coming.<sup>6</sup>

## *The Fourth Cup - The Cup of Praise - Hallel*

**(Fill the fourth cup)**

Let us fill our cup for the fourth and last time, and give thanks to God, our great Redeemer, as we recite Psalm 136.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for <i>he is</i> good:	<u>Everyone:</u>	for his mercy endures forever.
O give thanks unto the God of gods:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him who alone doeth great wonders:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him that by wisdom made the heavens:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him that stretched out the earth above the waters:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him that made great lights:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
The sun to rule by day:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
The moon and stars to rule by night:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
And brought out Israel from among them:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him which divided the Red sea into parts:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
And made Israel to pass through the midst of it:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him which led his people through the wilderness:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
To him which smote great kings:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
And slew famous kings:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
And gave their land for an heritage:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
<i>Even</i> an heritage unto Israel his servant:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
Who remembered us in our low estate:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
And hath redeemed us from our enemies:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
Who giveth food to all flesh:	"	for his mercy endures forever.
O give thanks unto the God of heaven:	"	for his mercy endures forever.

At the beginning of our Seder, we read that the four cups represent the plan by which the Lord would redeem the children of Israel. This plan was revealed to Moses:

1. I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians . . .
2. I will free you from being slaves . . .
3. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm . . .
4. I will take you as My own people, and I will be your God . . .

**(Lifting the cup)**

After they drank the third cup of wine, Yeshua said,

☞ *Matthew 26:28-29 MKJV - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom. .*

Is Yeshua waiting for us before He drinks this cup of praise? Will we be His people, and He our God, when He lifts this last cup to finish His Passover?

☞ *Luke 12:37 MKJV - Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes. Truly I say to you that he shall gird himself and make them recline; and coming up he will serve them.*

Let us lift our cups and bless the Name of the Lord!

Everyone:

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam borey pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

**(Everyone drinks)**

## *Closing Section - Nirtzah*

We conclude our Passover Seder with a final prayer asking God to bring the Messianic Era, when all of us will be gathered to Jerusalem, and all humankind will dwell in peace.

☞ *Isaiah 25:9 JPS - And it shall be said in that day: 'Lo, this is our God, for whom we waited, that He might save us; this is the LORD, for whom we waited, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'*

☞ *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 MKJV - And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blamelessly at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who called you, who also will do it.*

Passover is now complete, **just as our redemption is forever complete.**

Everyone:

Lashanah haba'ah bi Yerushalayim,

Next year in Jerusalem!

# Preparing for the Passover Seder

## General Notes

- During the Seder, we call our Lord Jesus by his Hebrew name - Messiah Yeshua.
- In the traditional home, the father is head of the family and he usually leads the Passover Seder.
- The men wear yamakas, the traditional head covering. Jewish men cover their heads with when praying and during the Seder.
- Tradition commands us to tell the story of the Exodus as though each of us has been personally liberated from Egypt. Therefore, before we begin the Seder, I point out to our guests that when I say, "we are commanded" or "our people" it is because we are associated with the Jewish people.
- The leader's Haggadah has **blue comments** in it to guide him. Some notes may seem obvious, but I've included them for the new Christian or for someone leading a Seder for the first time.
- The words in black are the traditional Jewish Seder. The words in red are added to make this a Messianic Seder. Even without the additions, it is easy for those who are looking to see Yeshua.

*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life. And they are the ones witnessing of Me.  
- John 5:39 MKJV*

- Christians should remember that they are celebrating Communion when they partake of a Passover Seder.

*For "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show" the Lord's death until He shall come. So that whoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, he will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. - 1 Corinthians 11:26-27 MKJV*

- The instructions were written for a single glass of wine to be passed around during the Seder. However, some may prefer to drink from their own cup. In this case, everyone should fill their cups and drink at the same time.
- The Seder takes a little over an hour. It will be longer if you eat the meal during the ceremony rather than after.

## Children

Children are an important part of the Seder; we are commanded to tell our children the great things that God has done; therefore, the Seder should be centered around them. During the Seder they will be instructed to:

- Search for Afikomen
- Open door for Elijah
- The youngest will ask the four questions

## Preparing Comments

Most of the Seder is read from the Haggadah, but in some places you will speak spontaneously. You may want to prepare your thoughts ahead of time for the places where you will:

1. Define sanctification ([Cup of Sanctification](#)).
2. Explain the messianic nature of the underlined words in Exodus, after lifting up the shank bone (See note on [The Passover Lamb](#)).
3. Explain why the egg is missing (See note on [The Egg](#)).
4. Explain the tradition of Elijah's cup to the younger children.

Practice singing Dayeinu: It is sufficient. (See note on [Deyenu](#))



## Preparing the Table

You will need the following:

- Table or cushions on the floor (See note on [The Fourth Question](#))
- Two candle sticks and matches
- A bowl of water and a towel for hand washing
- Three matzot wrapped together in a napkin, and placed on their own plate
- A ransom (a coin or treat you feel is appropriate for the child who finds the Afikomen)
- A special glass for Elijah
- An empty bowl for the second cup of wine (Optional. See note on [The Cup of Plagues](#))
- The Seder Plate - a large platter with six small bowls on it, each filled with one of the following items:
  1. Parsley, called karpas - enough for everyone to have a small piece
  2. Salt water - not too full to be passed around the table
  3. A bitter herb like horseradish, called morar - enough for everyone to dip their matzot in twice
  4. An apple mixture, called haroset (a mixture of diced apple, cinnamon and a sweet red wine) - enough for everyone to dip their matzot once
  5. A small shank bone from a lamb or a goat (you can use a lamb chop bone with the meat boiled off)
  6. An empty bowl (In a traditional Seder it contains an egg. See note on [The Egg](#))

## Readers

Everyone receives a copy of the Haggadah (or people can share). The leader's copy has instructions in it.





Leader: Reads all paragraphs that are not indented. (He should rehearse the Seder at least once before he leads.)

A Woman: Recites the blessing while lighting the candles.

Everyone: As noted.

Volunteer Readers: Assign the indented paragraphs (they are mostly scripture), to different readers before you start. It might help to highlight the icons with different colors, and then the participants only need to know which color they are assigned. The leader can assign the readings any way he likes.

The different icons represent different readings

-  Young Child (Traditionally, the youngest male asks the four questions.)
-  The Book of Exodus
-  The Old Testament and the story of Passover
-  The New Testament

The reader does not need to give a Scripture citation when reading.

If you are not comfortable reciting Hebrew, you can just recite the blessings in English.

Since Passover is traditionally a Jewish holiday, the Old Testament passages are taken from the *English Bible According To The Masoretic Text*<sup>7</sup> (Jewish Publication Society 1917 Edition). Since the Passover is an evangelistic tool for young believers, we use the Modern King James Version (rather than the old King James Version) for the New Testament readings.

## Notes for the different sections

(It will be helpful to refer to your Haggadah while you read the following)

### *Preparing for Passover*

We looked at many different Haggadahs before we wrote this one, and found there is great liberty in celebrating the Passover. If you wish to make your Passover more personal, or change something in this Haggadah for any reason, please do.

Since most Jews do not recognize Yeshua as their messiah, this is not a kosher Passover. During a kosher Passover, all leaven is removed from the house before the feast of Unleavened Bread. As Christians, we are not commanded to keep Mosaic Law (Acts 15). For this reason, we don't worry about removing all the leaven, but we do talk about the correlation between leaven and sin (1st Corinthians 5:8).

### *Lighting the Candles*

The traditional Haggadah blessing when lighting the candles is, "Blessed are You, Lord our God, ruler of the universe who makes us holy with commandments and commands us to light the (Shabbat and) festival lights."

However, we know of no command in the Torah to light candles during the Passover Seder. Therefore, our Haggadah reads, "Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has set us apart by His Word, and in whose Name we light the festival lights."

### *The Cup of Sanctification - Kadesh*

You must define sanctification in your own words. A simple definition is "to be cleansed and set apart for a special use".

### *Washing Our Hands - Urchatz*

You should wash your hands first to demonstrate to the others how to proceed.

As a side note, some Passover Seders have two hand washings. It was the hand washing after the meal (the second hand washing) when Jesus washed the apostles' feet (John 13: 2-4).

### *The Four Questions – Ma Nishtanah*

Traditionally, the youngest (in years, or at heart) boy asks the Four Questions.

### *The Afikomen*

The breaking and hiding of the middle piece of matzo is also done during a traditional kosher Seder. However, only the Messianic Jews see the connection between this tradition and their Messiah.

### *The Fourth Question*

The Gospels tell us that the disciples reclined at the Passover Seder. We recline on the floor to set the context for the fourth question. However, if you have participants who are uncomfortable sitting on the floor, you can celebrate the Seder at a table, or any place you are comfortable. Answer the fourth question accordingly.

### *The Cup of Plagues*

Traditionally, the leader says, "As we recite the ten plagues, let us remember that, while we were redeemed through these plagues, people did suffer. Let us remove a drop of wine from our cup for each plague as we recite its name..." Then the participants drink the Cup of Plagues.

In our Messianic Seder, we recognize that Yeshua drank the cup of God's wrath for us, so that we do not have to drink it. Therefore, rather than removing only ten drops, the entire cup should be emptied as the plagues are recited. Even if each person has their own cup, the leader should only fill one cup to pass around for The Cup of Plagues.

*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. - Isaiah 53:10-11 KJV*

### *The Passover Lamb - Pesakh*

Make comments on the underlined words. Here are some examples:

1. Your lamb shall be without blemish - As our Passover lamb, Yeshua was without blemish.
2. Ye shall keep it unto the fourteenth day of the same month - Yeshua was also examined and found spotless until the fourteenth day.
3. Put it on the two side-posts and on the lintel - We must be under the blood of Yeshua.
4. Let nothing of it remain until the morning - Jesus was not allowed to remain on the cross overnight.
5. When I see the blood, I will pass over you - No matter how good you were, if you were not covered by the blood, you were not protected from the angel of death. No matter how bad you were, if you were covered by the blood you were protected.
6. Neither shall ye break a bone thereof - Therefore they did not break any of Yeshuas' bones.
7. With an outstretched arm - You can show the connection to John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself."

### *The Egg*

In the traditional Jewish Seder, there is an egg on the Seder plate. In this Seder, we leave the egg off because there is no mention of an egg being part of the Passover Seder in the Scriptures. However, we leave the empty bowl on the Seder plate so that the leader can explain that the egg is missing because of its historical connection with the worship of the goddess Eshtar, from where we get the name Easter. Then he invites all to reflect and remove all pagan influences from our lives.

### *Dayenu - It Would Have Been Sufficient*

**Dayeinu**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song "Dayeinu". The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains the melody for the first line of the song. Above the staff, the chords G7 and C are indicated. Below the staff, the lyrics "Da, da - yei - nu, da, da - yei - nu," are written. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains the melody for the second line of the song. Above the staff, the chords G7 and C are indicated. Below the staff, the lyrics "da, da yei - nu, da - yei - nu da - yei - nu!" are written.

Practice this song a few times before you begin the Seder.

Other songs can be sung during the Passover Seder, according to the leader and participant's wishes.

## *Dinner - Shulchan Orec*

While the dinner is traditionally eaten during the Seder, you may also wait until after the service is completed to eat (especially if you are celebrating the Seder reclined on the floor).

## *The Prophet Elijah - Eliyahu Hanavi*

I like to explain to young children that when Elijah drinks the wine it is pretend. However, our hope that Elijah will soon come to announce the messiah is real.

### Footnotes:

---

<sup>1</sup> The Lord commanded the Passover to be celebrated in Jerusalem. However, if you live in the southern hemisphere, it will be in the fall.

<sup>2</sup> Messianic Rabbis teach this freely; other Rabbis occasionally agree.

<sup>3</sup> There is much debate among rabbis concerning the meaning of the word afikomen. The problem is compounded since the word afikomen is not Hebrew. Rabbinic consensus usually explains that it means "dessert" since it is eaten after the meal (when a dessert would normally be eaten).

Afikomen is the only Greek word (the common language of Yeshua' day) in the Passover Seder. It is in the second aorist tense (completion of an action, without reference to length of action) of the Greek verb "ikneomai". The literal translation of "ikneomai" is simply – 'HE CAME'.

"There are a number of traditions that have developed around the afikomen. Every year Moroccan Jews will save a piece of the afikomen after Passover for use whenever they travel at sea throughout the year. They believe that if a piece of the afikomen is thrown into the stormy waves, it will calm the waters. It is easy to see where the origin of this tradition came from. Yeshua merely spoke the word and said peace, shalom be still and immediately the stormy Sea of Galilee was calm." ([http://www.bethshechinah.com/Articles/01/Pesach\\_Affikomen.html](http://www.bethshechinah.com/Articles/01/Pesach_Affikomen.html))

<sup>4</sup> The first five books of the Bible.

<sup>5</sup> Rabbi Gamaliel is often mentioned in traditional Jewish Seders. In the New Testament we see that Rabbi Gamaliel disciplined the apostle Paul (Acts 22:3).

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 17:10-12 and Revelation 11:3

<sup>7</sup> Some verses are numbered differently than in Christian Bibles.