

Passover Seder Meal

I. Introduction

Read Matthew 26:17-20.

Tonight, we take part in the Passover Seder Meal. It is a tradition celebrated by Jewish people for millennia. The Passover celebrates the time when Yahweh led his people out of slavery in Egypt. The Egyptian pharaoh let the people go after the angel of death killed every firstborn in Egypt but “passed over” the Israelite homes with lamb’s blood on their doorposts. But we are not Jewish, we are Christians. We celebrate the Passover Seder Meal because we believe Yeshua the Messiah was the ultimate Passover lamb who shed His blood so that all who believe in Him are freed from the slavery of sin and death. Shabot-Shalom (Welcome).

II. Birkat Haner

Lighting of the Candles

The lighting of the candles indicates all preparations are complete, the participants are ceremonially cleaned, and the Passover Seder can begin. We can come cleansed to the Passover meal because of Yeshua’s cleansing blood. What the Psalmists proclaimed in Psalms 51:7 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” has become our reality because of Him. Just as Hebrews 9:14 says “How much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to Yahweh, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living Yahweh.”

Light the candles, when finished, recite together.

“Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the universe, who has given us freedom through Jesus our Messiah, the Light of the world, and invites us to experience His coming kingdom, commanding us to be a light to all nations.”

III. Kadesh

Sanctify

Normally, the Passover Seder meal consists of four drinks of wine, but as followers of Yeshua, we partake in just one, the Lord’s Supper. In preparation for this, we bless what Yahweh has provided and give thanks to Yeshua.

Pour wine (juice) into everyone’s cup, when finished, recite together.

“Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the Vine, and Jesus Christ our Messiah who gives us His cup of abundant Life.”

IV. Yachatz

Breaking

In preparation for the Lord’s Supper, we break the bread and offer a prayer of blessing over it.

Break the Matzahs in half and place on everyone’s tray, when finished, recite together.

“Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. And Jesus Christ our Messiah, who is the bread of Life.”

V. Urchatz

Washing

Read John 13:1-11.

While Israelites had to constantly wash their hands and bodies in an act of ceremonial cleansing, Yeshua's life, death, and resurrection has become our spiritual washing. There are two times during a Passover Seder meals that people wash their hands. It was during one of these that Yeshua did something completely unusual. The Messiah, Yahweh Himself, washed the dirtiest, most unclean part of each of His followers- their feet. Yeshua gave us a beautiful depiction of what His life has done to every ounce of our being. Yeshua showed that His Kingdom and cleansing life was to come through love, service, and sacrifice, even to the point of death. He gave us a powerful example to follow as participants and image bearers in His kingdom. Let us follow in His ways and wash each other's feet.

Wash each other's feet.

VI. Karapas

Dipping

Read Exodus 12:21-22.

The Hebrew word *karpas* means parsley. When read backwards, it alludes to the backbreaking labor performed by the 600,000 Jews enslaved in Egypt. The last letter, *samech* (s in English), has the numerical equivalent of 60, representing 60 times 10,000, totaling the 600,000 Israelites who awaited deliverance. The remaining three Hebrew letters of *karpas* spell *perech*, which means "hard work." The parsley not only symbolizes the slavery that Israel endured, but also the hyssop used to place the blood of the Passover lamb upon the doorposts and lintels of the homes of the children of Israel during the tenth and most terrible plague that the Lord visited upon Egypt—the slaying of the firstborn. Tonight we remember Yeshua's blood that was shed upon the posts of the cross and that has freed us from an even greater enemy, the cosmic pharaoh, of sin and death.

The salt water not only represents the tears of the children of Israel for the slavery they endured, but of men and women around the world not yet redeemed and still in slavery to sin and death. Let us carry that burden of our friends, family, and neighbors that live in slavery to this day.

Dip the parsley into salt water and eat.

VII. Maror

Bitter

The *maror* (bitter herbs) reminded the Israelites of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt, and it reminds us of the bitterness of mankind's slavery to sin and death who are subject to the prince of this world.

Dip the matzah into the bitter herb, taking a heaping portion enough to make one shed a tear, and eat together.

VIII. Korech

Charoset

The *charoset* (sweet mixture) reminds us that Yahweh brings joy in the midst of sorrow. For the Israelites, Yahweh promised freedom in Egypt, protection in the wilderness, and victory in the promised land. For how great of joy this may have to them, it fails in comparison to the ultimate joy we have in Yeshua, the Messiah. Although, we live in a broken world, Yeshua's life, death, and resurrection inaugurated the return of Yahweh's presence with His people, giving us joy as redeemed citizens and participants of His Kingdom.

Place the charoset on top of the matzah and eat.

IX. Beitzah

Egg

The roasted egg on the Seder plate brings to mind the roasted daily Temple sacrifice that the Israelites constantly brought to the priests. And how the high priest had to offer daily sacrifices for the sins of himself and the people. Today, this roasted egg represents Yeshua, who not only offered Himself once and for all as the ultimate sacrificial lamb, but that He also serves as our High Priest, the only Mediator who sits at the right hand of Yahweh. In the very midst of the Passover Seder, we are reminded that there is no more sacrifices to bring. Yeshua's crucifixion brought about His righteousness to His people and allows us to present ourselves Holy before Yahweh forever more.

Eat the egg and the lamb.

X. Maggid

Retelling

Yahweh was preparing to rescue the people of Israel from centuries of slavery in Egypt. One final plague was to come over the land, and Yahweh prescribed the way that the Jewish people could be saved from the death about to come. A lamb must be sacrificed. The lamb was to be perfect, without spot or blemish. Innocent. Taking special care and keeping close watch over their selected lamb for four days must have made it difficult for the family to see it die for their sakes. There was no other reason for it to die but to spare the Hebrews from the judgment of death in the land of Egypt. There was no other way.

That Passover night foreshadowed a much bigger rescue to come and a more profound sacrifice on behalf of the object of God's love: the children of Israel and all of mankind. Yeshua came to earth for one reason. To be the sacrifice lamb, perfect, without sin, that through His sacrifice, we are delivered from the power of sin and death. There is no other way to find life except in the blood of Yeshua as our Passover Lamb.

Jewish people remember the events of Passover:

Slavery – Restricted by their captivity, the Jewish people were owned by Pharaoh, subject to his will and suffering deeply because of their slavery to him

Miracles – Yahweh caused 10 astounding, supernatural events to occur in the process of saving His people. These miracles exhibited the power of Yahweh as greater than that of Pharaoh, and they testified that He is the one true Yahweh.

Sacrifice – The Passover lamb was sacrificed so that its blood, spread on the doorpost and lintel of each Jewish home, provided the covering required to escape the death of all the firstborn in Egypt. Because of the blood of the lamb, Jewish people in Egypt were saved from death.

Delivered and Set Free – Given life in the face of death, the Hebrews were set free from their bondage to Egypt and were freed to walk out of the land that had mastered them for so long and into a covenant relationship with Yahweh on Mount Sinai.

Each of these aspects of Passover bears New Covenant meaning and parallel. Here at Passover, we remember what Yeshua did for us through His death and resurrection that gave us freedom from a captivity to sin that is even more powerful than that of the Hebrews to Pharaoh.

Slavery– We were slaves to sin, unable to live as He created us to. We were not able to live in right relationship and abundant fellowship with Yahweh because of our sin.

Miracles – Yeshua did countless miracles during His ministry on earth. They testify that He was the Messiah to inaugurate Yahweh's Kingdom and presence on earth. He healed people, offering a glimpse of Yahweh's

ultimate reality for His people. While the firstborn children did not awake on that first Passover night, Yeshua walked out of that tomb, boldly declaring that death could not hold him down.

Sacrifice – Yeshua’s blood was brought into the heavenly Holy of Holies to make atonement for our sin once and for all. His death offered us His redemption and His righteousness. Through His shed blood, we have been cleansed and renewed. His life, given for us and to us through His Spirit, brings us out of death and into life in Him.

Delivered and Set Free – Yeshua the Messiah set us free from sin and its bondage, never needing to answer it’s call in our lives again. In Him, every chain has been broken, and we are freed to walk in newness of life and a restored fellowship with God. While the Israelites in the first Passover were delivered from Egypt and entered into the covenant of old, so we are delivered from the slavery of sin and are given the New Covenant of Yeshua.

XI. Lord’s Supper Communion

The Passover found its fulfillment in the life, death, and resurrection of Yeshua. Today, followers of Yeshua all around the world partake in the Lord’s Supper because we have been given new life in Yeshua.

While the bread at the first Passover was the side dish, it has become the main dish for us as it represents Yeshua’s body that was sacrificed for us. It spiritually connects us and our identity as participants to the continued mission of Yeshua.

Eat the bread.

Just as the wine represented the blood on the door posts of the Israelite’s homes that first Passover night, we drink the wine in remembrance of Yeshua’s blood that was shed for us that ushered in the New Covenant and the indwelling of His Spirit that regenerated us as His people.

Drink the wine (juice).

XII. Hallel Praise

Read Mark 14:26.

Yeshua’s last moments of fellowship with His disciples was spent singing praise songs together. In the spirit of joy and celebration, we rejoice together for all that Yahweh has done for us! He has set us apart to be His people. Just as Yeshua ended His Passover Seder meal with the singing of the Hallel Psalms (Ps. 113–18), we too, sing a song together.

Sing the Doxology together.

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise all creatures here below, praise Him above the heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

XIII. Barech Blessing

All the men, together, pray this blessing over the women.

“May the Lord make you like Ephraim and Manasseh, give you the faith of Abraham, the heart of David, and the righteousness of Christ as you build our family from generation to generation.”

All the women, together, pray this blessing over the men.

"May the Lord Make you like Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah, give you a heart of Ruth, the faith of Mary, and the righteousness of Christ as you build our family from generation to generation."

All the adults, together, pray this blessing over the children.

"The Lord bless you and keep you, may He make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26)

XIV. Nirtzah

Closing

Read Revelation 21:1-7

It is tradition to conclude the Seder with a joyous proclamation of hope and faith we have in Yeshua and the dawning of the ultimate resurrection of the renewed heaven and earth, where all who believe will eternally experience the promised resurrection to share in the new and glorious embodied reality and unblemished state of His dwelling presence in Yahweh's kingdom. For now, we wait in hope knowing that as surely as the Messiah came once to redeem, He will come again as to establish His forever reign. As Yeshua commissioned His followers, we are to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" Amen.

Close in Prayer.