

**Remembering Redemption:
A Gospel-Centered Passover Haggadah**

~Jesus and the Passover~

One of Yeshua's / Jesus' last earthly acts was the celebration of the Passover.

Gathering His disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem, Jesus led them in a Seder to show them that Passover is all about Him. "Tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there."

And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, ' I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.'"

Luke 22: 11-15

It was there, in the context of this celebration that Jesus revealed to them the mystery of the LORD's plan of redemption. Let us remember tonight the great redemption plan God has for us all who are in Christ.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and Yahweh has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

THE PASSOVER SEDER

Leader: Tonight is a special night. This is a meal with special foods, practices, and Scripture readings that remind us of two incredible stories. Both beautifully showing how God's plan of redemption has been from the beginning of creation.

The first story happened many years before Jesus. God instructed us to meet, as we are now, and have the older people tell the younger people how God delivered Moses and the Hebrew people from Egyptian slavery.

Reader 1: We will also be referring to another story, a special story about Jesus. The story of how God delivered the Hebrew people was a picture of how Yeshua/Jesus died for our sins. If you listen carefully you will see how the two stories are so much alike. Now we will start the Passover Seder and the candles are lit.

Prayer: Father, we pray you will bring light into our hearts and minds as we honor and remember your son, the Light of the World, Jesus the Messiah.

The Seder Plate:

~Shank bone of a lamb (leaders plate only)

~Matzah (unleavened bread)

~Parsley & Salt Water

~Bitter herbs (horseradish)

~Charoset (apple dish)

THE FOUR CUPS

(each person has 4 cups, or drinks 4 times – wine, juice, etc.)

Leader: There are four times we will drink from the fruit of the vine during this service. We will say a blessing, then take a drink of the wine/grape juice. These four cups represent the four expressions of redemption~ bring, deliver, redeem, and take.

*Cup of Sanctification —“I will bring you out.”

*Cup of Deliverance—“I will deliver you.”

*Cup of Redemption—“I will take you for my people.”

*Cup of the Kingdom—“I will be your GOD.”

“Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I Am Yahweh, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgement. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.’” Exodus 6:6-7

The Cup of Sanctification

Reader 1: Sanctification means to be set apart. We are setting apart this time to bring honor to Yahweh. This “separate-ness” is why Yahweh blessed Israel but judged Egypt. When we drink this cup of sanctification, we remember the Messiah, who called us to the life-long path of a disciple:

distinct from the world, a higher calling of discipline and obedience and service to God. We are called by Christ to *“Take up your cross and follow me.”*

Each of you in this room is called to live a set apart life marked by righteousness and producing good works for the Lord through Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: *“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13*

Leader: Let us lift our first cup together of Passover.

All: Blessed are you Yahweh, Our GOD, King of the universe who sent Jesus to be our set apart example and Redeemer.

(All drink the first cup)

We wash our hands

Leader: *“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.”* Psalm 24:3-4

This is also a reminder that Jesus humbled himself the night of Passover by washing the feet of the disciples.” John 13:5

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

(Pass around the bowl of water making sure each person dips their hands in the water)

Reader 1: John 13: 1-4— *“Now before the Feast of Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.”*

Reader 2: *“Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciple’s feet and wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”*

Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not

need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” John 13:5-11

Reader 3: *“When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled “He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me. I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.” John 13:12-15

Parsley & Salt Water

Leader: Passover is a holiday that comes in the springtime when the earth is becoming green with life. This vegetable called parsley represents life, created and sustained by Almighty God.

But life in Egypt for the children of Israel was a life of pain, suffering and tears, represented by the salt water. Let us take a sprig of Parsley and dip it into the salt water remembering that life is sometimes immersed in tears. May we as believers look forward to the day when Christ returns and wipes away all our tears.

ALL: Blessed are You, Yahweh our GOD, King of the Universe, who brings life and joy from sorrow and pain.

(Everyone dip the sprig of parsley in the salt water and eat)

The Matzah

Leader: This bread is called unleavened bread. It is the bread of affliction; the poor bread which our fathers ate in Egypt. See how flat it is; it has no leavening in it. The Hebrews had to leave very fast and they were unable to wait for their bread to rise; therefore, Yahweh commanded them to always eat the matzah as a way to remember their deliverance from Egypt.

Reader 4: *“Then Moses said to the people, ‘Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened shall be eaten.’”* Exodus 13:3

Leader: “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

Reader 1: See how the matzah is striped and pierced? - *“But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed.”* Isaiah 53:5

(breaking the matzah in half)

Just as the matzah is broken, Yeshua/ Jesus was also afflicted and broken. One half of the matzah is called the “Afikomen” (Greek for “He shall come again”). Both pieces remind us of Jesus. The “Afikomen” is wrapped in a white cloth just as Messiah’s body was wrapped for burial.

(wrap one half of the matzah in a cloth and set it aside for now.)

Leader: Let us now share a piece of this unleavened bread of Passover

ALL: Blessed are you Yahweh our GOD, King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth

(all eat a piece of matzah)

Bitter Herbs

Leader: The bitter herbs (horseradish) symbolizes the bitterness of slavery and the bitterness of our sin. The bitter herbs should be eaten with matzah (Exodus 12:8).

ALL: scoop bitter herbs (horseradish) onto a piece of Matzah

ALL: Blessed are you Yahweh our God, King of the universe, Who sets us apart through Your Word and has instructed us to eat bitter herbs.

(All eat the matzah with bitter herbs... horseradish)

Charoset—Clay and Mortar (Apple mixture)

Reader 5: *“When the perishable puts on imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying it is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

Reader 1: The children of Israel toiled to make treasured cities for Pharaoh, working in brick and clay. The more the Hebrews were afflicted, the more they multiplied and spread out. Charoset pictures the mortar and clay used by the Israelites to do their hard work in Egypt.

Let us once again scoop some bitter herbs onto a small piece of matzah.

But this time, before we eat, let us dip the herbs into the sweet charoset (apple mixture). Now, as we eat the bitter herbs, combined with charoset, we recall the bitterness of sin in the charoset is a symbol of God’s redemption in Christ, the sweet antidote for sin.

Leader: Put the charoset with the bitter herbs on the Matzah.

(Wait for all to have it ready)

ALL: Blessed are you Yahweh our God, King of the Universe Who sanctified us by the blood of our Messiah Yeshua.

The Story of Passover

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

Reader 6: Yahweh had promised the land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yet here their children were in Egypt where they grew numerous. Pharaoh decided to exert greater control over his people.

Still, Yahweh blessed His people in Strength and number.

Reader 1: 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.....Pharaoh's daughter took pity on the child and chose to raise him as her own son. She called him Moses. Meaning drawn from water.

Reader 2: Moses grew and became aware of the travail of his people. One day, in a rage, he lost control of himself and killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave. Fearing the palace and the eye of Pharaoh, Moses ran away where he became a shepherd in the land of Midian, far from the cries of his suffering brothers.

Reader 3: Yahweh, however, saw the afflictions 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 He appeared to Moses in the midst of a bush that burned with fire, yet was not consumed. Moses drew close and listened as God commissioned him to go to Pharaoh. Though fearful and reluctant, Moses agreed to bring God's message to the king of Egypt, 'Let my people go'

The Cup of Deliverance

Leader: Have you ever experienced a difficult time in your life? In such times, we call out to Yahweh for help. This is what the people of Israel did in Egypt. They were losing hope after working themselves to death for four hundred years. That old promise that Yahweh would make them into a great nation must have seemed laughable.

Reader 1: Then, Yahweh intervened and performed a divine reversal. His great deliverance for His children came. The salvation of Israel was to be remembered for generations to come. It became etched throughout the Scriptures, ingrained even in the Ten Commandments which begins with *“I am the Lord your GOD who brought you out of Egypt, and delivered you from the land of slavery.”*

Reader 2: “Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, *“The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”*; *“and his will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”* Romans 11:25

Leader: As we drink this cup of deliverance, let’s remember that Yahweh also kept his promise and sent the Messiah, his own Son, who delivers us from sin. Let us raise our cups now...

ALL: Blessed are you Yahweh our GOD, King of the Universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine and delivers us from the bondage of sin.

(All drink)

The Passover Lamb

Leader: (Lifting the shank bone). This roasted shank bone represents the lamb whose blood marked the houses of the children of Israel, signifying their obedience to Yahweh's commands.

Reader 3: *"On the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family one for each household. The animals you choose must be year old males without defect. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and top of the door frames of the house where they eat the lambs"* Exodus 12:3,5-7

Reader 4: *"That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast.....the blood will be sign for you on the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt."* Exodus 12:8,11,13

Leader: Like the blood of the lamb, the blood of Jesus is a sign over the doorposts of our hearts. God sent Jesus Christ to be our Passover Lamb. We, just as the Israelites were delivered from the yoke of slavery, can be delivered from the yoke of sin and eternal death. When Yahweh sees the blood He gives us eternal life instead of death.

(The leader goes and hides the other half of the matzah that was wrapped in a cloth)

The Cup of Redemption

Reader 1: Let us fill our cups for the third time this evening. This is the cup of redemption symbolizing the slaying of the Passover Lamb. It was this cup after supper with which Jesus identified himself.

*The selection of the lamb was done on the 10th day of the first month (Exodus 12:3).

Each family was to keep the lamb in their home for four days, inspecting the lamb to make sure there was no blemish. Then, on the day of preparation, on the day the lamb was to be slaughtered (making sure no bones were broken) and prepared, on Passover -the 14th day of the 1st month...the father sacrificed the lamb.

Lambs are silent before their shearers. Lambs are silent when they are sacrificed (Isaiah 53:7). Lambs don't cry out or squirm. The innocent lamb died instead of the firstborn. The lamb's blood was applied so death would "pass over". The lamb died as a substitute sacrifice.

It was the 14th day of the 1st month of the Hebrew Calendar. God provided HIS SON, Jesus. He was the perfect spotless LAMB OF GOD. Jesus was crucified on a wooden stake yet just as scriptures says, not one of his bones were broken (John 19:36).

When the priest was offering the Passover lamb, It was at this same time that Jesus looked up to heaven and said "It is finished" (John 19:30).

The innocent LAMB OF GOD died as the substitute sacrifice for us on Passover. Jesus was and is the final Passover Lamb.

Reader 5: *"Your lamb shall be without blemish..." Exodus 12:5*

Reader 6: *"It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones." Exodus 12:46*

Reader 1: *"He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken." Psalm 34:20*

Reader 2: *"For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken.'" John 19:36*

All: Blessed are Yahweh our GOD, King of the Universe who gave us your Son, whose blood covers us before you. Jesus died, was buried and arose from the grave.

The Cup of the Kingdom

Leader: Let us fill our cups for the fourth and last time and give thanks to Yahweh our great Redeemer. (or hold up the cup if you are taking drinks)

**this cup reminds us that Yeshua did not drink the wine offered to Him as He was dying. Let us not drink of the fourth cup. Let us wait to have this special cup with our Savior. After Christ's return, we shall partake with Him~~in His physical presence~~ in the kingdom.

Reader 3: *"I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."* Matthew 2:28

ALL: Give thanks to Yahweh for He is good. His love endures forever.

THE PASSOVER SUPPER

Enjoy your special meal together in fellowship.

Find the Matzah

*After everyone has eaten, encourage the children to search for and find the Afikomen – hidden matzah - (the coming one) which has been wrapped in a cloth. The seder ends only after the matzah is found and eaten.

Leader: (when it has been found) Let us eat all the matzah....

...notice all that is left is an empty cloth. Just as this piece of unleavened bread was taken and wrapped in a linen cloth. So too, was Christ's body taken, prepared for burial, wrapped in a linen cloth and hidden in the tomb.

Reader 4: *"For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*
Matthew 12:40

Reader 1: Many children have searched for Him and found Him and tasted and know that He is good. And just as the matzah appeared again, so too does the Messiah appear again. He did not remain in the grave.

Leader: *"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."* Luke 24:1-6

*As the seder comes to an end...

Leader: All raise your glasses one more time...

ALL: "Next Year In Jerusalem"!!