

Passover Seder - Christian Haggadah

Seder is a Hebrew word for “order” or sequence of events for a Passover meal. A *Haggadah* is the script or text used at a Passover seder. This haggadah is for Christians to celebrate Jesus in the Passover meal. Our Father’s Hebrew name *Yehovah* is used often.

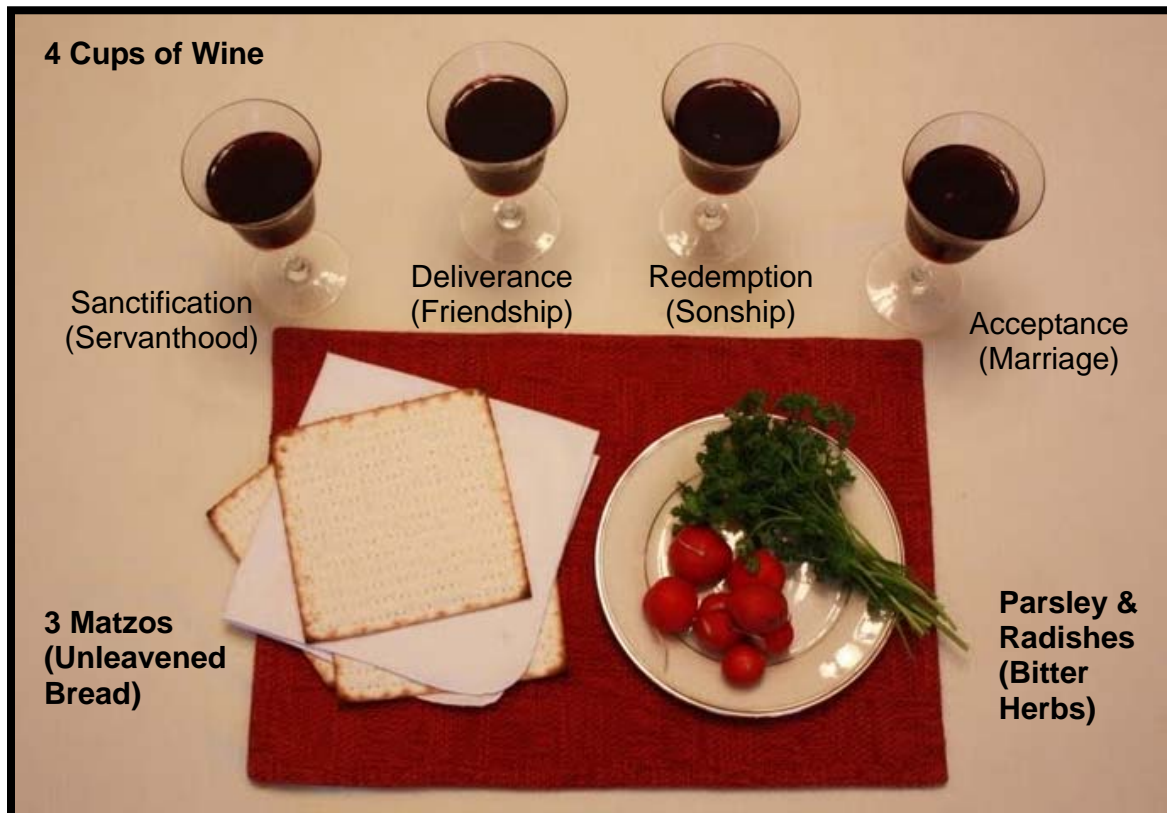
Overview

1) **The Meal**, 2) **Passover History Explanation** using the four questions, and the four cups of the ancient Hebrew seder/betrothal meal. 3) **Communion** with the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Yeshua** in Hebrew).

1) The Meal

Eating together is one of the main components of celebrating Passover. The food used at your Passover meal should taste good because this is a feast celebrating God’s goodness, deliverance and redemption. Chicken, beef or lamb and any combination of fruits and vegetables is acceptable. After an initial welcome to all participants and a short blessing for the food, allow at least 30 minutes or more to enjoy eating and talking with one another at the beginning of this Passover seder.

Items needed for the next History section: 3 **Matzos** (unleavened bread) in a white napkin; 4 **cups** of wine/grape juice; Parsley and/or radishes for the **bitter herbs**.



2) The Passover History

The history of Passover will be explained using the **Four Questions**, and the **Four Cups**. The four questions are asked by the children or the youngest people who are present. The four cups, which each represent a deeper level of covenant relationship with the LORD, will also each be explained along with one of the four questions. Readers needed: Father, Mother, four Children. *“You shall tell your children”* (Exodus 13:8)

Father – Every year at Passover we remember what Yehovah did to bring our spiritual forefathers out of the bondage and slavery of Egypt. Exodus 6:5-7 reminds us of the four covenants that we will now demonstrate through the four cups of the seder meal: *“I have heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered **My Covenant**. Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the LORD; **I will bring you out** (cup of Sanctification) from under the burdens of the Egyptians, **I will deliver you** (cup of Deliverance) from their bondage, and **I will redeem you** (cup of Redemption) with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. **I will take you** (cup of Acceptance) as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”*

These four cups of wine at the seder meal are also symbolic of the four cups of wine at the ancient Hebrew Betrothal meal. This betrothal meal cuts a covenant between a man and wife before the actual wedding. When Jesus celebrated His last supper with His disciples, He was re-enacting a betrothal to His Bride body. Each of these cups of covenant are deeper levels of relationship with Him. As the children ask the four questions of the seder meal, I will also describe these four levels of covenant relationship with Yehovah and His son Yeshua using the cups.

Child 1 - Question #1 – Why is this night different than any other night?

Mother – Because on this night the death angel passed over the children of Israel, but struck the firstborn of Egypt. As Exodus 12: 14, 26-27 says, *“So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance... 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.’”* Yehovah was faithful to His children and raised up a deliverer to lead His people out of bondage. He appeared to Moses in the midst of a burning bush that was not being consumed by the fire. Moses drew near, and listened as Yehovah instructed him to go back to Pharaoh. Filled with fear and trembling, Moses reluctantly returned to

the king of Egypt with Yehovah's message: ***“Let my people go!”*** Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites because of his hard heart and Yehovah punished the Egyptians with 10 plagues. The plagues were directed against each of the gods of Egypt to prove they had no power over Yehovah. The ten plagues were: 1) blood, 2) frogs, 3) lice, 4) flies, 5) animal disease, 6) skin disease, 7) hail, 8) locust, 9) darkness, and 10) death of the firstborn.

Father – (Holds up the first cup and says): This **first Cup of Sanctification** is a **Covenant of Servanthood**. When Yehovah made covenant with Adam and Noah, they became **servants** of God. Through Adam Yehovah gave us a covenant of dominion to rule over the earth and the animals. Through Noah God gave us a covenant of preservation as he **served** God by building an ark to save his household. Our own personal covenant with the LORD begins when we dedicate ourselves to Him as **servants**. When we commit ourselves as **servants** to Yehovah, then He will “set us apart” and **sanctify** us for His purposes in the earth. This first cup of the Hebrew wedding Betrothal meal was shared between all of the members of the bride and groom’s family. This is because they were all committed to **servicing** the bride and groom to help their marriage be successful.

Child 2 - Question #2 – Why do we eat only unleavened bread on this night?

Mother – Because the children of Israel left Egypt in haste and did not have time to add leaven to let their bread rise. So their bread was unleavened. First Corinthians 5:6-8 in the New Testament reminds us to keep this feast saying, *“Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ our Passover, was sacrificed for us. **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.**”* This is also the bread of affliction which we call matzah. It is like the bread the Israelites had when they left Egypt in a hurry. Notice how the matzah is prepared, bruised and striped. This bread represents Jesus’ body. (Holds up the three pieces of Matzo bread and says): These three pieces of Matzo used in the ancient Hebrew seder meal represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The middle matzo was taken and broken in half and wrapped in a linen cloth and hidden. This is a reminder of the death and burial of Jesus. This hidden matzo is called the “Afikomen” and represents the Passover Lamb, the body of Jesus. (break the middle matzo and wrap it in the white cloth. Hide it for a child to find later). All children must now cover their eyes as we hide the afikomen. Just as Jesus was hidden in the tomb, so the afikomen is now hidden. Just as our Messiah returned from the tomb, and will soon return to us again, the afikomen will return to complete our Passover

seder. The word Afikomen is Greek and means “one who will come after.”

Father – (Holds up the second cup and says): – This **second Cup of Deliverance** is a **Covenant of Friendship**. Yehovah cut covenant with Abraham and Moses because they were **friends** of God. Through Abraham God gave us a covenant of land, and through Moses he gave us a covenant of the law, both of which were a result of their **friendship** with God. After being servants of the LORD, He brings us into a deeper covenant of **friendship**, where He shares His secrets with His **friends** and allows us to walk in a closer relationship with Him. This second cup of the Betrothal meal was also called the Cup of Betrothal and was shared only between the bride and groom and their fathers. At this point, they were dedicated to becoming one family after working out any differences or disagreements. True **friends** will remain **friends** even if they don't see eye to eye on everything, so being delivered from self centeredness is a key to **friendship**.

Child 3 - Question #3 – Why do we eat bitter herbs on this night?

Mother – Because it is a reminder of the bitter affliction and bondage our spiritual forefathers endured in Egypt. Likewise, we should be thankful in the midst of our own afflictions as Psalms 119:67, 71 encourages us, “*Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word... It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.*” Remember that Egypt is symbolic of the world and Jesus has set us free from the bondage and slavery of sin! The lamb that was slain during Moses' Passover was prophetic of Yeshua the Lamb of God who was crucified for us on the Passover day exactly 1480 years later. On this night we eat bitter herbs to remind us of the bitter life of slavery the Israelites had in Egypt. These bitter herbs also remind us of the bitter cup that Jesus took upon Himself, by dying on the cross for us. Finally, it is a reminder to us, that we all must learn to daily take up our cross and follow Jesus as He told us, “*if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow Me.*”(Matt 16:25) (Everyone take and eat some of the Parsley and radishes)

Father – (Holds up the third cup and says): This **third cup of Redemption** is a **Covenant of Sonship**. This was the cup during the seder meal with which Jesus said, “*This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*” The apostle Paul called it the cup of blessing saying, “*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the body of Christ.*” (1 Cor. 10:16). Yehovah sent His only son Yeshua in a covenant of Sonship to bring us **redemption**. He was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world to **redeem** us from our sins. David also walked in a covenant of **sonship** and

was given a covenant of government which includes both kings and priests. Jesus will rule from the throne of David according to the order of Melchizedek who is a priest forever. This covenant of **sonship** is a deeper walk with our LORD where we are mature enough to inherit the Father's Kingdom. We are then ambassadors of our Father in the earth. Drinking this third cup during the betrothal meal was the final act done, only between bride and groom, before the meal was ended. Jesus re-enacted this betrothal tradition when He offered this cup to His disciples on this Passover night almost 2000 years ago today.

Child 4 - Question #4 – Why do we eat reclining on this night?

Mother – In ancient times to eat reclining, instead of sitting or standing, meant that you were FREE and no longer servants. On this night we recline for our meal because we are a free people. Just as the Israelites were freed from Pharaoh's bondage, so are we free through the blood of the Lamb. We give thanks that we have the blood of the Lamb of Jesus who has taken away our sin and delivered us from death. Moses' Passover was upgraded to the LORD's supper when Jesus came the first time, and it will be upgraded again when He comes back to get His bride. It will then be called "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb" as Revelation 19:7-9 tells us, *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"*

Father – (Holds up the fourth cup and says): This fourth **cup of Acceptance** is a **Covenant of Marriage**. This fourth and final cup was the cup Jesus did not drink during His last supper because He said, *"Assuredly I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until the kingdom of God comes."* (Luke 22:18) Jesus was speaking wedding betrothal language to His disciples, because the Hebrew **marriage** custom was for the bride & groom not to drink the fourth cup until the actual wedding day. But thanks be to God, we now live in the day and age when Jesus is coming back for His bride! We live in the day when this Passover, and Lord's Supper is changing into the **Marriage** Supper of the Lamb! So we will now pour this fourth cup into the third cup. And also pour the first and second cups into the third cup. All of these cups represent Jesus and our covenant with Him. (Pour all four cups into the third cup and say): The blood of the Lamb which takes away the sins of the world!

3) Communion

(Communion will now be taken from this third cup, and the second Matzo representing the Body of Christ.)

Mother – The children may now go and find the buried afikomen and bring it back to me for a ransom. (Pause for the children to search) In the same way Jesus was ransomed, with His life, to bring us back to the Father. This hidden matzah symbolizes the return of our Messiah. Jesus has ascended to His Father and is now hidden in heaven and will return during the Passover - The Wedding Supper of the Lamb. (Unwraps the matzo from the white linen and breaks off pieces to distribute for all participants, and says): On this night Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He would have said this common blessing in Hebrew: *“Baruch atah Ha-shem Adonai, Eloheynu melech ha-olam, ha-motzee lechem min ha-aretz,”* which means: “Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, king of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth.” Then He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, *“This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”* (Everyone eat the bread together).

Father – (Using the third cup now filled with all four cups) In the same way Jesus also took the cup and He gave thanks saying in Hebrew: *“Baruch atah Ha-shem Adonai, Eloheynu melech ha-olam, boray p’ree ha-gafen,”* which means: “Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, king of the universe who created the fruit of the vine. Then He gave it to His disciples and said, *“Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the remission of sins.”* (Welcome all to drink from cups provided) Just as the blood of the lamb protected and brought salvation to the Israelites, Messiah's atoning death brings salvation to all who believe.

Footwashing

Father – When supper was ended Jesus rose and laid aside His outer garment, took a towel and girded Himself and washed His disciples' feet. Yeshua said, *“You call Me Teacher and Lord and you say well, 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 should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you **do** them.”* (John 13:13-17)

(take a towel and pour water into a basin and wash one another's feet. Prayers and blessings can be spoken over one another during the washing.)

Hymn

(Sing a simple song that everyone knows like *Jesus loves me* or *I love you Lord*.)

Blessing

Father – The LORD told Moses the way in which we should bless His people. This blessing is more than just a benediction, it is the very method of *“putting Yehovah's name upon the children Israel,”* according to Numbers 6:27. Receive now the blessing of Yehovah in both Hebrew and English:

yeva-rek-he-kha Yehovah ve-yish-mer-ek-ha
Yaer Yehovah Panav ele-kha vi-khu-nekha
Yisa Yehovah panav ele-kha vey-a-sem le-kha shalom.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

For references and further information see www.sonstoglory.com Newsletters #5 and #14.