

## Introduction

**LEADER** Happy Passover everyone and welcome to our interactive Seder!

Why are we, believers in Jesus, celebrating a Jewish holiday - Passover?

- God chose to reveal himself through a People--Israel, through creation, and through His Son Jesus.
- Passover was and is a shadow of what is to come. Through prophecy, God foretelling the future, that we may believe Him! ([1 Corinthians 5:6-8](#))
- Scripture says all things that happened to Israel was an example for us. ([1 Corinthians 10:11](#))
- Revealed is: Man's Sin fullness; God's Willingness to Forgive; The way we may return to Him and the faithfulness of His love, so that all would turn from idolatry and Sin to faith in their Creator. The Bible tells us God did not chose Israel because they were the mightiest of nations or the largest. He simply chose them, as one would walk into an orphanage and say "I will take that child." ([Deuteronomy 7:8](#))
- We remember that Jesus is Jewish - A Jew is a Jew by birth not by faith, though by birth they are called to have faith in the God that chose them. So one can be Jewish and a Christian. The early church was made of many believing Jews.
- It was at Jesus' last Passover that He instructed believers to keep the Lord's Supper, in remembrance of His sacrificial death on the Cross.
- The Jewish Passover of today still points to Y'shua, the Hebrew way to say Jesus, as the Messiah. Y'shua, Jesus and Joshua are all the same word, meaning Salvation, Jehovah Saves.

We are going through the essence of the Seder: Kiddush, The Four Questions, We Were Slaves, Four Children, Plagues, Dayeinu, Pesach, Matzah, Maror and Hallel. Hold on to your Matzahs! Now we are going to bless the holiday of Passover together:

## Kadesh

Blessed is the maker of the fruit of the vine! Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam, borei pri hagafen. Thank you for God for giving us festivals and seasons to rejoice, and this Festival of Matzot to commemorate the Exodus from Egypt. You have made us and our seasons of joy holy!

[ Δ Drink first cup of grape juice / wine ]

## Karpas

SALT WATER - Why do we dip our food in salt water two times on this night?

The first time, the salty taste reminds us of the tears we cried when we were slaves.

*[Greens held up for all to see.]*

Parsley and celery are symbols of all kinds of spring greenery.

The second time, the salt water and the green can help us to remember

the ocean and green plants and the Earth, from which we get the water and air and food that enable us to live.

**Leader:**

N'-varekh `et pri ha-`Adamah.

Everyone:

**Let us bless the fruit of the Earth.**

[Please dip your parsley into salt water two times and eat it.]

## Yachatz

There are three ritual matzot on the table. We need the top matzah to remain whole. We'll be making a blessing on it later on. Blessings are said on whole things. Break the middle matzah and one half becomes theafikomen (which is then hidden to be found later in the seder).

## Maggid

### 4 QUESTIONS

#### **A Child at the table (traditionally the youngest):**

Why is this night different from all other nights?

1. On all other nights we may eat either leavened or unleavened bread; but on this night why only unleavened bread?
2. On all other nights we eat herbs of any kinds; but on this night why only bitter herbs?
3. On all other nights we do not dip our herbs even once; but on this night why do we dip them twice?
4. On all other nights we eat our meals sitting or reclining; but on this night why do we eat in a reclining position?

**LEADER** Before we read the Haggadah which tells in detail the whole story, I will answer your questions one by one.

1. We eat matzah because when our ancestors were told by Pharaoh that they could leave Egypt, they had no time to bake bread with leaven, so they baked it without leaven.
2. At the Seder, we eat bitter herbs to remind us of the bitterness our ancestors experienced when they were oppressed by the Egyptian taskmasters.
3. At the Seder, we dip food twice: the parsley in salt water, as we have already explained, and the matzah into bitter herbs, as we shall later explain.
4. As a sign of freedom, we lean to the left when we partake of the cup. In ancient times, slaves ate hurriedly, standing, while royalty, and the wealthy in Egypt, and other empires, dined on couches. To show that Israel was now free, they too reclined while eating. Since we do not have couches for each person, the leader has a pillow to lean on and everyone leans to the left when drinking the cup and eating the matzah.

### SKIT

#### **LET MY PEOPLE GO!**

*A short play for the seder*

CAST: NARRATOR, JOSEPH, BENJAMIN, PHARAOH, ADVISOR, HEBREW 1, HEBREW 2, HEBREW 3, BOSS, BAT PHARAOH, MOSES, GOD, AARON (13 parts)

NARRATOR: Our story begins in the land of Egypt where Joseph, once a prisoner, is now the Pharaoh's chief advisor.

JOSEPH: So how are things back in Israel?

BENJAMIN: Oy! Terrible. Our gardens and crops are dying. There is no rain this year. That is why we had to come down to Egypt!

JOSEPH: Well, don't worry..life in Egypt is fantastic. Playstation 3 in every house, High Definition Television, Lincoln Navigators in the driveway, This is the most powerful nation on the planet!

BENJAMIN: Did you have rain this year? Are the gardens and crops doing well?

JOSEPH: We don't have to worry about that. I've stored away tons of food in giant warehouses. The Pharaoh will be able to feed the people for three years at least, even if we get no rain.

BENJAMIN: What does the Pharaoh think of us Hebrews?

JOSEPH: He loves me. He welcomes the Hebrews into his land. Bring the entire family, we'll make a great life here.

Narrator: The Hebrews all moved to Egypt and had many children and lived a successful life. But after many years, after Joseph and his brothers had died, a new Pharaoh rose to power.

PHAROAH: Advisor, bring me the latest census report. I want to know all the people who I rule over!

ADVISOR: Yes, you're Royal Highness. I have the numbers here.

PHAROAH: Let's see..Nubians, Midians, yes, very good. Are there really that many Hebrews?

ADVISOR: Oh yes, your highness. They are growing in number. They are very strong workers.

PHAROAH: Do you think that might be a danger? Perhaps they will challenge my rule – make demands. You know how these workers are always complaining about the size of the rocks for the new Pyramids. I am worried that they will use their strength in numbers to rise up against me!

ADVISOR: Yes, you are right, we must do something to break their spirits.

PHAROAH: First, let us begin with something small. We'll get them to make more bricks each day. If that doesn't work, we'll eliminate the fifteen-minute breaks. If that doesn't break them, then maybe we'll turn to harsher measures.

Narrator: The Hebrew workers struggled to keep up with Pharaoh's demands.

HEBREW 1: My hands are killing me. And my back, oy! I can't take this pace.

HEBREW 2: We can make a thousand bricks a day—but two thousand? No team can work that hard! We'll fall over!

HEBREW 3: Get back to work, the boss is coming!

BOSS: Efficiency, people! We have got to make 900 more bricks by sundown! Come on, let's work faster!

HEBREW 1: We are working as fast as we can, boss.

BOSS: Listen, smart aleck, I've got a lot of pressure on my shoulders. If Pharaoh doesn't get his bricks, I'm out of a job. I got a family to feed, too, you know. So get back down in the pit and start working!

HEBREW 2: We haven't had a break all day!

BOSS: And you are not going to get one! Work!

HEBREW 3: You know what, boss; you have become a real pain in the backside!

BOSS: What'd you say?

HEBREW 3: You heard me.

[The BOSS walks over and pushes Hebrew 3 to the ground]

BOSS: Now get back to work before I get really angry!

Narrator: Meanwhile, Pharaoh's daughter adopted a young Hebrew child. The child, Moses, was raised with the finest Egypt had to offer.

BAT PHAROAH: Here, sweetheart, eat your honey cakes before your flute lesson.

MOSES: I'm so excited about the party this evening.

BAT PHAROAH: Your new robe looks lovely, dear. I just hope that the Pyramid is finished. Your grandfather has the workers working double time just to get the place finished before the great assembly.

MOSES: I heard that the Hebrews were complaining.

BAT PHAROAH: Complaining? Don't worry about that. We take care of the needs of all our workers, dear. They are fed, given homes, and we give them a new pair of shoes each year. We are very generous. The only problem is that there are simply too many Hebrews. For that reason, we are cutting down their number. I know that it is sad that we have to kill off their baby boys, but we are really doing it for their own good.

MOSES: I know so little about the world. Someday I'd like to go out of the palace and see how they live.

BAT PHAROAH: They are not clean like us, dear. Especially the Hebrews. They throw garbage on the streets, and the smells are truly horrible.

Narrator: One day Moses decides to sneak out of the palace, and see for himself the plight of the Hebrews.

HEBREW 1: I can't work, today, I'm sick! And I hurt my arm yesterday lifting stones!

BOSS: I don't want to hear excuses. This pyramid has got to be finished by Thursday! Today is Wednesday! So get moving!

HEBREW 1: I can't work. Please, listen to me, have some compassion!

HEBREW 2: Give him a break, boss!

BOSS: Shut up!

HEBREW 3: Don't get involved!

HEBREW 2: I'm tired of this, boss! My cousin there is hurt. He can't work today. And he's not working. So go tell Pharaoh that he'll have to hire some more workers or this isn't getting done!

BOSS: Shut up!

[Boss pushes Hebrew 2 to the ground.]

HEBREW 1: Stop it!

BOSS: I'm going to hurt you bad, you whiny Hebrew!

HEBREW 3: Stop! One of Pharaoh's princes is coming!

MOSES: What is happening?

BOSS: I am going to give this man the beating he deserves, your honor! Watch this!

MOSES: No!

[Moses hits the Boss, who falls to the ground]

HEBREW 3: Oh no! What did you do to the boss? We'll be blamed for this! We'll be punished!

MOSES: What have I done? What have I done?

Narrator: Moses ran away, far off into the wilderness. Where he is taken in by Yitro, and marries one of Yitro's daughter's Zipporah. One day, as Moses is taking care of yitro's sheep, he stumbles across a burning bush.

GOD: Moses, Moses!

MOSES: Who is that? What is going on? What is happening?

GOD: It is me, the God of your ancestors, Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

MOSES: You must have the wrong number.

GOD: This is no time for jokes. You must go back to Egypt and stand up to Pharaoh! Then you will lead the people back to their homeland!

MOSES: How will I do that? The people do not know me! I have no power now that I have run away!

GOD: I will be with you. Go to your sister, Miriam, and brother, Aaron, and stand up to Pharaoh!

Narrator: Moses returns to Egypt, with his wife and son, Gershom. Aaron and Moses approach Pharaoh.

PHAROAH: What do you want?

AARON: Our people need a three-day vacation. We need to go outside of the city so that we can pray to God in our own way.

PHAROAH: Why can't you wait for the festival of the pyramids? Then your people will have a chance to celebrate with everyone.

MOSES: We do not wish to pray to your gods. We have one God, who is mightier than all of your gods.

PHAROAH: You must be joking. The gods have made Egypt a great nation. What has your God done for you?

MOSES: You'll see what our God can do! And then you'll give in to our demands!

PHAROAH: Don't count on it, Hebrew!

Narrator: Pharaoh was a stubborn man. Even after plagues of blood, frogs, lice, disease, hail, and darkness, he would not let the Hebrews take a day off. It wasn't until a disease struck and killed the first born of every Egyptian, that the Pharaoh changed his mind.

PHAROAH: Don't you understand what is happening?

ADVISOR: No, your highness, I don't know why our gods are not protecting us.

PHAROAH: Everything we did to the Hebrews is now happening to us!!!

ADVISOR: Maybe their God is powerful!

PHAROAH: Tell the police that are surrounding their neighborhood to let them go.

Narrator: That night, Moses, spoke to the people.

MOSES: Put on your sandals, we will not have time to bake the bread for tomorrow! Tonight we will leave Egypt, and set out for a new land! Our children, and our children's children will remember this night! They will tell the story of how we stood up to Pharaoh, and how God helped us to be free!

AARON: Let all who are hungry come and eat!

Narrator: And thus ends our little play.

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PARTICIPANTS SAY TOGETHER [ Δ Take a drop of juice/wine from your cup for each plague]

There are ten plagues which God brought upon the Egyptians: Blood — frogs — Lice — Wild Beasts — Disease — Boils — Hail and fire — Locusts — Darkness — Death of the first born.

SINGING OF DAYEINU Dei, Deiyenu x 4 (and drink second cup of wine)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p1pabOX3fc>

If God had taken us out of Egypt and not punished our enemies, it would've been enough. If God punished our enemies and not parted the Red Sea, it would've been enough. If God brought us the Torah, but not brought us to Israel, it would have been enough! If God brought us to Israel, but didn't build a Temple, it would have been enough.

### Rachtzah

*Handwashing (This is just ceremonial, so if you have a large group, just put a large bowl of water in the center of the table so folks can dip their hands in and then dry them.)*

Blessed art thou, Lord Our God, Master of the Universe, who hast sanctified us with thy commandments, and commanded us about the washing of hands.

**LEADER** On Passover we must discuss three things: Pesach, Matzah and Maror.

PARTICIPANTS SAY TOGETHER [ Δ point to the shankbone ] PESACH is the sacrifice our ancestors would eat during the time of the Temple, because God passed over the houses of our ancestors in Egypt.

PARTICIPANTS SAY TOGETHER [ Δ point to matzah ] This is MATZAH. Because the dough of our ancestors did not have time to rise before God redeemed them from Egypt.

PARTICIPANTS SAY TOGETHER [ Δ point to Maror ] This is MAROR - why do we eat it? Because the Egyptians oppressed our ancestors in Egypt, they made their lives bitter with hard labor, with mortar and bricks, and other hardships.

### Motzi-Matzah, Maror, Korech

**LEADER** Blessed is the maker of bread. Blessed is God who commanded us to eat Matzah! Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech ha olam, ha motzi lechem min haaretz, Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam asher kidshanu b mitzvotav v tzivanu al achilat matzah. [ Δ everyone eat matzah ]

Blessed is God who commanded us to eat Maror! Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech haolam asher kidshanu b mitzvotav v tzivanu al achilat maror [ Δ Everyone eat the Maror- Horseradish or Romain lettuce ]

Rabbi Hillel combined the Passover offering, the Matzah and Maror together in a sandwich and eat them to fulfill the words of the Torah "They shall eat it with Matzah and bitter herbs." [ Δ Make a sandwich from matzah, Charoset and Horseradish ]

## Shulchan

[ Δ EAT the Passover meal ]

## FIND AFIKOMEN

**LEADER** Since the meal cannot be completed without eating the AFIKOMAN, the AFIKOMAN, the broken middle matzah that was hidden and now will be brought back, must be found. The one who finds it receives a great reward.

*The children must now get up and find the Afikoman. No one can leave till it is found...(Warm-cold hints OK. Found and return continue...). Give a small prize to the child who found the Afikomen.*

The AFIKOMAN is our substitute for the Passover Lamb, which in days of old, was the final food of the Seder feast. Jesus took this portion of the Seder to establish the Lord's Supper, Communion.

The Bread itself reminds us of Him. The Rabbis have rigid codes as to the appearance of the matzah. It must have stripes, be pierced and without leaven. Y'shua was afflicted, striped, pierced and without sin.

[The Prophet Isaiah, inspired by God, said of the Messiah to come:

*Please read from the Prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 53)*

What perfect description of Y'shua tolled 700 years before his birth.]

The Afikoman has been buried and risen. A reward is given for the finder of the Afikoman.

It was during the blessing after the meal and the eating of the Afikoman that the Bible tells us:

Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ([1 Corinthians 11:23-24](#))

*(Each person is given a portion. pass to left & right)*

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." ([John 6:35](#))

[The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."] ([1 Corinthians 11:28](#))

Let us pause for moment of thought. (*pause for moment*) Let us eat the bread. His sacrificial death on the cross fulfilled the prophetic symbolism of the Passover lamb.

**PARTICIPANTS SAY TOGETHER** Thank you God for this awesome meal! Blessed is the maker of the fruit of the vine! [Drink the Third Cup ]

[ Δ Sing together] "Oseh Shalom bimromav, who ya'aseh shalom aleinu, v al kol yisrael, v'imru, amen! Yaaseh shalom, yaaseh shalom, shalom aleinu, v al kol yisrael. [ Δ Say together ] God bring peace to the Jewish People! Blessed is the maker of the fruit of the vine! [Drink the Fourth Cup ]

**EVERYONE TOGETHER NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM! SHANA HABA B' YERUSHALAYIM**

## References

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