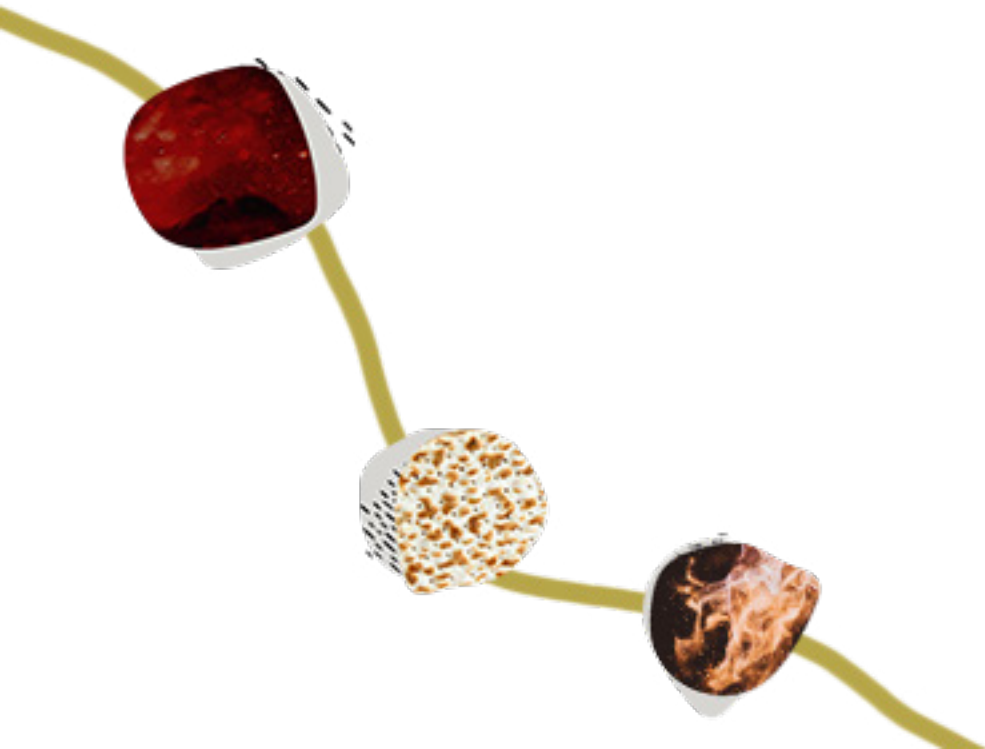




THE TABLE

A Passover Communion Guide



Intro

Shalom,

Welcome to the table of the Lord's Passover! This special feast, representing deliverance and family salvation, has been remembered and celebrated by God's people, both Jew and Gentile, since the original Exodus from Egypt more than 3,500 years ago. The Passover Feast is so special that it was used by Jesus our Messiah to inaugurate and demonstrate the new covenant in his body and blood in Matthew 22:7-22, Mark 14:12-25, and Luke 22:14-20. As his bride, we eagerly await the time when we can partake with him and our world-wide family at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-9).

Many Gentiles are familiar with the act of communion and glean on the above passages to partake in that powerful demonstration. However, what many have missed along the way, is the very act of communion found here is actually rooted in Passover! The Lord's Supper in these texts was actually a Passover meal!

Passover is the story of how God created a people for himself through redemption from slavery. It is also the fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham many years before when He said, "I will make you into a great nation, and through you, every family on earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12:2).

Today, all of God's family, both Jew and Gentile are invited to observe Passover by remembering his redemptive power and his saving grace!

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, are welcome here. The table is set, so come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Here you will experience that the Holy One of Israel who delivered his people from physical slavery with the blood of a lamb; he is also the Lamb of God who delivered the world from the slavery of sin, death, and the grave!

"And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 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. And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:14-20)

Elements

WHAT WILL WE NEED TO CELEBRATE?

Note: If you don't have access to these items, be creative! Use something similar that you do have instead.

Two candles for the table

Two white linen clothes or hand towels

Wine or grape juice

Box of Matzoh (purchase here)

At Each Place Setting

1 cup of wine or grape juice

Dinner plate for prepared meal of choice

Table Centerpiece

Two candles

Three sheets of matzoh wrapped in a white cloth or linen

One extra white cloth or linen

4 cups of wine or grape juice to use as a visual

Candles

Step 1: Lighting The Candles

The Lord is my light and my salvation...
(Psalm 27:1)

SPEAKER-_____:

“Traditionally, the two candles represent the words ‘remember’ and ‘observe or keep’ that were used in Exodus 20:8 and Deuteronomy 5:12. We kindle the lights to separate this time as holy unto the Lord as we do on Shabbat. We also pray and invite the presence of the Lord into our homes as our special guest at the Feast.

SPEAKER-_____:

“Candle lighting is used to symbolically sanctify a time or event. Let us begin our celebration of Passover with the lighting of the candles.”

A

ACTION: Now light the candles.

Note: Although anyone can light the candles, this honor is usually given to a woman, as it was through the seed of a woman (see Genesis 3:15 & Galatians 4:4), that the Messiah, the Light of the world, came to us.”

SPEAKER-_____:

“Blessed are You Oh Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has given us Jesus the Messiah, the Light of the world, and in his name, we kindle the lights of Passover.”



Cups

Step 2: Explanation Of The Four Cups (Promises)

THE EXPLANATION OF THE FOUR CUPS AND FOUR PROMISES

SPEAKER- _____:

“The four cups represent the four promises God made to the people of Israel in Exodus 6:6-7.”

ALL READ:

“Therefore, say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the LORD: I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptian’s; I will rescue you from their bondage; and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God’ (Exodus 6:6-7)

SPEAKER- _____:

“Each of the four cups has a unique name and place during the meal.”

1. The Cup of Sanctification: “I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”

I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land. (Exodus 3:8)

2. The Cup of Plagues: “I will rescue you from their bondage.”

“And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it” (Exodus 1:4-5)

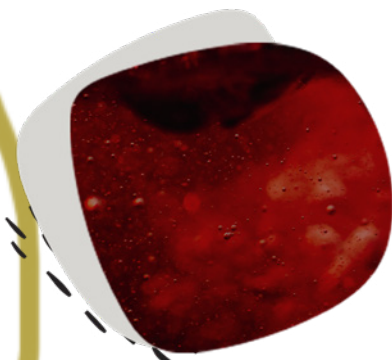
3. The Cup of Redemption: “I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.”

“In the same way after the supper, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you.’” (Matthew 26:27)

“I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD” (Psalm 116:13).

4. The Cup of Praise: “I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.”

“For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” (Luke 22:18)



Matzoh

Step 3: Explanation And Breaking Of The Matzoh

SPEAKER- _____: "At the Passover table, there are three matzoh 'loaves' that are wrapped together in a special pouch as a 'unity of three' and placed at the head table. Now, something very special and mysterious is done with the loaves. The middle sheet of matzoh is removed from the other two and broken in half. One part remains on the table to be used during the traditional Seder meal, but the other half is wrapped in a white linen cloth and hidden away or "buried." It is given a new name, afikomen which means "I will come again."

It returns after dinner as the dessert and is "redeemed" or purchased back to the table. The Hebrew word for this action is called tzafun meaning "hidden or concealed." This act is performed in every Jewish home during the Passover and has been done this way for many generations."

A

ACTION: At this time, the leader at the table can remove the middle sheet, break it in half, wrap it in the extra cloth and set it aside.



Step 4: The Reading Of The Story (Maggid)

In the days to come, when your son asks you, "What does this mean?" Say to him, "With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." (Exodus 13:14)

A

ACTION: Take turns reading portions of the story aloud.

SPEAKER-_____:

I will start my story at the beginning, where every good story should start. Our father Jacob had twelve sons, but the one who was most special to him was Joseph, the son of his beloved wife, Rachel. He was a good boy, kind to his brothers and loving to his parents; he was also sensitive to the spirit of the Lord in dreams, visions, and the interpreting of them. The problem was, not all his brothers appreciated his dreams and interpretations, and so one day, while they were all far from their father's tent, they beat up their brother Joseph and sold him to some passing merchants on their way to Egypt. Although this was an evil and horrible thing to do to your own brother, the Lord had a big plan for Joseph's life.

Joseph became a slave in the house of a very wealthy man, but once again, a jealous and wicked person sent him to prison for many years. Not to fear because the presence of God in Joseph caused him to prosper even in jail, and he wound up in charge of the very prison that held him captive. Through time, and his faith in YHWH, Joseph was released from prison and became the master not only of the prison but the entire nation of Egypt. Joseph was so wise that he saved the whole country from a devastating drought, and so the Pharaoh told Joseph to bring his whole family to live with him in Egypt. Pharaoh gave them their own city to live in, called Goshen, and there they lived and thrived for hundreds of years.

SPEAKER-_____:

Was this the happy ending I promised just a minute ago? Well, yes and no. You see, after quite a few years, there arose a Pharaoh who didn't

remember Joseph and all the good things he had done for his country. At the same time, Joseph's small family had grown to hundreds of thousands of people, and while they lived happily in Egypt, they were still foreigners, they were still Israelites, the people of YHWH. They didn't worship the many gods of the Egyptians, and Pharaoh thought they might become dangerous if they turned against their Egyptian hosts in a time of war. So, Pharaoh had every Israelite arrested, and he ruled over them as slaves. Every day the Israelites were pressed to work long hard hours in the hot sun, making bricks and building Pharaoh's cities and pyramids. The good times had come to a screeching halt.

For more than 400 years, the children of Israel worked and died as slaves of Egypt. They cried out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for help, and then one day, help came. Who was this deliverer, and what was his name? Some eighty years before, this man was a baby Israelite who was sentenced to death by drowning in the Nile River. But by God's grace, he was adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter and given the name Moses. At the age of forty, Moses killed an Egyptian guard and ran for his life to a place called Midian. There he married, and for forty more years, he looked after his family's flocks and herds. One day while out on a mountainside, the Lord appeared to him in a burning bush and said, "I am sending you back to Egypt because I have heard the cries of my people. Return to Egypt and tell the Pharaoh, 'This is what the God of the Israelites says, Let my people go so they may worship me'" (see Exodus 9).

SPEAKER-_____:

As you might imagine, Pharaoh was not impressed with Moses or his brother Aaron, and told them many times that he would never let the people of God go free. So, with a mighty arm and many miraculous signs and wonders, the God of Israel fought against the false gods of Egypt. The Egyptians worshiped the Nile River, so YHWH turned it to blood; they worshiped frogs, so he sent so many frogs that they were filling their beds; they worshiped the sun as a god, so YHWH blotted it out of the sky. They couldn't even see the hand in front of their face. The Egyptians worshiped cows, so YHWH sent disease, and they died. Finally, they worshiped Pharaoh as a god, and so the final judgment was handed down.

The Lord spoke to Moses to tell all the Israelites to take a lamb for every house, cook it and eat it that night and get ready to leave Egypt. But before you close your door for the night, take the blood of the lamb and place it on the doorposts and on the lentils of every home that worships God. Why? Because that very night, the Angel of the Lord will pass through the entire land of Egypt and any house without the blood of the lamb on the door, he will kill the firstborn son. No matter what you hear, or how terrible the sound, DO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR. It was a terrible night for sure. Every Egyptian home lost a son that night, including Pharaoh himself. When the sun

came up the next morning, the sound of weeping and wailing for the dead was heard all across the land. But in Goshen, there was only the sound of packing bags to leave this human-made prison forever.

SPEAKER-_____:

As they left their "homes" for the last time as slaves of Egypt, they were filled with wonder and excitement. They were amazed at the power and greatness of their God, and yet they were saddened at the suffering of the people who worshiped the gods who were no gods at all. As they walked away from Egypt to the freedom they had only dreamed about, someone said they heard Moses cry out in a loud voice, "Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord alone!"

Step 5: **Dinner Time!**

Note: Now is the appointed time to take a break and enjoy the carefully prepared meal. We will return after dinner for the Lord's Supper using the most important elements: we've saved the best for last!



Redeemed Matzoh

Step 6: Redeemed Matzoh (Afikomen/Communion)

Following the meal, it is time for the redemption of the Afikomen. At this time, the leader takes the matzoh that was hidden away and unwraps it.

SPEAKER- _____:

“The Afikomen is often thought to be the Greek word for “dessert,” to be eaten at the end of the meal. But there is another Greek word, so similar that some believed it to have been the original intent. The word is epikomen-os, meaning, “the one we have waited for, in the fullness of time, has arrived.”

“Jesus’ last Passover on earth was held in Jerusalem, hours before he became the Passover Lamb. As the meal was ending, just as ours is now, He shared the Afikomen, drank of the Cup of Redemption and sang the Hallel (Psalms 113-118).”

A

ACTION: take a piece of matzoh from the table and share it all around as he did

SPEAKER- _____:

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe who brings forth bread from the Land.”

“This is my body, given for you. Take and eat it all of you.”

(Matthew 26:26)

A

ACTION: All partake and receive the body of the Messiah, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

Note: As recorded by Matthew above and also by Luke in chapter 22, after dinner, Jesus took bread, he blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples. But what bread? There was matzoh all over the table by now. He took the Afikomen, the special loaf that had been removed from the other two at the beginning of the meal; it was broken and wrapped in linen, hidden away, and received a name, Afikomen, “I will come again.” This is the bread that He chose to represent His body, striped, pierced and bruised, wrapped and buried, and returns at the end of time.

the table

PASSOVER

Step 7: **Cup of Redemption (Communion)**

"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."

(Exodus 6:6)

SPEAKER- _____:

"In the same way after the supper, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you.'" (Matthew 26:27)

"Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine."



A

ACTION: Receive the Cup of Redemption, the cup of the new covenant in Jesus' blood.

ALL READ:

"I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:13).

SELAH (pause):

This is a good time to pause and give thanks to God, who has redeemed us, delivered us, and fulfilled his promise to make us his family, Jew and Gentile, through the blood and body of our blessed Messiah and King, Jesus Christ."

Note: The word Selah is of Hebrew origin.

Selah is likely to mean "to praise" or "pause and reflect upon what has just been said. To Ponder.

Step 8: **The Priestly Blessing**

ALL READ:

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. (Numbers 6:24-26)

SPEAKER- _____:

Our Passover Seder is now complete, just as our redemption in Messiah is forever complete. Let us conclude with the traditional wish that we may celebrate Passover next year with Him in Jerusalem.

A

ACTION: All raise a glass and say "NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!" (L'shana haba'ah, b'Yerushalayim)