

A PASSOVER HAGGADAH

We are here to remember Passover, God's deliverance of His people. God delivered Moses and the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. We remember an even greater Passover and deliverance. Through the death of Jesus, we too will be passed over from death and released from the bondage of sin.

Light is a symbol of God's presence. Let us kindle the festival lights.



Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us to kindle the Festival lights. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and has brought us to this season.

Amen.

During the Passover Seder we will drink four glasses of wine: They represent four promises of Freedom God gave to Moses.

The Cup of Sanctification,

We are to be clean of yeast and sin

God's promise – I will bring you out from under the Egyptians

The Cup of Deliverance (also called the Cup of Plagues),

We remember the Plagues in Egypt and our trials and tribulations.

God's promise – I will free you from being slaves.

The Cup of Redemption,

The blood of the Passover lamb saved the Israelites from death, Jesus is our Passover Lamb whose blood saved us from death.

This cup is the cup used in communion.

God's promise – I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.

The Cup of the Kingdom (also called the Cup of Praise).

We give thanks to God for guiding the Israelites out of Egypt and praise for our salvation that is given through Jesus.

God's promise – I will take you as my own people and I will be you God.

Please fill your cup. Let us lift the Cup of Sanctification, and bless the Lord for His abundant giving.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Ruler of the Universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.
(*drink*)





Let us wash our hands. As we wash let us renew our commitment to God to have “clean hands and a clean heart.” And let us remember the example of our Lord who at this point in the last Supper, washed his disciples feet.

(wash hands)

We will take the parsley, called karpas and we will dip it into the salt water. We do this to remember the tears and pain of the Israelites in Egypt.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Ruler of the Universe,
Who creates the fruit of the earth.

(Dip the parsley in the salt water twice, then eat it.)



The three Matzahs represent the trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The middle Matzah is a symbol of the suffering of Jesus who was broken for us.

We now break the middle piece, the bread of affliction.

We will eat one half and the other half is called theafiko-men, a Greek word meaning “that which comes after” or the dessert.

(Leader breaks the middle matzah in two, wraps the afikomen in a cloth.)

Everyone close your eyes and I will hide the afikomen and later the children can try to find it for a reward.



On all other nights we eat bread or matzah. On this night why do we eat only matzah?

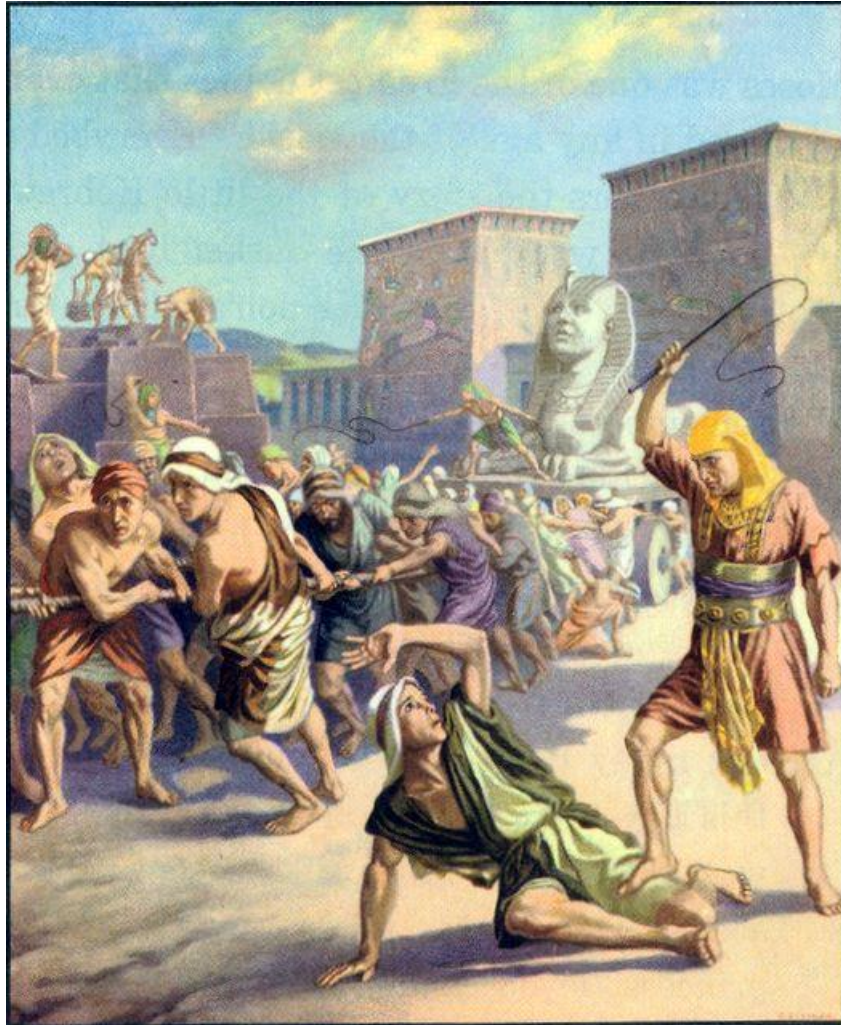
On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night why do we eat only Bitter herbs?

On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once.

On this night why do we dip them twice?

On all other nights we eat our meals sitting or reclining. On this night why do we eat only reclining?

These questions are answered through the Passover story.



Let us fill our cups a second time. A full cup is a sign of joy and we are filled with joy at God's mighty deliverance. But we must also remember the great cost at which redemption was purchased. Lives were sacrificed to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. As we recite each plague, let us dip our little finger into the cup, allowing a drop of wine to fall, reducing the fullness of our cup of joy.

(repeat plagues after leader)

BLOOD
FROGS
LICE
WILD ANIMALS
ALL THE EGYPTIANS CATTLE DIED
BOILS
HAIL
LOCUST

DARKNESS
DEATH

God passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt.
Our seder plate reminds us of this.

Why do we have a bone?

The shank bone reminds us of the lamb whose blood marked the doors of the Israelites. Isaiah told of the coming Messiah, that He would be led like a lamb to the slaughter. We know that Jesus was our final blood sacrifice so that we would be freed from the bondage of sin and we would be passed over from death. "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"

Why do we eat this unleavened bread, Matzah?

The dough did not have time to rise before the Israelites had to leave Egypt. It is a picture of Jesus, it is made without yeast and yeast is a symbol of sin.

Why do we eat bitter herbs?

We eat bitter herbs because of the hardship that the Israelites had to bear.

Why do we have an egg?

The egg has also been added to the Seder. It is a symbol of new life.

Why do we eat Charoset?

The Charoset is like the mortar used by the Israelite slaves in building with bricks. When we eat it with the mixture of Matzah and bitter herbs it reminds us how the sweetness of Jesus overcomes the bitterness of sin.

And now we bless our second cup of wine, the cup of plagues.



Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Ruler of the Universe,
Who creates the fruit of the vine.

(Drink the second cup of wine.)

We will now bless the matzah using the blessing Jesus
used at the Last Supper.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God,
King of the Universe,
Who brings forth bread from the earth.

Let us now eat the Matzah with bitter herbs and Charoset and remember the grace, mercy and love that God has for each of us, for He sent Jesus, our Messiah, to be the Passover Lamb. We too, like the Israelites released from the bondage of slavery, can be saved from the bondage of sin.

How great is God's goodness to us! For each of His acts of mercy and kindness we declare dayenu – it would have been sufficient.

If the Lord had merely rescued us, but had not judged the Egyptians.

Day-ye-nu!

If He had only destroyed their gods, but had not parted the Red Sea.

Day-ye-nu!

If He had only drowned our enemies, but had not fed us with manna.

Day-ye-nu!

If He had only led us through the desert, but had not given us the Sabbath.

Day-ye-nu!

If He had only given us the Torah, but not the land of Israel.

Day-ye-nu!

How great is God's goodness to us!



(Leader lifts the afikoman)

We will now eat the afikoman, the dessert. The taste of the afikoman should linger in our mouths. It is about the afikoman that Jesus said, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." The Passover can not be completed without the afikomen, nor can our redemption be complete without Jesus, the Bread of Life!

Blessed are You, O Lord our God,
King of the Universe,
Who brings forth bread from the earth.
(All eat the Afikoman)

Let us fill our cups for the third time this evening (Lifting the cup) This is the cup of Redemption, symbolizing the blood of the Passover Lamb. This is the cup which Jesus used when he said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Ruler of the Universe,
Who created the fruit of the vine.
(Drink the third cup of wine.)

(Lifting the extra cup for Elijah)

We open the door, indicating our readiness to receive the Prophet Elijah, herald of the Messiah. We must also now open our hearts to the truth.

(a child opens the door.)

Let us fill our cups, for the fourth and last time to drink the Cup of Praise and give thanks to God!



Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Ruler of the Universe,
who created the fruit of the vine.
(Drink the fourth cup of wine.)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of Lords:
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven
His love endures forever.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
And give you peace.

Next Year in Jerusalem



