**Passover 5777**

**I’m Not Jewish – Why Should I Care?**

Before he put on flesh, he put on wool. That you might know him.   
When John saw him in heaven, he didn't see a Jewish carpenter, he saw a lamb that was slain.   
He is the beginning and the end. He wants you to know him in every aspect of his being.

Don't take the wedding ring he offers and hide it in your pocket.   
Stare at it and study every aspect as the light hits it. That you might know him.  
  
1 Corinthians 11 “For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”  
  
Whether you have communion together or a full meal with communion, take the time to draw near to Him and remember what He did. He was redeeming you long before the cross, and He is worthy to thank and worship for the nearly 6,000 year plan he created to save you.

**1). It’s More Than A Meal – It’s History and a Journey**

**The Pharaohs and Egypt aren’t just in the story, they are keys to the story.  
In the same way that your past and family are keys to who you are,  
  
Passover is an encounter with how God shapes us thorough the good, the bad, and the ugly, through people and events, and then causes it all to work together for our good in the end.   
It’s a journey of inner healing, not just a change of location. It’s deliverance in every sense.**

**When Joseph's brothers were selling him into slavery they were dragging him toward his dream.   
He was just 17, the dream is new. Over the next 13 years he experiences favor, betrayal repeatedly, jail, exalted to second highest position in Egypt. Yet another 9 years go by before the dream comes true and his brother bow down to him and he is able to save their lives because he has already forgiven them and recognizes God’s hand in his suffering.**

**Passover isn’t just a Jewish history story, it’s a yearly time to identify with those God has used mightily, and to search your heart to make sure God has all of it. It’s a time to re-examine the dream or vision you live by to make sure you are still on the path.**

**2012 – toughest year – looked and felt like the end –I was unaware that God was establishing the next 30 years.**

**Discover who your Pharaohs are and why you can’t stop doing things you really want to stop.**

**How can you break the power of the false gods and idols that control your life?   
Passover is about that.**

**God has declared that “**It’s Never Too Late”. You can come back from the worst of failures. That’s the lesson of the Second Passover.

You are not your father or mother and you are not your family. The Third Passover is a lesson of the clean slate.

Passover number 1,410, also known as the Last Supper, changed everything.  
**Every year is different and every Passover is different. Let’s look at this year.**

**The Hebrew alphabet isn't just letters.   
Each character is a letter, number, word, picture, and story  
Hebrew and Greek are very different from English**

**7 means rest (Sabbath), perfection, purity (most common number in scripture)**The Hebrew symbol for 7 represents a sword.

Peace and a sword may seem odd together, but peace isn’t the absence of conflict, lasting peace is found only in Jesus because He defeated our enemy in the greatest war ever fought.

The first Passover was a war that when won led to the freedom of the Israelites.  
The third Passover was fought on the eve of Jericho, which brought the walls down and destroyed their enemy.

The last supper, crucifixion and resurrection was fought to set mankind free from sin and to make us one with God.

So, peace comes as a result of war. Jesus is Commander of the Army of the Lord.

Since this year is 5777, there is more to the 7’s than a sword.

One 7 means sword,   
77 means a double edged sword which is used for war,   
777 means that sword is in the hand of God.

The significance for Passover in terms of 777 is:  
The sword in the hand of God is the same blade that the Israelites in Egypt used to cut the neck of the lambs to drain out the blood.

What comes out of pharaohs mouth is key.

Why is Moses afraid due to stuttering.

Watch how the God of war fights thru truth to destroy lies that empower evil to control people.

Jesus was called the Passover lamb:  
John 1:29 “The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

1 Corinthians 5:7b "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”  
Revelation 5:6 “And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain,”   
(In Revelation, John refers to Jesus as the Lamb 28 times)

These spring feasts are all about war.

God waged war on Egypt because they didn't live up to their calling.

He sent Abraham to bless them.

He sent Joseph to deliver them. He sent Jacob and his sons to be a blessing.

They rejected the living God for idols.

They enslaved His children. So God sent plagues to reveal their gods as impotent.

There is a war for our soul every single day.   
And God is fighting that war for us  
Passover teaches us how to be a part of that war instead of just victims

**2). How long were the Israelites slaves in Egypt?**

“Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for 400 years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” (Genesis 15:13-16)

“A land not theirs” Meaning Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Canaan itself; wherein they were but strangers, and there afflicted, but chiefly in Egypt.

“Four Hundred Years” Which began when Ishmael, son of **Hagar the Egyptian**, mocked and persecuted Isaac, who was five years old, which happened thirty years after the promise, and four hundred and thirty years after that promise, came Israel out of bondage.

The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 12:40–41)

Moses is adding clarity. The children of Israel aren’t just the 12 sons of Jacob and their descendants. The promise of Genesis 13 was not made to Jacob, but to Abraham. This passage is including Isaac and Abraham in the nation of Israel. Also, 430 years prior to the exodus is when Abraham first lived in Egypt.

The total time from Abraham’s promise to the Exodus of Moses is 430 years.  
Abraham is 75 when he arrives in Canaan and the promise is made (1877 BC)  
Ishmael is born 11 years later; (1866 BC)  
Isaac is born 14 years later (25 years after the promise) (1852 BC).   
Isaac is weaned and mocked by Ishmael 5 years later (30 years after the promise) (1847 BC).  
Jacob is born 55 years later (85 years after the promise) (1792 BC).  
Joseph is born 91 years later (1701 BC).  
Joseph is sold into slavery when he’s 17 (1684 BC).  
Joseph is made second in command to Pharaoh when he is 30 (1671 BC)  
Nine years later (**1662 BC**) Jacob and family (70 people) come to Egypt.   
(**215 years after the promise**)  
Joseph lived 71 more years (1591 BC).  
A new Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites. Amose rules (1557-1532) Father of Amenhotep I.  
Moses was born 64 years after death of Joseph, 5 years after Amenhotep I comes to power (1527 BC)  
Moses kills Egyptian and flees Egypt (1487 BC)  
The Exodus happens 40 years later (**1447 BC**) (from 70 people to now 600,000 fighting men)  
(**215 years after they enter Egypt & 430 years after the promise**)

Remember the 4 generations in the promise to Abram: In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here  
Levi (son of Jacob) entered Egypt with his son Kohath.  
His son Amram was the father of Moses.

Passover isn't a history lesson on slavery like we knew in America.

This is not Roots. There is no Kunte Kinte.

The Jews lived in Goshen in their own home with flocks and herds and crops.  
They sacrificed their own lambs at Passover.  
Goshen was in the Nile Delta, the northern land and the best of Egypt.   
  
The Pharaoh of Joseph’s day wanted his family to live in the main cities, but Joseph, perhaps prophetically got them the land of Goshen by saying his family were shepherds, which were an abomination to the Egyptians. Joseph served Pharaoh 80 years.

When Jacobs sons sold their brother joseph into slavery in Egypt, it was for money, and a very common thing at that time.

But God was able to raise him up to become the second in command of all Egypt – that’s not usual in slavery.

The Pharaoh of Joseph’s time was probably a **Hyksos king with the Semitic name Salitis**.  
The Hyksos were Canaanites and Semitics, not Egyptians.

The Semitics were descendants of Shem (son of Noah), and the Canaanites were descendants of Ham (also a son of Noah) and both spoke Hebrew and Arabic.   
Abraham was also a descendant of Shem, so the Pharaoh would have seen Joseph as a brother, not an enemy or foreigner.

God gave Joseph a strategy in a dream to deal with a famine that was coming on the land.

During seven years of plenty Pharaoh would tax the people 20%; they would pay with their crops, and Joseph would store up their grain in the name of Pharaoh.

Then the next seven years as they ran out of grain he would buy their land and freedom as he sold them back that same grain.

So after the famine, everyone was now essentially a servant or slave of Pharaoh and he owned all of the land.

Except Joseph and his family. They were given the land of Goshen, and were free.

This is why during their time in the desert, many would say let’s go back to Egypt – it was better there.

By the time Moses came along the Egyptians were mighty again and conquering all the way up through Canaan into Syria.

They didn’t realize that God had not just delivered them, but destroyed one of their greatest enemies and eliminated the threat of invasion.

**Our history shapes who we are. Passover is an encounter with God’s master plan. It’s resting in His hands and letting His peace take control. It’s asking for understanding, not complaining about situations. God uses situations to help reveal to us who our Pharaohs, then brings deliverance, cuts the puppet string so we can stop doing things we really want to stop.**

**3). When a New Pharaoh Came to Power,**

The Pharaoh of Joseph’s time was probably a **Hyksos king with the Semitic name Salitis**.  
The Semitics were descendants of Shem (like Abraham) who spoke Hebrew and Arabic  
The Hyksos conquered and ruled the upper Nile Delta area for about 150 years.

When the Egyptians came back into power they would have seen the Israelites as the same as the Hyksos, so they would have hated them and made them slaves. And since they had been invaded by Semitic people they were wary that the Israelite population was increasing and could help the Canaanites return to power. So they made them slaves in the sense that they were forced labor.

When we arrive at the story of Moses, Pharaoh is now killing the Israelite baby boys by throwing them in the river, hoping to shrink the size of their population.

God arrives on the scene ready to deliver His children and punish their task masters.

And reveal Himself to the Egyptians and to his children because they had been in Egypt for four generations. The gods of Egypt were more real to them then the true living God.

The plagues were His way to reveal Himself as the true God.

It's not about what happened 3500 years ago.

It's about the idols in your heart and in my heart. And what God has to do to push them over so He can reveal Himself. So that He can ascend the throne of our heart. He has to get us out of Egypt and Egypt out of us.

He's passing over us to protect us. Death is passing over. Maybe not tomorrow or next week or next year. But death is coming. And there must be blood on our door. Jesus’ head, hands, and feet were that door. In heaven He will still bear those scars. Because He is the door of blood that enables us to live. He is the lamb that was slain to take away the sins of the world.

**Who was the Pharaoh – Who is Your Pharaoh**

Egyptian’s Kamose and his brother Amose drove the Hyksos out of Egypt about 35 years after Joseph died.  
About 25 years later Amenhotep I would come to power and was the one who killed the Israelite babies near the time of the birth of Moses.  
The Daughter of Pharaoh who raised Moses was probably Hatshepsut (when she was 15).  
She was the daughter of Thoot-**moh**-suh the I.  
Hatshepsut married her half-brother Thutmose II. He was old and soon died.   
Upon his death, Thutmose III took his place, but was still too young to rule (Hatshepsut was co-regent). When she died, Thutmose III extended the empire and is considered the greatest conqueror in Egyptian history.   
He was the first Egyptian king to use the name Pharaoh. He conquered all the way up to Megiddo.  
Amenhotep II came to power briefly (4 years). He was young and so would not have known who Moses was when he was living in Egypt.   
History records that shortly after **Amenhotep’s** **co-regency began, his son died mysteriously.**History also records that **Pharaoh Thutmose III died in the same year (in the Red Sea).  
But they covered his death up by naming the next Pharaoh Amenhotep II**, but scribes made mistakes so they were able to track down their cover up.

Our pharaohs or kings may be hard to spot. Who is really in control of our thoughts, words, and deeds.

You can spot Pharaoh’s because even if they start out good – eventually you’re a slave to the thing you loved.

God doesn’t expect you to deliver yourself or win by self-control – God is our deliverer. Jesus endured the cross and it’s shame to set us free, and we are raised to life again with Him. The Passover story is a how-to book on freedom.

**4). The God of War**

God dealt with their top ten idols / false gods

He was saying, “Your hope is in…this false god…but your prayers will only be answered by the Living God.

This Passover we are in the year 5777. It's 777. The Sword is in the hand of God.

This Passover is all about how God fights for you.

Deuteronomy 20:4 For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

Deuteronomy 20:1 "When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.

Exodus 15:3 "The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.

Isaiah 42:13 The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry He will prevail against His enemies.

Deuteronomy 33:27 "The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'

Passover is about re-discovering the God of War who fights for your life and eternity.

The Bible says, “Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.”

Aaron does the talking for Moses, but spiritually speaking they are walking into the palace filled with idols and knocking them over one statue at a time

First plague of blood lasted 7 days. The Ninth plague of darkness lasted 3 days.

They visit, knock over the false god and leave the Pharaoh and the people to suffer.

Exodus 11 says, Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh’s officials and by the people.

Moses and Aaron are sent as messengers of the Lord, to Pharaoh, to instruct him to let the children of Israel go "so that they may serve the Lord."

Pharaoh responds, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." His answer was soon to come.

The plagues were going to reveal something to everyone:  
the power of God to Moses, the deliverer to the children of Israel, the real God to Egyptians, and Pharaoh, They are still remembered by the whole world thousands of years later.

God was there to execute judgment against the false gods (over 80 gods including pharaoh)  
Only 10 plagues because 10 means complete. So they were completely plagued, He withheld nothing.

Their many deities were believed to be present in, and in control of, the forces of nature. Rituals such as prayers and offerings and magic were efforts to provide for the gods and gain their favor.

The Living God was there to teach the Israelites and Egyptians that He alone was God so He struck at their economy and their confidence in their gods.

Every plague was directed at one or more of these false gods. The plagues were not random to the Egyptians or to the Israelites.

Let’s move from Egypt to our own hearts. What is God saying?

What you cling to, defines you

Many Egyptians were also delivered in the exodus

The Egyptians who followed became followers of God. They were redefined.

What you choose to follow, you will lose because God is revealing its impotence. It's inability to rule.

Temptation that is irresistible, reveals a hardened heart

He is revealing their weaknesses and their destiny

He is separating you from your sins and your masters

**5). Plagues and The gods of Egypt [1446 BC]**

**The Very First Plague, Turning the Nile into Blood**, was a direct hit on quite a few gods:

And it would remain blood for 7 days, an entire week to prove God’s complete dominance.

**Khnum** was the guardian of the Nile sources.

**Hapi** was the spirit of the Nile and a water bearer (manifested in a crocodile) they actually sang songs of adoration to him.

**Osiris** was the god of the underworld – the river Nile was considered his bloodstream.

When the Nile turned to blood, the fish died. Several of their gods protected the fish.

Blood was everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars that were used as offering bowls before the gods of Egypt.

It was probably the first plague because the Nile had protected Moses when he was placed in its waters by his mother as a baby. Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh’s officials and by the people.) God was saying that He had protected Moses, not these false gods. Moses was His prophet.

**The Plague of Frogs:** The Egyptians deified frogs. They were sacred and they could not be killed –   
it was actually a crime punishable by death. So the plague forced the Egyptians to tread on them and watch them all die and rot. The frog goddess was called **Heket** who assisted women in childbirth.

**The Plague of Lice:** **Geb** was the Egyptian God over the dust of the earth. Aaron was told to stretch forth his rod and smite the dust of the earth. When he did the dust became lice throughout all the land, on both people and beasts. The magicians of Pharaoh profess, "this is the finger of God."

This was the last plague that required Aaron's involvement - Moses steps up.

It’s also the last plague that affected the Israelites.

**The Plague of Flies:** **Khepri** - Egyptian God of creation, had the head of a fly. Flies deposit their eggs on other living things (creation). Pharaoh begins bargaining with the Lord. He tries to dictate the terms, telling them they may sacrifice but only "in the land" not a "three days journey". Moses wouldn't budge, and Pharaoh relented allowing them to leave, but telling them not to "go very far." He quickly changes his mind.

**The Plague of Cattle Disease**: Turns out there were a lot of cow gods in Egypt:  
**Hathor** was the goddess of love, beauty and joy – and was represented by a cow.  
**Ptah** and **Mnevis**, were sacred bulls. This plague created a huge economic disaster (food, transportation, military supplies, farming, and economic goods that were produced from cattle).

**The Plague of Boils: Sekhmet** was a lion‐headed goddess, supposed to have the power of both creating epidemics and ending them. **Serapis** was the deity charged with the responsibility of healing. Imhotep was the god of medicine and guardian of the healing sciences. **Isis**- Egyptian Goddess of Medicine and Peace. Cleanliness being huge in the Egyptian society, this plague made the people "unclean." So now, even the magicians can’t perform ceremonies because they’re unclean. They can’t even stand before Pharaoh; this is their last appearance in the story.

**The Plague of Hail and Fire Raining Down**: **Nut** was the sky goddess. Flax and barley were ripening in the fields.

**The Plague of Locusts:** **Isis and Seth** had responsibilities relating to agricultural crops. Seth was the Egyptian God of Storms and Disorder. This wonder definitely affected their life source. By hitting them in their food supply, the Lord displayed the possibility of eminent death if a change of heart did not occur. Yet still, Pharaoh would not listen.

**The Plague of Darkness: Ra** was the sun god - one of Egypt’s greatest gods. His consistent provision of life‐giving light and warmth every day without fail was venerated. Three days of palpable darkness, that was so immense it could be physically felt, covered the land of Egypt. The sun, the most worshipped God in Egypt other than Pharaoh himself, gave no light. Darkness was a representation of death, judgment and hopelessness. Darkness was a complete absence of light. You can imagine The shadow of darkness following Moses out of the palace to leave Pharaoh in the dark until he acknowledged the living God.

**Death of Firstborn: Min** was the god of procreation and reproduction.

**Isis** was the symbol of fertility or power to produce offspring.

**Hathor** goddess of love was one of seven deities who attended the birth of children.

The **Apis** bull was a firstborn animal and greatly revered.

**Pharaoh** was considered a god so the death of his firstborn was the death of the son of god!

**Osiris** was the God of the underworld and life and death. All of Egypt was about to learn that death wasn't a god but an angel sent to open every locked door in Egypt to snatch the life from their first born.

\*\*\***Osiris** was also worshipped as the God who caused the Nile to flood. The Egyptian army marched into the Red Sea probably assuming he would protect them. A false god is the wrong god to put your hope in. So is sin.

**The Destruction of Mankind (also called The Book of the Cow of Heaven) Papyrus**,   
inscribed on the tomb walls of Seti I, Ramesses II, and Ramesses III (Valley of the Kings)  
describes Hathor’s divine punishment of Egyptians with the foreigners, who survive the suffering, separated from Ra. The king asks the gods of the water why they let them drown and be defeated.  
  
The parallels with the Exodus story are striking and   
Erik Hornung, in his German translation, finds a “startling” name for Ra that has Exodus parallels.

Evidently it means “I am I” or “I am that I am” [Egyptian root Yawi ]. Since in the given context it must mean: “... as whom I have proven to be” ...the early [ancient] theology [surrounding] God’s name YHWH.

Brad Sparks also discovered further parallels from the tomb painting of Seti I, 1300 BC:   
I discovered “similar content” documents with color pictures of the Exodus - the parting of the Red Sea and the mass drowning of the Egyptian army.

**6). The First Passover**

When the Jews woke in the early morning and knocked on doors every household was weeping. Hundreds of thousands of homes filled with death. Every household wanted them gone. Every household was willing to give them treasure to make them go. By the time they buried their dead and chased the Jews to the Red Sea, God was waiting for them there.

Exodus 10 Pharaoh pronounces the last plague. Pharaoh said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die.”   
Listen to the words of Moses:  
29 “Just as you say,” Moses replied. “I will never appear before you again.” 4 So Moses said, “This is what the Lord says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.’ Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. 8 All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will leave.” Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

Israel is no longer just watching. They are given "The Feast of Passover", "The Feast of Unleavened Bread", and "The Law of the Firstborn." (the law of sacrifice, the law of the gospel, and the law of consecration - “After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, 12 you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord…Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

11 Now the Lord had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. 2 Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold.” 3 (The Lord made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh’s officials and by the people.)

12:17 “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses.

24 “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ 27 then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

31 **During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.”**

33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!” 34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38 Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

We overcome him (defeat him) with the blood, word, choosing not to fear.

Passover is all of that. It's a reset. A rescue.

It's not enough to stop sinning. It's enough to cause your enemy to so fear you that he gives you spoils to leave.

Resisting requires your strength.   
Overcoming is crying out to God to take complete control and being delivered.

**7). Numbers 9 The Second Passover**

Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying: 2 “Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time…And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight, in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

6 Now there were certain men who were defiled by a human corpse, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day; and they came before Moses and Aaron that day. 7 And those men said to him, “We became defiled by a human corpse. Why are we kept from presenting the offering of the Lord at its appointed time among the children of Israel?”

8 And Moses said to them, “Stand still, that I may hear what the Lord will command concerning you.”

9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord’s Passover. 11 On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it.

The Power of Return – It’s Never Too Late

“It is never too late to remedy a past failing. The Second Passover represents the power of teshuvah -- the power of return. Teshuvah is often translated as repentance, but it is much more than changing or receiving forgiveness. The Teshuvah found in the Second Passover is the power to go back in time and redefine the past.   
  
When a negative action’s significance is completely transformed, that’s teshuvah.  
When a person's contact with death evokes in him a striving for life that he would never have marshalled without that experience; or when his wanderings on distant roads awaken in him a yearning for home that he would never have otherwise felt – God can restore us, not to brand new, but scarred and stronger because of our failure and His redemption.   
Death transforms us into someone who embrace life; the loner becomes a hugger.

One of the primary differences between the two Passovers:  
The normal Passover is followed by a seven-day festival, Unleavened Bread  
while the Second Passover is just a single day.

7 days represents life – living in what Jesus has done for you  
7 days demonstrates a holy walk. As we walk in Christ, “the Bread of Life,” we demonstrate a continuous keeping of this feast, “Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (I Cor. 5:8).

1 day represents – a new perspective – life is now just one day at a time – no time to judge others – no time to condemn your self – you have been raised to life with Jesus – your life is over – Christ now lives His life in you.

**8). The Third Passover**  
They had been traveling to Canaan for two years, but as they were ready to enter, they sent 12 spies, 10 gave a bad report.

Numbers 14:14 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.   
2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” 4 And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

26 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: 27 “How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. 28 So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: 29 In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. 34 For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.’ 35 I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die.”

38 years later as they came to the Jordan to cross over they celebrated their 3rd Passover.

Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”  
14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”  
15 The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

After the death of Moses, Joshua led the people. He brought them to the edge of the overflowing Jordan River, and commanded the priests and the people to move forward. God dried up the river and they crossed over on dry ground. Then Joshua ensured that all the men were circumcised and the Passover was celebrated.   
These were signs of God’s covenant with Israel, but they had been neglected during the years of wandering in the wilderness. Before they could move on they had to put right what had been wrong. Joshua was obedient!

Joshua 5:6 The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. 8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. 9 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. 10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.

What is the reproach of Egypt and Why were they not circumcised in the desert?  
Those who God delivered from Egypt (were circumcised) but refused to obey God, instead they acted like slaves or Egyptians (who were slaves to sin) so they were condemned to die in the desert. Their sons were to also bear their shame and God refused to let them be circumcised until they crossed the Jordan in faith.  
So the mass circumcision was, in essence, God saying, “you are My people, not Egyptians worshipping false gods.”

The third Passover is about finding our identity in Him.

It’s not about blaming our parents or family or upbringing or life situations.

It’s about looking forward, moving forward, and becoming who God tells you to be, because that is who you are.

Past failures are literally cut away. Like the miracle of the Red Sea 40 years before, they are baptized in the Jordan during a miracle crossing. Instead of the Egyptian army being destroyed behind them. All their enemies are defeated before them.

They were called an army when they were leaving Egypt, but then refused to obey.

Now they become the army of the Lord and the people of the earth come to fear the Lord and discover who He is.

**Start here adding to podcast 10:15 break**

**9) The 1,410th Passover – The Last Supper**

**What is Passover**In Jerusalem one of my favorite stops was the Mount of Olives, just above the temple area, on the way to Bethany, where Jesus would travel back and forth when He was in the area.

It’s where Jesus defined Passover in a most beautiful way –  
It’s why I love Passover so much.  
It’s kind of a hidden meaning for Passover because it’s mostly lost in translation.

Jesus is looking down at Jerusalem and He refers to a verse from Isaiah 31.  
“Like birds hovering overhead, the Lord Almighty will shield Jerusalem; he will shield it and deliver it, he will ‘pass over’ it and will rescue it.” Isaiah 31:5

**Passover (paw-saach) literally means:**

* to protect or shield with wings, like a mother bird her young
* to spare someone - to give them immunity from calamity

Matthew 23:37-39 says "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often I have longed** to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

To paraphrase Him: How often I have longed to be your Passover – to hold you close – to be your champion  
Passover is about intimacy with God  
Passover is an encounter with Jesus  
He longs to pull us in close to His heart

God has filled the Biblical Calendar with a bunch of these encounters with Him  
The more you encounter Him in the ways He created  
The more these encounters become one continuous encounter with Him every day  
  
**Jesus longs to eat this meal with you.**Luke 22 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have **eagerly desired** (longed) to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

Those are the only two times Jesus longed for anything in scripture.   
He wants to be your Passover – to hold you close  
He wants to eat it with you and hear you testify about Him  
You can continue to neglect it here on earth -  
But He just told you He will be eating it with you in heaven  
He will be waiting at your table – Your response is up to you

**Three Celebrations in One**Feast of Unleavened Bread is 7 days with no yeast   
Which represents your walk with Jesus day to day with no sin or pride in your life  
Passover is when you taste and see that He is good – every food points to Him and the cross  
Feast of Firstfruits – Resurrection of Jesus and all the saints in Hades – It’s your birthday

**10) Watchnight**Exodus 12:41-42 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years - on that very same day - it came to pass that **all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt**. 42 It is a night of solemn observance to the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the Lord, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.  
  
Passover – first born were going to die. Even in the Jewish homes there was fear.

If you were the first born would you have slept with the death angel in town?

If you were a mom would you have slept that night?

This watchnight became a tradition – stay up all night and pray.

Garden of Gethsemane - This gives a deeper meaning to “could you not tarry even one hour”.   
He asked them to keep watch with Him – the death angel was coming for Him later on the cross.

**Setting the stage for Passover**

Jesus condemns the Pharisees as children of hell.

He prophecies the temples destruction.

He warns his followers to escape the destruction that Titus would bring in 70A.D.

1 million Jews were killed when Jerusalem was destroyed but not one Christian perished.

**Passover Changed Everything**

What changed about offerings? From Adam to Abraham to Jacob to Passover in Egypt?   
Eating the sacrifice at Passover. Before then, God walked through the pieces with Abram, or they placed it on an altar and burned it entirely.

Passover is a different meal for a different reason.

Fast forward to when they entered the promised land and were ready to destroy Jericho.

* First they circumcised those born in the dessert.   
  God has done that to our hearts.
* Then they ate Passover. So God was literally in them.
* Then God stopped the manna from falling each morning. We are co-laborers with Him.

Do you see a theme:   
They ate Passover before they defeated the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.   
They ate it before facing Jericho.   
Jesus ate it before facing the cross.   
Is there some reason we think we don't need pre-workout?

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 5:13-15 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, **“Are you for us or for our enemies?”**

14 “**Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”** Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

15 The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

We think he's talking about an angel army.   
Angels didn’t knock down the walls of Jericho.

But he's talking about Exodus 12:42

We are the Army of the Lord.

Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence   
He said at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth  
Commander of the Army of the Lord is one of His names

The rocks in those walls knew enough to bow their knees

Let me paraphrase how Jesus responds to Joshua’s question.   
How is it you don't recognize me?   
I shielded you from the death angel.   
Met you in the cloud and fire and on the mountain and tent of meeting.

I am the Passover you just ate.

The question Joshua is, “whose side are you on”.   
I noticed your shoes are still on.

You have a plan to take the walled city of Jericho?   
You want to lead this army? Or do you want to take your shoes off.

He's still asking us the same question.   
We ignore our invitations to Passover?   
We neglect to give our families Communion?   
Are we waiting for a priest to do that?   
We are kings and priests.

War is coming. It's time to take our place in the ranks.

There is not an issue we are facing that can refuse to bow its knee to our Commander.

**11) Anti Semitism**

Passover Seders are not common at most churches. In fact, you may wonder how this Passover meal, which Jesus eagerly desired to eat and specifically asked us to celebrate “often” to honor Him, has become forgotten, and in most cases has been replaced by communion.

The apostles treasured the Feasts of the Lord and passed them on to the early church fathers. But with the passing of the apostle John, around 100 A.D., the division of the Church into East and West, and the growing power of Rome, the Eucharist was celebrated on Easter and anything “Jewish” became increasingly outlawed.

In 155 A.D., Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna and a disciple of John, appealed to Pope Anicetus to celebrate the Passover just as Jesus and the early church had. He was rejected. In 197 A.D., Victor, the Bishop of Rome insisted that all churches accept the Dominical Rule of celebrating Easter rather than Passover.

At the Council of Nicea, (325 A.D.) Constantine, as Emperor of Rome, established his infamous 'Easter Edict,' cursing and cutting off all Believers who would dare follow any traditions of the hated 'Jews'. Constantine made observing any Jewish tradition a heresy punishable by persecution and death: “And first of all, it appeared an unworthy thing that in the celebration of this most holy feast we should follow the practice of the Jews, who have impiously defiled their hands with enormous sin, and are, therefore, deservedly afflicted with blindness of soul…Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd; for we have received from our Saviour a different way. A course at once legitimate and honorable lies open to our most holy religion. Beloved brethren, let us with one consent adopt this course, and withdraw ourselves from all participation in their baseness…”  
From then on the Julian Calendar, a Roman **solar** calendar, was given precedence over the Hebrew **lunar** Calendar among the Christian churches of the Roman Empire.

Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. If the first full moon occurs on the equinox, Easter is the following Sunday.

According to lunar reckoning Passover began on the evening of the 14th day of the moon of the month of Nissan without regard to the day of the week, while the gentile Christians identified it with the first day of the week (the Sunday of the Resurrection, irrespective of the day of the month). Those who followed the other reckoning were stigmatized as heretics. (For more details see Quartodecimanism and Easter controversy).”

The Council of Laodicea (363 A.D.) enacted the following canon "Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor, and as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ."

Saint Chrysostom (c. 349 – 407) wrote that those of Jewish origins, who defile the Church by the observance of the Jewish feasts and festivals, were "heretics" and should not be allowed inside the Church.

Acts 12:4 - King James Version ONLY  
*“And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*”  
The word translated Easter is pascha, which is translated rightly as Passover in every other version of the Bible.

Sadly, few Christians are aware of the significance of the celebration, let alone how to embrace this amazing tradition. Imagine a feast – a meal that lasts hours because you are saying goodbye to someone you love and won’t see for a very long time. You want to talk, tell stories, reminisce and have enough food so you can just sit around all night and talk and laugh. That’s the essence of Passover.

The symbols involved all point to Jesus and spending an evening focusing on Him will strengthen your faith. So here’s your challenge, set aside tonight Tuesday April 11th (or Wednesday April 12th), plan a family night and make everyone’s favorite foods, just skip any breads or deserts that are made with yeast. Plan out the evening in a way you can share how Jesus set you free from sin; it’s not formal teaching, it’s a night of testimonies and sharing stories of how God has blessed and provided.

**12). Passover Elements**There are things to do that have meaning and there are things to eat that have meaning:

* **First Symbol of Passover: Light**Every Friday night at sunset at Jewish Sabbath meals, the woman of the household has the honor of lighting the festival lights. Likewise, to begin the Passover Seder, the woman of the household has the honor of lighting the festival lights at sunset.

Light is a symbol of God's presence. Why does a woman light the candles?

*Eve led the human race into sin, but God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus who would redeem mankind.*

*Notice: Eve was the first to fall. - And the first to be redeemed.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Festival lights.

God's not looking for Adams and Eve's. He's looking for Mary's.

He’s not looking for people that can follow rules – we all fail

He’s looking for people who will allow Him to be born in them

He wants to reveal Jesus

* **THE WASHING OF HANDS:**John 13 begins the Passover and it continues until the Garden of Gethsemane.

**The Jesus Passover - Changes**1. Washing - The Old Testament priests would do this elaborate bathing process to be clean so they could serve.   
  
For thousands of years the priests misunderstood that this was a shadow of the Messiah  
Instead they saw themselves as too clean to touch the unclean and hurting people.

The Bible says, “Jesus got up from the Passover meal…poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet.

Peters request for a bath was him trying to understand why Jesus was doing Passover wrong. Jesus was about to touch the food and serve it to them. You need clean hands.

Jesus said being clean or holy enables you to serve the unclean and hurting people.

2. Sop – Jesus gives it to Judas. It should have been given to Peter, James or John because it goes to your close friend. Taking the sop is saying yes you are my beloved too.    
This so confused Peter (He’s a zealot – he knows when things are done wrong)  
He gets defensive saying he would never betray Jesus.  
He again misses the purpose of the change in the tradition  
Jesus washed Judas’ feet and gave him the sop  
He’s saying “I know what’s in your heart – and I am your only hope”  
Jesus was a friend of sinners – not an accuser

3. Future not history in Egypt – Jesus reveals who He is as Messiah, and talks about the Father and the Holy Spirit.

4. Peace - John 14 my peace I give to you. He's dipping the egg in salt water. It's the peace offering. He's dividing up the roasted egg among them. Eat this.   
Jesus is shining a light on all of the sacrifices of the past.  
He’s saying, “This is more than an offering for your failures. It's my peace that I give to you. You don't have to make sacrifices anymore. I'm about to die for the sins of the world.

Jesus was the meal. He was the water. He was what it was all about. God serving fallen man. Rescuing redeeming. Becoming their Passover.

5. Next Jesus messes up the watch night service. You're supposed to stay in the room, but He takes them to the garden to wait for the death angel to come. He preaches and then He prays. They all fall asleep. Clearly none of them are the oldest son. But Jesus is. The guards are coming to take him to his death.   
Why did He change the tradition? After closing the Passover dinner, Jesus had to leave the city because the atonement Lamb's body was always offered up to God outside the city's walls. (Hebrews 13:11-14)]

6. In Gethsemane Judas, who ate the sop as his chosen beloved, he was the bride of Christ in that moment. And then just like Eve in the first garden, Judas betrays him. And Jesus says, with a kiss. He's saying, “Isn't this familiar.”

**13). The MATZAH, The Unleavened bread**. The Israelites fleeing Egypt had no time for it to rise. The bread without leaven. (pride and sin)  
  
The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the day after Passover and is celebrated for one week. You get rid of all yeast in your house – (no regular bread for a week)

Why no leaven and eat clothed and ready to leave? We live clothed in Christ and no longer see sin as our home. We can't little sins creep into our lives, and go unchecked because if we get distracted we may find ourselves in the world (Egypt) while our people and God have left with our destiny.

What causes you to sin that you could fast from for the next week?

We are the bread. Leaven or yeast is sin. The sin of pride causes us to puff up and think we are better than others. When we become Christians we get rid of all of our sin. We become unleavened bread.

Matzah reminds us that one day we’ll live in heaven with new bodies that have no sin.

* The **Roasted Lamb Bone** is a reminder of the Temple Sacrifice and the first Passover Lamb – they don’t eat lamb but we do (repentance)  
    
  **The Open and Closed Door**John 10:7-10: Then Jesus said to them again, "I am the door of the sheep.

Man of the house would look into the face of the lamb and slit its throat. Blood would run down on his feet and into the ditch at the foot of the doorway. He would take the hyssop branch with one hand as blood ran down his arm, then the other arm and finally the header as it sprinkled down onto his own head.

Four sides to the door - four cups of wine

* **The Four Cups of Juice/Wine represents the blood of the lamb –** *Jesus*  
  (Be Different – I Will Free You – Redemption – Cup of Praise/Joy)  
    
  You don’t fill the cups all the way full -   
  because you have to drink everything in the cup four separate times –   
  If it’s wine you’re drunk – If it’s juice you’re in a coma  
  Emptying the cups symbolizes that our joy is full.

**Kiddush - First Cup**This first cup means “be different”. [In Hebrew, Kiddush.]  
It’s what the angels are saying in heaven – Holy [In Greek hag'-ee-os]

This cup corresponds to the verse” "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Being different is the first step to being saved. Everybody is a sinner, but God is holy and we cannot be close to Him with sin. The punishment for sin is death. Jesus died for us (was punished for us), so we can be close to God.

* **Bitter Herbs** (**Horse Radish) (or Parsley for kids**), recall the bitterness of slavery. Traditionally this is grated by hand by the man of the house till he begins to cry. (Sin like the bitter herb tastes sweet at first, then bitter)

**14). BREAKING THE MIDDLE MATZAH -** Three Matzos are placed in a special white covering*.***The middle matzah is removed and broken.** The larger piece is wrapped and hidden, it is called the Afikoman - meaning “that which comes later” *[in Greek].*The Afikoman is hidden, or buried, and later whoever finds it gets a prize.

Stealing the afikoman is a re-enactment of Jacob stealing the blessings that were supposed to go to his brother Esau.

Why are there three matzos?   
It's a picture of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.   
The Son left heaven, was broken, buried, and then rose again alive.   
And whoever finds Him, or asks Jesus to forgive them and come and live in their heart,   
they receive a great reward, Eternal Life in heaven.

We single out this piece of bread because Jesus was foreordained to die for us.

We break it because He was broken for us. -   
We hide it because He was buried with our sin.

We will bring it out later because He rose again. -

We will eat it before the 3rd cup of wine because He was 3 days in the grave. -

And we will eat it because you must accept Jesus into your life to be saved.

HIDE the AFIKOMAN.

**THE FOUR QUESTIONS**And answer them by TELLING THE PASSOVER STORY  
Of Slavery of Pharaoh of 10 Plagues

**THE SECOND CUP – PLAGUES & INIQUITY**

Please refill up the second cup, the cup of the TEN PLAGUES. This cup corresponds to the verse: “I will free you from being slaves to them.”

A full cup represents joy, but we want to remember the Egyptians who died, so we going to say each plague, then dip our little finger into the cup, allowing a drop of wine to fall unto our plate, we do this to take away some of our joy.

**ALL REPEAT:** Our joy is not full because we were set free, butthe Egyptians died, and God has taught us to love our enemies.

These were the TEN PLAGUES which God brought upon the Egyptians in Egypt. **Blood, frogs, lice, swarms of insects, cattle disease, boil, hail, locusts, darkness, slaying of the first born.**

Drink the second cup, leaning to the left

**The Tribulation**

The Tribulation is mostly against the Antichrist. Only twelve verses out of 403 are persecution of the church. Three percent of the book of Revelation is persecution. Tribulation is the judgment of God destroying oppression. Like Moses and the Israelites in Goshen partnering with the Lord in prayer. Based on scripture (150 chapters on end times) and the shadows and types I believe the rapture is at the end not the beginning of the Tribulation. That said, when it happens, we will know for sure. Either way, be near Christ and you will be good.

Moses releases and stops the plagues as God directs him and as Pharaoh responds to them. The church is Moses.

The trumpets are hail, fire, blood. Then seas turn to blood, death of sea creatures and destroyed ships. Bitter water from a meteorite, then the sun, moon and stars are struck and darkness comes. Locusts like scorpions the size of horses. Four angels bring death (worldwide not just in Egypt). Two witnesses preach, are killed and resurrected. Earthquake and war. Dragons and two beasts, 666 - 144,000 redeemed, the great harvest, the winepress of the wrath of God.

We want our garments stained red. We want to drip with the blood of the lamb.   
The problem with an early rapture is the hands and feet of Jesus are gone when the great harvest arrives.

Revelation 16 – we are in heaven and the bowls are poured forth on those who took the mark of the beast. Then Jesus leads us into the final battle.

**MOTZI - MATZAH**

Take a pinch of salt and add it to your matzoh

“Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings.” Leviticus 2:13

Salt preserves, it purifies. We are the salt, Jesus is the bread

**MOTZI - MOROR & BITTER HERBS**

We now eat the Bitter Herbs mixed only with Charoses. (No Matzah is eaten)

We recall the bitterness of slavery when we choose to sin;   
we remember the suffering of Jesus who set us free;   
in the Charoses we taste the sweetness of God’s forgiveness

**KORECH -- MATZAH, BITTER HERBS SANDWICH**

We now eat the Matzah combined with bitter herbs, and the sweet Charoses.   
Again, we recall the bitterness of slavery or sin,   
and in the charoses the sweetness of God’s redemption.

This sandwich was eaten with Lamb during temples times in Jerusalem,   
It is also known as the sop.   
It is still the custom today to give this dipped sop to a loved one.   
Jesus gave it to Judas to identify him as the one who would betray Him.  
*Give sop to loved one*

**Alabaster Box** - This story of how Jesus was anointed before His crucifixion carries a beautiful illustration – she broke the alabaster box - but Mary could have simply opened it and poured out the nard; (extremely expensive and precious perfume which might have been Mary's dowry).   
In a Jewish wedding the cup of wine they share as part of their first meal is smashed to bind them together forever with no way for anyone else to partake  
Why did Mary break the alabaster box?  
She refused to use that box for any other purpose after anointing Him - if it was Mary's dowry it was an expression of a bridal vow to Jesus and no one else.  
This was a few days before Passover.

* A **Green Vegetable** (**Cucumber**) represents the hyssop branches used to apply the blood of the lamb to the doorpost. It is also considered a bitter herb.   
    
  The Eating of the Green Vegetable (Cucumber) in salt water.   
  Green is a symbol of life and Springtime.

The Bible says: The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his promise with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob (Exodus 2:23b-25)

This reminds us to pray and ask God for help because He promised to hear us and help us!

* The **Clay** of apples, nuts, cinnamon, and wine, represents the bricks and mortar the Israelites were forced to make under Pharaoh's taskmasters (Sin=Bondage)
* A **Roasted Egg** is a reminder of the Temple Holiday Sacrifice and it is also a symbol of life. It was offered at the Temple during the Feast of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. *(Deuteronomy 16:16) (*We need peace with God*)*
* **Salt Water** symbolizes the (tears) shed by the Israelite slaves. It also reminds us of when they crossed the salty Red Sea when they were set (free). *(Exodus 14:22)*

Notice that the meanings are all things we struggle with daily.   
The feasts are built to be our daily companions to remind us of His truth.

**15). EATING THE AFIKOMEN – eating it was optional because it was desert**

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

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

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

Sailors would often save some of the Afikomen to keep with them because it was believed to calm the sea. As it happens this was one of the miracles that Jesus did to help end the disciples’ unbelief (many of them were fishermen)

It was during the eating of this Afikoman (and the blessing of it) 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)*

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)*

In Jerusalem at Passover time*,* Jews got ceremonially clean, fixing up roads and whitewashing tombs to prevent travelers from seeking shelter in a cave which was really a tomb. (coming in contact with a dead body would make people ceremonially unclean.

After the eating of the afikoman, no other food may be eaten for the rest of the night, other than the last two cups of wine at the Seder and coffee, tea, or water…so that the taste of the matzo that was eaten during the meal remains in our mouths.

Jewish law prescribes that an olive-sized piece of matzo be eaten to commemorate the lamb, whose meat was eaten at the very end of the Seder meal in the days that the Temple stood.

**THE THIRD CUP – REDEMPTION**The Cup of Redemption / The Cup of Blessing:   
With this cup Israel remembers their deliverance from slavery, and their redemption from the plague of death by the blood of the first Passover Lamb.   
  
This cup corresponds to the verse: “I Will Redeem You”  
If the afikomen was His body, then obviously the third cup is His blood.

*“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. (Luke 22:20)*

This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" *(1 Corinthians 11:25b)*

**THE FOURTH CUP is the Cup of Praise / The Cup of Restoration**This cup corresponds to the verse “I will take you to be my people”.

At This Time of the last Super, the Word says:

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." (Mark 14:26,27,28)

***THE 5th CUP -* The cup of Elijah - The silent cup.**A special place at the table is set for Elijah.

John 19:28-30 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” 29A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 30When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since Jesus left Passover after the 4th cup, this is as close as He gets to a 5th cup as He heads to the grave

Elijah was one of the few people that didn’t die, but was taken by God to heaven.   
We similarly await the possibility of rapture.

You literally go and open the door

*I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; (Malachi 4:4-6a)*

We recall Jesus saying of John the Baptist:

*(For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. He who has ears, let him hear. (Matthew 11:13,14,15)*

John the Baptist would have been born around Passover.

His father Zechariah was a priest of the division of Abijah which would have placed him in the temple through the tenth week due to the Feast of Weeks (Sivan 12-18) when he would have spoken with the angel. He would have remained away from his wife for an additional two weeks due to the laws of separation. “When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people." Luke 1:23-25

This places the birth of John the Baptist at the time of the *Passover*    
Jesus would have been born 6 months later (during the Fall Feasts)  
  
The Seder customary ends by everyone saying:

**Next Year in Jerusalem!**

May the Lord bless you and protect you.  
May the Lord deal kindly and graciously with you.  
May the Lord bestow His favor upon you and grant you peace.

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| <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-zVIA-l1n3Jo/VJxWWKhEWmI/AAAAAAAABf4/6cg_2gzesrA/s1600/Bonus30b.jpg> |
| KV17: Seti I's tomb. Photo by Jean-Pierre Dalbéra  [Public Domain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KV17#mediaviewer/File:La_tombe_de_Sethi_1er_%28KV.17%29_%28Vall%C3%A9e_des_Rois,_Th%C3%A8bes_ouest%29_-3.jpg) |