

Passover 5778 - (Part 2 With Timeless Seder)

Let's do a very quick recap of why this meal is not common in churches today.

We are NOT celebrating Passover out of an obligation to the Ceremonial Law of Moses from the Old Testament. We are celebrating Passover because it is one of the most beautiful pictures of Jesus a Christian can discover. In discovering it, you will discover things about Him you are missing.

That said...a Disclaimer: *Colossians 2:16-17* "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or **with regard to a religious festival**, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; **the reality, however, is found in Christ.**"

If you never celebrate Passover, you are still just as holy.

If you love Good Friday and Easter, **celebrate them with all your heart.**

Jesus is worthy of being celebrated every hour of every day,

And In Eternity We Will Celebrate Him Continuously!

By 380 A.D., **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.**

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.

In Luke 19 Jesus prayed over Jerusalem, "*He saw the city and **wept** over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

1) Passover Changed Everything

- ❖ Passover in Egypt changed everything about sacrificial offerings and everything about their relationship to God.

For the first time the people were told to eat the sacrifice.

Why, because Jesus was the Passover Lamb?

Before then, God walked through the pieces of the sacrifice with Abram, or they placed it on an altar and burned it entirely.

The Passover meal is not a sacrifice that you can just watch burn
It has to enter you, to become one with you, to save you.

❖ **It's Personal**

Passover is the one time of year we must forget that we are all unique.

Passover is never about what "someone" did back then.

It's about what happened to "me" in Egypt and in the Garden of Eden, etc.

Passover isn't a history story,

It's a realization that you are in the story and the story is about you.

There is one man/woman and they need a Savior.

That one person is you. You need a Savior. Nothing else is more relevant.

❖ **Was The Last Supper a Seder?**

Was Jesus Crucified When The Passover Lambs Were Being Slain In The Temple Court?

If So, Then The Last Supper Occurred Before The Passover Lambs Were Killed,

So Some Say, Then It Could Not Have Been A True Seder With The Passover Lamb.

So, If It Was The Day Before Passover, What Meal Or Meat Was It?

There Were Different Festival Traditions in Different Places.

Jesus And His Disciples Were Galileans;

Therefore, They Would Have Observed The Galilean Traditions.

There were several differences between Judean and Galilean Passovers,

Galileans Observed The Fast of The Firstborns,

In Remembrance Of The Firstborn Israelites Who Were Saved From Death.

The Fast Took Place On Nisan 14, On The Day of Passover.

Those Obligated To Fast Include A Firstborn Son,

And The Father Of A First-Born Son Who Is Too Young To Fast.

So, In The Galilean Tradition, There Had To Be A Special Meal

At The Beginning Of Passover (Nisan 14th) Called **Seudah Mafseket**.

After This Meal, There Would Be A Whole Day Fast –

And Then The Next Meal Would Be The Passover Meal, The Seder.

So, In This Sense, This Special Meal Was Indeed The Last Supper.

The Same Special Meal Occurs in Israel Before The Yom Kippur Fast.

There Was More Than One Kind of Passover Lamb.

The Official One Had to Be From the Flock.

Additional Lambs Offered Were Peace Offerings

Or Festival Offerings That Came From The Herd Called A **Hagigah**.

Since You Had To Eat Or Burn All Of The Passover Lamb On The Night Of Passover,

The **Hagigah** Could Be Eaten Before Or After The Night Of Passover

So That There Would Be Meat For The Meals

During The Eight Nights Of The Feast Of Unleavened Bread.

❖ Since Most Of You Listening Or Watching Are Gentiles,

The Focus Of This Passover Seder Is:

Not Just On God Delivering The Israelites From Egypt

But On What God Has Done For Israel & All Mankind (All Of Us) From Eden To Egypt

And From Jesus On The Cross To The Modern Day Church

And We Will Track All The Way To The Wedding Supper Of The Lamb In Heaven.
We Are Going to Celebrate The Timeless Passover

- ❖ **Encourage Attending a Seder at a Messianic Congregation**
- ❖ **The Passover Elements Are Next - There is Meaning in Everything We Do and Eat.**

2) The First Two Symbols Are Things You Remove

➤ **First You Remove Leaven**

You Remove It From The House The Day Before Passover (The 14th)

So It's A Symbol That Not Really Present,
But The Fact That It's NOT Present, Makes It VERY Present.

➤ **Second You Remove Work**

Passover Is a Part of The 7-Day Feast of Unleavened Bread

It Includes 2 High Sabbaths

No Work Is To Be Done The First Day or the Last Day of the Feast

Plus the Normal Friday Sabbath,

(unless one of the High Sabbaths already occurred on a Friday, as it does this year).

Why Does God Hyper-Focus On Rest?

Rest Represents How God Deals With Our Sin.

He Deals With It From First To Last

Our Part is Repentance. To Stop the Action of the Sin.

And to Stop Heaping on Guilt and to stop Shaming Ourselves.

They Are All Actions. They Are All Work.

If You Are in Ministry, You Owe It to Yourself and Your Family to Rest Once Every Week.

Sunday Doesn't Count. It's The Busiest Day For People In Ministry.

Warning! The Jews Turned Resting Into Performance.

They Literally Turned Rest Into Work.

They Focused On How Resting Made Them Holy. It Didn't.

God Made Them Rest So They Could Experience Intimacy With Him

In A Place Of No Performance.

The Word For **Sacrifice** In Hebrew Is "**Korban**"; Its Root Comes From The Word "**Karov**"
Which Means **Closeness**, Or Relative.

So Sacrifice Produces Closeness.

In the case of the Passover/Cross,

the sacrifice eliminated the chasm of sin and death that separated us from God
and it produced closeness between man and God.

He longs for intimate relationship with us.

What's the Rest about?

The 8-Day Feast Is Your Walk Thru Life.

You Enter Salvation by Rest. You Exit Life by Rest.

It's A Reminder That Our Faith And Trust Is In Him.

➤ **There a 2 Kinds of Rest**

- Literally **Physically** Stopping What We Do in Our Normal Week of Work
- **Spiritually** Stopping. Repent. Don't Bear The Weight Of Our Sin
 - Don't Muscle Thru...Saying "I Can Handle It"

➤ **The Next Symbol Is The First Thing You Add: Light**

Light Is Present From The First Chapter Of Genesis To The Last Chapter Of Revelation.

Genesis 1 Then God said, **“Let there be light”**; and there was light.

Exodus 27 (The Lampstand in the Tabernacle) “And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to **Cause The Lamp To Burn Continually.**

Matthew 5 **“You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

John 8 “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I Am The Light Of The World. He Who Follows Me Shall not walk in darkness, but Have The Light Of Life.”**

Acts 13 For so the Lord has commanded us: **‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’**”

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 Lights the Candles and Leads the Prayer.

- [Pray and Light the Candles](#)
- [A basic prayer focused on Light:](#)
Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel,
our Father, forever and ever.
You are the Light of the World
You are Holy and You have made us holy
through the shed blood of Jesus
and caused us to be a light to the nations

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.

Eve was the first to fall.

And the first to be redeemed.

3) The Four Cups of Juice/Wine Represents the Blood of the Lamb – Jesus (Be Different [Holy] – 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**

Emptying the cups symbolizes that our joy is full.

Wine or Juice Mixed with Water

- **Blood and Water** John 19:33-35 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden **flow of blood and water**.

- **MISHNA: Passover wine was red and mixed with warm water.**
Why? It reminded them of the blood of the Passover lamb:
 - ❖ On the eve of any Passover it is not lawful for a person to eat anything from the time of afternoon prayer until after dusk...**nor shall a person have less than four cups of wine, even if they must be given him from the funds devoted to the charitable support of the very poor.**

 - ❖ The **Earliest** references to these mixtures has a ratio of **two-parts water and one-part wine. Later**, in the Talmud, **the ratio is three to one.**

 - ❖ **Early Christians mirrored that of Judaism.** In Justin Martyr's First Apology, the elements of the Lord's Supper are bread and "wine mixed with water".

 - ❖ **Mix the First Cup of Wine / Juice (Wait to Drink)**

➤ The First Cup (Kiddush)

This First Cup means **“Be Different or Holy”**

It's what the angels are saying in heaven (**Holy, Holy, 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.

First Cup - Then **God Blessed The Seventh Day And Called It Holy**, for God rested on that day, having completed the work of creation. (Genesis 1:31-2:3)

- **Give Thanks:** **“Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 1 Chronicles 29:10-12**

Drink the 1st Cup

4) The Door & The Water

John 10:7-10: Then Jesus said to them again, "I am the Door of the sheep.

The 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 to put blood on each side of the door
blood ran down one arm, then the other arm
and finally he would wipe **blood on the header that sprinkled down onto his own head.**

- **Four Sides to the Door of Blood**
- **Four Cups of Wine**
- **Four Kinds of Prayer**
 1. **Light**
 2. **Wine**
 3. **Kiddush**
 4. **Benediction**

The Washing of Hands

The Old Testament priests had an elaborate bathing process **to become clean so they could serve.** The law said the unclean had to stay separate from everyone else.

The priests thought that the laws meant that they were better than others and **too clean to touch the unclean and hurting people.**

But the washing was a shadow of the Messiah who would touch us to make us all clean.

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

Peter's 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.

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

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.

Psalm 24 "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?"

- He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
- Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.

At This Point in A Seder: You Can Wash Your Hands or Wash Feet.

5) The Unleavened Bread (Matzah)

Three Matzos Are Stacked Together The Middle Matzah is Removed and Broken.

The larger piece is wrapped and hidden, **it is called the Afikoman**

Afikoman if from the Greek “aphikomenos”, it means “**He Is Coming.**”

Afikoman if from the Greek “epikomen”, it means “**that which comes after (dessert).**”

It’s the only Greek word in the Seder and no one knows where it came from historically.

Why Are There Three Matzos?

- Some say it’s the: **Priests, Levites, and Israelites.**
There is no logic to why the Levites would be broken or hidden.
- Others say it’s **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**
 - The Middle Matzah That Is Broken Would Correspond to Isaac.
 - Both Isaac and Jesus Were Born Miraculously
 - Both Were Only Begotten Sons
 - Both Willingly Submitted to Execution
 - Both Show That One Life Can Be Sacrificed for Another
 - A Ram for Isaac and Jesus for Mankind
 - Both Were Sacrificed by Their Father on Mount Moriah
 - Both Were “Resurrected” On The Third Day

According to Jewish tradition, the Messiah was supposed to come at Passover to bring a redemption like unto the redemption brought through Moses.

This is why a place is left at the table for Elijah, the forerunner of the Messiah.

- **Christians believe 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.

Why is it wrapped up and hidden?

- ❖ The Jews believe it is wrapped in a cloth as a remembrance of the way the Jews left Egypt with their unleavened bread. “*The people picked up their dough when it was not yet leavened, their leftovers bound in their garments on their shoulders.*”
- ❖ They believe it represents their liberation from Egypt. But since they are still awaiting the final redemption with the coming of the Messiah. Hiding the larger half of the matzah reminds them that the best redemption is still hidden in the future.
- ❖ **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.

Kosher? - No bread for 7 days – what?

We are not kosher by what goes into our mouth but what comes out of our heart and mouth

Flatbread uses baking powder - so it doesn't require yeast to rise but technically it's leaven we are supposed to avoid.

A softer Matzah? Go with Tortilla Shells – Eat Mexican (hay-suus)

Matzah reminds us that one day we'll live in heaven with new bodies without sin.

6) The Meal Begins

➤ **Exodus 12 Lists 5 Things That Are Important About The Meal (Which Is Jesus):**

1. "Then they shall eat the flesh [of the Lamb] on that night; **Roasted In Fire,**
2. **with Unleavened Bread**
3. **and with Bitter Herbs** they shall eat it.
4. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—
its head with its legs and its entrails. **You Shall Let None Of It Remain Until Morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.**
5. And thus you shall eat it: **With A Belt On Your Waist, Your Sandals On Your Feet, And Your Staff In Your Hand. So You Shall Eat It In Haste. It is the Lord's Passover.**"

I. **Why Is It Roasted In Fire?**

Hebrews 12: Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
For our God is a consuming fire.

II. **Why Is There No Leaven?**

"Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Bread without leaven means **To live without pride and sin.**

The Real Issue is Waiting and Hesitating. What's holding you back?

What are you holding onto that's causing you to pause or wait or hesitate walking closely with God?

III. **Why Do You Eat Bitter Herbs?**

It makes us **recall the bitterness of slavery.**

Sin like the bitter herb tastes sweet at first, then bitter.

IV. **Why Must You Eat All Of The Lamb?**

It's not about still being hungry.

You can't pick and choose the parts of Jesus you like and neglect the others.

You can't come and go.

It's not just your presence inside the house with blood on the door that keeps you safe, but the presence of the lamb inside of them.

V. **Why Do You Eat It Clothed And Ready To Leave?**

We live clothed in Christ and no longer see sin as our home.

We can't let 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.

➤ **Break The Top Piece of Bread and Along with the Remaining Part of The Middle Piece Hand It Out To Be Eaten As Part Of The Meal.**

Since the Father gave us His Son, He has given us access to everything through Him so we will eat their bread together.

➤ **Salt - Take A Pinch Of Salt And Add It To Matzah.**

Mark 9:49-50 “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

Salt Preserves, It Purifies. **We Are the Salt, Jesus Is the Bread.**

➤ **The Lamb Is A Reminder Of The Passover Lamb. Eat As You Desire.**

➤ **The Second Cup – Plagues & Iniquity**

This cup corresponds to the verse: “I will free you from being slaves to them.”

❖ **The 10 Plagues God brought upon the Egyptians:**

- **Blood**
- **Frogs**
- **Lice**
- **Swarms of Insects**
- **Cattle Disease**
- **Boils**
- **Hail**
- **Locusts**
- **Darkness**
- **Slaying of The First Born.**

Moses Releases And Stops The Plagues As God Directs Him

❖ **The Tribulation is mostly against the Antichrist.**

Like Moses and the Israelites in Goshen partnering with the Lord in prayer, the end time church releases and stops plagues as God directs.

- **The Trumpets Are Hail, Fire, Blood**
- **Then Seas Turn to Blood, Death of Sea Creatures and Destroyed Ships**
- **Bitter Water from A Meteorite,**
- **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**

The Rapture is at the end, not the beginning of the Tribulation, otherwise the hands and feet of Jesus would be gone when the great harvest arrives.

Drink The Second Cup

The Third Cup and Fourth Cup come after dinner

7) Bitterness of Sin / Sweetness of Forgiveness

- a. **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)
- b. **The Clay (Charoses) of apples, nuts, cinnamon, and wine**
Represents the bricks and mortar the Israelites were forced to make under Pharaoh's taskmasters (Sin=Bondage) In the Charoses we taste the sweetness of God's forgiveness from that sin.
- c. **Eat Bitter Herbs Mixed Only With Charoses (No Matzah)**
We recall the bitterness of slavery when we choose to sin;
We remember the suffering of Jesus who set us free
- d. **The Sop Sandwich**
Hand Out the Bottom Piece of Matzah (Holy Spirit)

Make a Sandwich Containing:

1. Matzah
 2. Lamb
 3. Bitter Herbs
 4. Sweet Charoses
- And Give It To A Close Friend.**

Taking the sop is saying yes you are my beloved too.

When the Holy Spirit filled us, He enabled us to love and walk in His many gifts.

We celebrate His fruit of love with the sop.

Just as we add the Matzah and Lamb, God brings our brothers and neighbors into our life, along with the good and bad of their words, thoughts, and actions that bless and that hurt.

Jesus gives it to Judas. It should have been given to Peter, James or John.

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 – so we ask for grace and learn to love, extend grace and forgive.

- **Salt Water** symbolizes the **Tears Shed From a Life of Slavery To Sin.**
It also reminds us of when the Israelites crossed the salty Red Sea
And when we were **Baptized**
Both represent being **Set Free From Death.**

Use It To Dip The Green Vegetable And Eggs In.

❖ **A Green Vegetable (Cucumber)**

Green is a symbol of life and Springtime.

Represents the hyssop branches used to apply the blood of the lamb to the doorpost. Since we ask Jesus into our hearts, **The Hyssop represents Prayer.**

Dip the Green Vegetable (Cucumber) in Salt Water and Eat It.

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!

❖ **A Roasted Egg** is a reminder of the Festival Sacrifice and it is also a symbol of **Peace**.

It was offered at the Temple during the Feast of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

(Deuteronomy 16:16) (We Need Peace with God)

Dip the Egg in Salt Water and Eat It.

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.

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.

8) Eating The Afikomen – Eating It Was Optional Because It Was Desert

The Afikoman 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:

- a. It Must Have Stripes - Jesus Was Afflicted and Striped
- b. It Must Be Pierced - Jesus was Pierced
- c. It must be Without Leaven – Jesus was 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)

Pray and Eat the Bread

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.

Tradition:

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.**

The Third Cup – 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)*

Pray and Drink the Cup

9) The Fourth Cup - 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)

Pray and Drink the 4th Cup

Passover Night in Egypt

- The 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.

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.**

"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."

Garden of Gethsemane -

This gives a deeper meaning to "could you not tarry even one hour".

Jesus asked them to keep watch with Him because

The Death Angel was coming for Him later on the cross.

Jesus changes 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)]

❖ The 5th Cup - The Cup of Elijah - The silent cup.

A special place at the table is set for Elijah.

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 praying for Revival.

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.

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)

Next Year in Jerusalem! The Seder customary ends by everyone saying the **Benediction**.

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.

❖ **The Feast of Unleavened Bread Continues for Eight Days**

The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the day after Passover
(Technically you remove it the day before)

And it is celebrated for one week (but with the extra day it's really 8 days).

It took about a week to get to the Red Sea where they camped.

You get rid of all leaven in your house – (no regular bread for a week)

10) Feast of First Fruits

On the Feast of Firstfruits Date:

- Noah's Flood Ended: Gen. 8:4. Note that the seventh month was later designated as the first month at the time of the Exodus (Ex. 12:2). Our new creation in Messiah began on the anniversary of the rebirth of the world.

Story of the Rich man and Lazarus – Abraham's Bosom/Hades

Luke 16:22-23 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Jesus Preaching to the Captives

1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah...

Why is He preaching in Hades?

- He's doing Passover telling of the Lamb who was slain for the freedom of the captives.
- Because all of us enter through one door. Jesus. Those who were. Those who are and those who are to come. They all get to cast down their crowns at his feet. Moses. Abraham. Everyone.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives..." (Luke 4:18-19)

The Valley of the Shadow of Death

The ultimate purpose of Passover is to destroy death.

He was slain from the foundation of this world, to that end.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 "For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."

2 Timothy 1:9-10 "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel".

Revelation 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Greatest Understatement Ever

Matthew 27:50-54 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into

the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Why is it Understated?

- ❖ This is history and well-known history so they don't really go into great detail
- ❖ Secondly, the guy who wrote it is hiding in his room while it's going on.
But with Passover as our context, we can piece it together pretty easy.

The earthquake opens the door for Jesus into the Bosom of Abraham.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

For the first time light has invaded the darkness of Hades.

Jesus arrives, his skin shredded from the lash, holes in his hands, feet and side.

He's been beaten and bloodied and hardly looks human except to the prophets who saw him like this.

11) Jesus fulfilled 353 prophecies – All those prophets are in the room

He's on a mission. To fulfill a 4,000-year-old promise. Imagine when Eve saw Him walk into that dark place where she had thought of her failure for millenniums. Everyone recognizes her and Adam. They are the cause of every death.

“As promised, that snake has been crushed, for you and every woman who came after you. Death no longer holds victory over you. There is a new garden with only one tree and no serpents. Now tell them who I am.”

- A synagogue isn't like a church. It's not a sermon. It's a discussion. The room is filled with the prophets who declared 353 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.
- John the Baptist – Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- Adam and Eve - We walked with Him in the garden.
- Moses. He was the one that made my face shine.
- Shadrach... This is the one who walked with us in the fire.
- David would remember his vision: They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.
- Isaiah would say He is the one born of a virgin: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- Jeremiah would say the Messiah would be born of a virgin, a descendant of David, both God and Man, and would make a new covenant.
- Jonah would talk of Jesus being dead for three days, then coming back to life to preach repentance.

It's a 3-day long sermon so that millions who have longed to worship Jesus can finally do it.

But eventually it has to end because Jesus has a job to do. He's the real High Priest.

Ephesians 4:7-12 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

It's the Feast of First Fruits. Every family brings a portion of their harvest to the priests. It was forbidden to eat from the crop until this portion had been offered. The priests have all got up early and went into the fields to offer the wave offering. They hold up sheaves of barley and wave them toward heaven to thank God for His provision that will come this year.

Matthew 27:51-53 The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people (saints) who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

These saints of old are the first harvest, they have been waiting for this moment when they could walk with God in their purpose.

When Jesus stepped out of the grave, the graves stones on the Mount of Olives began to shake, as dead men walked around Jerusalem on their way to heaven with Jesus.

12) In the Field

The verse says that saints were appearing to people. How did they recognize Moses and the rest of them to know they were saints? They have been dead for so long and they just met Jesus. They can't stop preaching.

Thousands of priests are in the field. They're waving sheaves of barley.
For the first time millions of dead people are in the field and they're waving back.

They just told their kids the story of Moses and Joshua and Jericho and suddenly there's an earthquake and rocks are falling and dead people are walking around them.

All they have is barley in their hands.

They feel a tap on their shoulders as Levi and Aaron say "not that way". Put your back into it.

Joshua is on the steps shouting choose this day.

And Jesus and Moses are leading them like they just came out of Egypt.

Jesus stays in the cemetery long enough to tell Mary, "Don't touch me I haven't gone to the Father yet." He has to present the firstfruits wave offering, but He waits because they aren't the only first fruits. Mary and the disciples are firstfruits, and He wants them to know he will be right back.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

See, He's the real high priest and all the dead people are his wave offering that he is taking into the field to present to His father and then He will bring them into heavens

Picture Exodus 12 as the host of the Lord leave Egypt for the promised land.

Ex 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. The host is leaving Hades for Heaven.

Whatever your picture of resurrection day is, you are under selling it. Don't just think Jesus rising. Think of Jesus leading all the saints out of Hades. It's not one grave opening. It's a million graves opening. It's not one stone rolling away. It's an earthquake. It's walking dead meets the Exodus. The Egyptians gave these people anything they wanted to get them to leave, imagine how the Jews who crucified Jesus felt.

And everyone is glorified, with one agenda, revealing Jesus.

That's what Passover is about. It's a celebration. It's the birthday of every saint who ever lived. I was saved the second Friday of August 1979, but my spiritual birthday is the Feast of First Fruits, so is yours, so is every saint. We are risen with Christ.

That's why Passover is the one meal you shouldn't neglect. It's the feast He wants to eat with you so you can brag on Him. This is his body. This is his blood. This is his bitter suffering. This is the cup he chose to drink for all of us. So I will drink it and remember him.

Passover is the one time of year we must forget that we are all unique. Passover is never about what "someone" did back then. It's about what happened to "me" in Egypt and in the Garden of Eden, etc. Passover isn't a history story, it's a realization that you are in the story and the story is about you. There is one man/woman and they need a Savior. That one person is you. You need a Savior. Nothing else is more relevant.