



The Feast of Passover/Seder Meal/Holy Week 2023 Resource Guide

Feast of Passover (Pesach) April 5-April 13 2023

The first Passover took place in Exodus 12:1-29 when the children of Israel were saved from Egyptian bondage.

- **Exodus 12:21-23** Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. **22** Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. **23** When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

The children of Israel were told to obey and observe Passover forever (Leviticus 23 & Deuteronomy 16)

- **Exodus 12:24-28** *"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.

The foreigners among Israel were expected to observe and celebrate The Feast Passover as well.

- **Numbers 9:14** "A foreigner residing among you is also to celebrate the LORD's Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for both the foreigner and the native-born."
- **How should we pray?**
 - We are invited to acknowledge that every lamb killed during the feast of Passover for 1300 years was pointing to The Lamb who would come to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29), Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, our Savior!
 - Give praise and thanks to God for sending His perfect Son to be our sacrificial lamb. Once and for all He broke the power of sin and has reconciled us to God.
 - i. **John 19:14-16** Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" **15** But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" **16** Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus [a] and led Him away.

- Finally, pray for the eyes of Israel to be opened. Pray for the salvation of Jews across the world who will be celebrating Passover. Pray that they would encounter Jesus and come to know Him as Messiah!
 - i. **Romans 11:25-26** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own [a]opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **26** And so all Israel will be [b]saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

How we can celebrate: Share a Seder meal with family and friends. As Christians our participation in these holy seasons and feasts should always be centered around Jesus Christ. Here is a great resource for families who want to participate in the Holy Seder meal in a Christ centered way. <https://messiahinthepassover.com/haggadah/>

*The Messianic Family Haggadah is designed for use with your family, home group, or church to celebrate a Jesus-centered Passover Seder. You are permitted to download and print copies of this Haggadah for those attending your Seder. Additional Passover-themed resources such as **song suggestions** for the Seder are also available on this website.*

For many centuries, Passover has been celebrated with the help of a Haggadah, a book or booklet that includes liturgy, stories, participatory reading, and biblical references to guide Jewish families in their celebration of this holy festival. The Haggadah, which means "the telling," was compiled by Jewish sages over hundreds and perhaps thousands of years. You will find many versions of the Haggadah from Jewish cultures around the world that tell the story of God's redemption of the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt.

This particular Haggadah, based upon the traditional order of service of the Passover, is adapted for use by both Jewish and Gentile followers of Yeshua (Jesus). Along with the usual elements of the Seder, we highlight the links between the traditional Seder and the Last Supper. It is our prayer that you will set aside time during Passover week and enjoy a Seder together with family and friends, so that your faith in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world will be deepened, or even perhaps awakened for the first time if you have not yet committed your life to God's Messiah.

The word Seder simply means "order" and refers to an order of service designed to tell the story of the Passover. This telling (Haggadah) reminds the children of Israel each year of what God did by the hand of Moses in delivering them from Egyptian bondage. This is a great way to enhance your understanding of Scripture. The Feast of Passover is especially for the children, as they can personally participate in the Seder. By touching, tasting, and smelling the elements on the Seder table, participants are brought back to the great events of the original Exodus and become better able to identify with the Exodus and the redemption of the children of Israel.

Yet, for followers of the Messiah, the story of redemption reminds us of far more than the deliverance from Egypt. It brings our minds to the redemption and deliverance from sin that God has provided through His Son. We believe that Yeshua celebrated an early form of the Passover Seder with His disciples. This Haggadah, especially created for you and your family, will wed these two great stories of redemption together, as we join the Savior on that night when He celebrated His last Seder with His disciples on this earth.

Holy Week Scriptures (Biblestudytools.com)

What is known in Christianity as Holy Week spans from Palm Sunday through Resurrection Sunday (April 2nd-April 9th 2023).

Day 1 Psalm Sunday (Matthew 21:6-9)

- Jesus and his disciples traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Week
- He sent John and Peter ahead, with instructions to find a certain man who had a donkey and its colt
- Jesus then rode the donkey into Jerusalem
- Crowds along the road showed Him praise by waving palm branches and cheering. Some spread their cloaks on the road before Him

Day 2 Holy Monday (Matthew 21:12-13)

- Jesus heads back into Jerusalem
- On the way, He sees a fig tree that has not borne fruit and curses it
- He uses the tree to teach about having inner righteousness, not just a nice appearance outside
- He weeps over the city's lack of faith
- He cleanses the temple, driving out the merchants

Day 3 Holy Tuesday (Matthew 24:42-44)

Some of the events of that day:

- On the way into the city, Jesus sees the withered fig tree He had cursed, and uses it to teach on the power of faith
- Jesus tells several parables to condemn the religious elite and to explain the Kingdom of God
- Jesus delivers the "woes" to the religious leaders
- Jesus talks with His disciples on the Mount of Olives about the end times

Day 4 Holy Wednesday (Luke 22:2-6)

- Jesus continues teaching
- The Sanhedrin scheme about how to kill Jesus
- Judas makes an agreement to betray Jesus to the Sadducees for gold

Day 5 Maundy Thursday (Mark 14:22-26)

"the ceremony of washing the feet of the poor, especially commemorating Jesus's washing of his disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday.

- Preparations began for the Passover: Jesus sent Peter and John to secure the upper room
- That evening, Jesus and all 12 disciples gathered there
- Jesus washed their feet, and they ate the Last Supper together
- He told them again that He would suffer and die, and that one of them would betray Him
- Judas leaves to find guards to arrest Jesus
- On the Mount of Olives, Jesus is arrested
- He is put before authorities - first Annas, and finally Caiaphas the High Priest
- Jesus is found guilty of blasphemy and condemned to die

Day 6 Good Friday (Mark 15:25-26, 37-39)

- At dawn, Jesus is brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor
- Pilate offers the crowd a criminal to be crucified instead, but the religious leaders stir the crowd up to demand Jesus
- Pilate agrees and Jesus is forced to walk to Golgotha, where He hangs on a cross
- After 6 hours, Jesus dies
- His body is taken down and placed in the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea, a council member

Day 7 Holy Saturday (Luke 23:55-56)

- Guards are placed at the entrance of the tomb
- The Sabbath is observed

Day 8 Resurrection Sunday (Mark 16:2-6)

- Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb
- There, they found an angel sitting on one of the large stones that had covered the tomb entrance
- The angel tells the women that Jesus is not in the tomb, but has risen

Holy Week is a time of remembrance, and an opportunity for spiritual renewal for Christians. The author of Hebrews wrote that the awareness of Jesus' sacrifice should inspire us to live out our faith with intention all year round.

"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).