The Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread

We are redeemed by the

Blood of the Lamb

* Yehovah begins His yearly cycle in the Hebrew month of Nissan (usually March/April), and the first of His feasts is Passover/ Unleavened Bread. This feast is designed to reset us on to the course that will draw us closer to Him.
* It is a time to **praise Yehovah** for His work of deliverance in the past.
* It is a time to **seek Him** for a fresh release of deliverance.
* It is a time to **gain faith** for His work in the future.
* Just as the Hebrews were set free from slavery, we have had deliverance from our bondage to sin, under the oppression of a cruel enemy…Ha Satan!

Setting up the Feast:

In Exodus 12:3-5, Yehovah instructed each family on the 10th day of Nissan to pick out a lamb, perfect – without spot or blemish. This is a perfect picture of Yeshua, who on the 10th of Nissan, came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey where the people shouted “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of Yehovah” (John 12:12-16) On that same day, at the other end of town, the High Priest and all of the priests were parading through town with the chosen lamb for the Passover sacrifice at the temple. They were shouting in the same manner that this was the perfect lamb chosen for the sacrifice. How prophetic!

Then for four days, the father brought the lamb into the home, examined it for four days to make sure it had no blemishes and was perfect, and he and children took care of it intently. As well, the lamb was examined by the High Priest to be perfect and without blemish. We read in Matthew 22 that Yeshua was examined for four days, was challenged by the Pharisees, Sadducees and the scribes and he proved His perfection in all things asked of Him.

According to Exodus 12: 5-8, on the 14th day of Nissan, the father of the house would slay the lamb “between the evenings” and would drain the blood into a bowl and paint the doorpost and the lintel. Yeshua fulfilled this as he was slain between the evenings on the 14th day of Nissan. (Matthew 27:45) He fulfilled this Feast of Passover to the very day and the very hour.

Passover & Unleavened Bread ~

The Important Elements

1. **Leaven – sin**
* Get rid of leaven (sin)
* Clean house
* Game of feathers and wooden spoons

(Picture of hidden sin)

1. **Haggadah** – “The Telling”
* We remember the miraculous way that God (Yehovah) brought the Israelites out from slavery to freedom, from despair to hope, from darkness to light. As God cared for the children of Israel, He cares for those that are His today.
1. **What’s on your plate?**
* Bitter Herbs (strong hot horseradish)
* Sweet apple mixture
* Parsley
* Salt water

Let us partake & allow our senses to fully take in the sights, smells & tastes.

1. **Candles**
* Just as at Sabbath, the woman lights the candles, for a woman was chosen to bring forth the son of Yehovah into our world.

**~Women say:** “Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the universe, who has set us apart by your Word, and in Whose name, we light the festival lights.”

1. **The telling of the story of cruelty**

(Read Exodus 1: 1-22)

1. **Four Cups of Wine** In Exodus 6: 6-8
* **I AM YEHOVAH & I WILL bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians (of sin).
* **I WILL free you** (rescue, deliver you) from your bondage.
* **I WILL redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great judgements.
* **I WILL take you to Myself for a people** and I shall be Adonai to you, and you will know that I AM YEHOVAH, your God.
* **I SHALL BRING YOU INTO THE LAND**…I AM YEHOVAH!
* **“I AM YEHOVAH (The Lord)”** is spoken three times – each person of God speaks.
* **1st Cup ~** “**I WILL bring you out…”**

**~ The Cup of Sanctification**

~Sanctification = to be set apart, to make holy

~Hebrews 2:11 “For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all out of One, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers.”

**~ALL SAY:** “Barukh Atah, Yehovah, Elohanu Malech Ha Olam, Boray Pre Ha Gafen. Amen!” “Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Amen.”

(Drink the 1st Cup)

1. **Washing of Hands** ~ Psalm 24: 3-4 “Who may ascend the hill of Adonai? Or who will stand in His Holy Place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart…”
2. **We dip the parsley into the salt water**
* Parsley represents life.
* Salt water represents life in Egypt that was a life of pain, sufferings and tears.
* Let us remember by dipping the parsley into the salt water how much pain, suffering and tears were caused by our own sin.

**~ALL SAY:** “Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth the herb from the earth.”

1. **The Four Questions (asked by the children at the table)**
* On all other nights we eat bread or matzah. But on this night why do we only eat matzah?
* On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. But on this night why do we eat only bitter herbs?
* On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables. But on this night why do we dip them twice?
* On all other nights we eat our meals sitting or reclining. But on this night why do we eat only reclining?

**Answers:**

* **Matzah:** Three wrapped in one ~Unity of Adonai.

~ Adonai ~ Adon: one, Adonai: plural

* Middle is Yeshua (Jesus)
* Matzah is striped & bruised = Isaiah 53:5

“For He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised because of our sins; the disciplining that makes us whole fell on Him, and by His stripes (bruises) we are healed.”

* Matzah is pierced = Zechariah 12:10 “…and I will pour out on the house of David and on those living in Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer; and they will look on me whom they have pierced.”
* We break the middle matzah in half and wrap it in a white cloth and it is hidden. Just as the middle piece of the bread of affliction is broken, Yeshua, too, was afflicted and broken. One half is now called the Afikomen, the dessert. It is wrapped in a white cloth just as Messiah’s body was wrapped for burial. The children cover their eyes, and we hide the Afikomen. It will be revealed at the end of our Seder.
* We shall now partake of the remaining piece.

**~ALL SAY:** “Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.”

* **Vegetables: Bitter Herbs**
* Let us remember how bitter life was for the children of Israel in Egypt and how bitter our lives were before we found our God. Take some matzah and some horseradish and let us allow the bitter taste to cause us to shed tears of compassion for the sorrow that our ancestors knew, as well as the sorrow that sin brings in our lives when we do not obey our Father.
* **Dipping Twice: Brown sweet apple mixture = Kharoset.**

The children of Israel toiled to make treasure cities for Pharaoh, working in brick and clay. Let us scoop the bitter herbs and the Kharoset together.

**~ALL SAY**: “We dip the bitter herbs into Kharoset to remind ourselves that even the most bitter of circumstances can be sweetened by the hope we have in God.”

* **Reclining:**

The children of Israel were instructed to eat the Passover in haste, their loins girded, their staffs in their hands, their sandals on their feet. Today, we all may recline and freely enjoy the Passover Seder.

**~ALL SAY**: “Messiah said, ‘Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

1. **2nd Cup** **~ ”I WILL free you from your bondage.” ~ The Cup of Plagues**
* God sent plagues, one by one, yet Pharaoh hardened his heart. The Egyptians were afflicted but the Israelites were protected.
* Dip your finger into your cup to reduce the fullness of our cup and place the drip onto your plate.

Recite each plague three times:

~ Blood ~ Frogs ~ Lice ~ Flies ~ Cattle Disease ~ Boils ~ Hail ~ Locust ~ Darkness ~ Death of the Firstborn

* Do not drink of this 2nd cup yet.
1. **Portrayal of Passover Lamb**
* Shankbone ~ The shankbone reminds us of the unblemished Passover lamb whose blood the children applied to the doorpost and the lintel. The Passover lamb is the picture of the perfect Lamb of God. Isaiah 53:7 ~ “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. He was brought as a Lamb to the slaughter.”
* Even as not one of the Passover Lamb’s bones was broken, the Lamb of God’s bones would not be broken.

Psalms 34:20 ~ “He keepeth all His bones, not one of them is broken.”

**~ALL SAY:** “We who have trusted Yeshua, the Messiah, believe He is the Lamb of God, our Passover. He was made the offering for sin on the same day the Passover lambs were being sacrificed. He suffered, died, and shed His blood for us so that He could redeem us from sin and death. So, we say: Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, for you have, in your mercy, supplied all of our needs. You have given us Messiah, forgiveness for sin, life abundant and life everlasting. Hallelujah!”

(Drink the 2nd cup).

 **Passover Meal**

1. **Communion & 3rd Cup** **~ “I WILL redeem you” ~ The Cup of Redemption**
* Partaking of the Afikomen ~ (found by the children)
* This is the final food that is eaten at Passover. It is said that the taste of the Afikomen should linger in our mouths. “Let us now eat the Afikomen, meditating on the broken body of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

**~ALL SAY**: “Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Amen.”

* Let us fill our cups for the third time this evening. Just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation in Egypt, so Messiah’s atoning death brings salvation to all who believe in Him.

**~ALL SAY:** “Barukh Atah, Yehovah, Elohanu Malech Ha Olam, Boray Pre Ha Gafen. Amen!”

“Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the wine. Amen!”

(Drink the 3rd Cup)

1. **Elijah – A Guest at our Table**
* An empty chair and table setting has been placed at the table.
* The last verses in the Old Testament say in Malachi 4: 5 – “Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the great and terrible day of Yehovah comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”
* Elijah has been expected to enter, take his seat, drink his wine & say, “The wait is over. The Messiah is coming!”
* A child goes to the door to call to welcome him here!!
1. **4th Cup ~ “I WILL take you to be my people ~ The Cup of Praise**
* We praise Him for He is our Great Redeemer. We give thanks to Him for His everlasting love!! Once we were slaves, now we are free!!
* Give thanks to Yehovah, for He is good!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Give thanks to the God of all gods!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Give thanks to the Lord of all lords!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* To Him who alone does great wonders!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Who by His understanding made the heavens!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Who made the great lights!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* The sun to govern the day.

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* The moon and stars to govern the night.

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* To Him who brought Israel out from among the Egyptians

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* With a mighty hand and outstretched arm!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* And brought Israel through the midst of it.

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* But swept Pharaoh and his army into the sea

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* And led His people through the desert.

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Give thanks to the God of heaven

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Who sent His only begotten son

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* To take the penalty we all deserve!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

* Give thanks to Yehovah, for He is good!

**ALL:** ***His love endures forever!***

**~ALL SAY:** “Blessed are you, Yehovah, our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine! Amen!”

(Drink the 4th Cup)

**~ALL SAY: “Next year in Jerusalem!!”**