

Passover

Exodus 12:14

"And this day shall become to you a remembrance. And you shall observe a festival to the LORD throughout your generations – observe it as a festival, an everlasting law."

Introduction

Leader

Exodus 12:15

"Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. Indeed on the first day you cause leaven to cease from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that being shall be cut off from Israel."

During the days before Passover, leavened items are removed from the home. These include all breads, crackers, cakes and cookies that contain yeast. Preparation begins with a thorough cleaning of our homes.

Haggadah means "the telling." Passover is a story that has been retold for thousands of years. It is a story of miraculous transitions – from slavery to freedom, from despair to hope, from darkness to light. Its greatness is the greatness of God. Its timelessness comes from the eternal truth of His involvement with His people. As God cared for the children of Israel in ancient times, He cares for all who are His today.

Upon the table is a plate, holding the items of Passover. There are bitter herbs, a sweet apple mixture, parsley, and a bone. Curious things, yet all part of the telling. Let us allow our senses to fully participate, taking in the sights and smells, tasting each ingredient, listening to every word. Let us see, hear, and feel the truth of God's love.

As the LORD told Moses,

Exodus 12:14,

"... this day shall become to you a remembrance ..."

In Hebrew this is *zikron* (זִכְרוֹן) – memento, memorial or mark. The Passover is also a *moed* (מוֹעֵד) – appointed time or season (Gen 1:14) and a *miqra* (מִקְרָא) – rehearsal.

Leviticus 23:4 – 5

"These are the appointed times of the LORD, set-apart gatherings which you are to proclaim at their appointed times. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the evenings, is the Passover to the LORD."

It was no coincidence that Messiah would fulfill the festival of Passover. Since the first Passover in Egypt, the nation of Israel was commanded to observe the *moed* (מוֹעֵד) and participate in this *zikron* (זִכְרוֹן) and as a *miqra* (מִקְרָא) in preparation for the Sacrifice Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

John 1:29

On the next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "See, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John, as a son of Aaron, stated this. As we participate in this *zikron* (זִכְרוֹן) tonight, we remember the Passover years ago in Egypt. As we do, let us *miqra* (מִקְרָא) the coming Passover where the blood of the Lamb will once again deliver His firstborn, Israel, from the death that will pass through the land. If the blood of the Lamb has been applied to the doorposts of your heart, you may consider yourself the firstborn, and if you are the firstborn, then you are Israel.

Exodus 4:22 – 23

For the LORD instructed Moses to speak to Pharaoh, "And you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus said the LORD, 'Israel is My son, My firstborn, so I say to you, let My son go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, see I am killing your son, your firstborn.'"

Our *miqra* (מִקְרָא) this night is a rehearsal of this very event yet again to occur. And, as the Apostle Paul stated,

Colossians 2:16 – 17

"Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths – which are a shadow of what is to come – but the Body of the Messiah."

I Corinthians 5:7 – 8

"Therefore cleanse out the old leaven, so that you are a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Messiah our Passover was offered for us. So then let us observe the festival, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of evil and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

As we participate together in this Passover, may we experience once again God's redemption as we celebrate our Messiah.

We Light the Candles – Hadlaqot Narot הדלקת נרות

Leader

Psalms 27:1

"The LORD is my light and salvation; whom do I need to fear?"

As we kindle the festival lights, we pray for the illumination of the Spirit of God to bring great personal meaning to this, our Passover celebration.

A woman while lighting the candles says:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלְּפָנֶיךָ ה' עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְשָׂמוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל מוֹעֵד

Barukh atah ADONAI eloheynu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'shemo l'hadlik ner shel moad.

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who has set us apart by His commandments, and in whose name we light the festival lights.

Leader

As light for the festival of redemption is kindled by the hand of a woman, we remember that our Redeemer, the Light of the World, came into the world as the promised seed of a woman.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall crush your head, and you shall crush His heel.

The Four Cups of Wine – Kos R'vee'ee כּוֹס רְבִיעִי

Leader

Exodus 6:1

And the LORD said to Moses, "Now see what I will do to Pharaoh, for with a strong hand he is going to let them go, and with a strong hand he is going to drive them out of his land."

As the LORD spoke these words of encouragement to Moses, He revealed to His servant the plan by which He would redeem the children of Israel.

All

... I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians ...

I will free you from being slaves ...

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm ...

I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God ...

Leader

At Passover, we celebrate these promises of redemption and relationship by drinking from our cups four times. With each cup, let us remember the union that God desires.

The Cup of Sanctification – Kadaysh קַדִּישׁ

Leader

Exodus 6:6

Therefore, say to the Children of Israel: "I am the LORD, and I shall take you out from under the burdens of Egypt . . ."

Let us lift our first cup together and bless the name of the LORD!

Leader

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן

Barukh atah ADONAI eloheynu melek ha'olam borey pri hagafen.

All

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Leader

Let us all drink of this, the first cup of Passover.

(Everyone drink the cup of kadaysh (קַדִּישׁ) – sanctification.)

We Wash – Urchatz וּרְחִיצָה

Leader

Psalms 24:3 – 4

"Who does go up to the mountain of the LORD? And who does stand in His set-apart place? He who has innocent hands and a clean heart, Who did not bring his life to naught, And did not swear deceptively."

(Lifting the basin of water) – Let us now offer the bowl of water to one another and share in this hand-washing ceremony.

(Everyone urchatz (וּרְחִיצָה) – wash.)

Parsley – Karpas כַּרְפָּס

Leader

Exodus 2:23

And it came to be after these many days that the king of Egypt died. And the children of Israel groaned because of the slavery, and they cried out. And their cry came up to God because of slavery.

(Lifting the parsley) – Passover is a festival that comes in the springtime, when the earth is becoming green with life. This vegetable, called *karpas* (כַּרְפָּס), represents life, created and sustained by Almighty God.

(Lifting up the salt water) – But life in Egypt for the children of Israel was a life of pain, suffering, and tears, represented by this salt water. Let us take a sprig of parsley and dip it into the salt water, remembering that life is sometimes immersed in tears.

Leader

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה

Barukh atah ADONAI eloheynu melek ha'olam borey pri ha'adamah.

All

Blessed are You, the LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

Leader

Now let us, together, eat the *karpas* (כַּרְפָּס).

(Everyone eat the karpas (כַּרְפָּס) – parsley.)

The Four Questions – Mah Nishtanah מה נשתנה

Leader

Exodus 12:26 – 27

And it shall be, when your children say to you, "What does this service mean to you?" then you shall say, "It is the Passover slaughtering of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians and delivered our households."

A young child rising to ask the four questions asks:

"How different this night is from all other nights!

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

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

"On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once. On this night why do we dip them twice?"

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

Leader

Exodus 12:23 – 25

"And the LORD shall pass on to smite the Egyptians, and shall see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, and the LORD shall pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to smite you. And you shall guard this word as a law for you and your sons, forever. And it shall be, when you come to the land which the LORD gives you, as He promised, that you shall guard this service."

It is both a duty and a privilege to answer the four questions of Passover and to recite the mighty works of our faithful God.

The Unleavened Bread – Matzah מַצֵּה

Leader

On all other nights we eat bread with leaven, but on Passover we eat only *matzah* (מַצֵּה), unleavened bread. As the children of Israel fled from

Egypt, they did not have time for their dough to rise. Instead, the hot desert sun baked it flat. But even more than that, the scriptures teach us that leaven symbolizes sin.

All

1 Corinthians 5:7

"Therefore cleanse out the old leaven, so that you are a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Messiah our Passover was offered for us."

Leader

During this season of Passover, let us break our old habits of sin and selfishness and begin a fresh, new, and set-apart life.

(Lifting the plate with the three *matzot* (מַצֵּוֹת)) – This is the bread of affliction, the bread which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need share in the hope of Passover.

Three *matzot* (מַצֵּוֹת) are wrapped together for Passover. In the *matzah* (מַצֵּה) we can see a picture of Messiah. See how it is striped.

All

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquity. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Leader

See how the *matzah* (מַצֵּה) is pierced?

All

Zechariah 12:10

"And I shall pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of favor and prayers. And they shall look on Me whom they pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son. And they shall be in bitterness over Him as a bitterness over the firstborn."

Revelation 1:7

"See, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him. And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn because of Him. Yea, Amen."

Leader

(Removing and breaking the middle *matzah* (מַצֵּה) in half) – Just as the middle piece of the bread of affliction is broken, Messiah, too, was afflicted and broken. One half is now called the *afikomen* (אַפִּיקוֹמֵן) – the coming one. It is wrapped in a white cloth just as Messiah's body was wrapped for burial.

(Wrap the *afikomen* (אַפִּיקוֹמֵן) and then break a piece of *matzah* (מַצֵּה) from the half not wrapped and distribute among the people at the table) – Let us now share a piece of this unleavened bread of Passover.

Leader

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ

Barukh atah ADONAI eloheynu melek ha'olam hamotzi lekhem min ha'arets.

All

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

The Bitter Herbs – Maror מָרֹר

Leader

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on Passover we eat only *maror* (מָרֹר), bitter herbs. As sweet as our lives may be today, let us also remember how bitter life is for us here in Egypt, as we remember how bitter life was for the children of Israel in the land of Egypt.

(Lifting the horseradish) –

Exodus 1:12 – 14

But the more they afflicted them, the more they increased and grew, and they were in dread of the children of Israel, And the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with harshness, and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all kinds of work in the field, all their work which they made them do was with harshness.

As we scoop some *maror* (מָרֹר) onto a piece of *matzah* (מַצֵּה), let us allow the bitter taste to cause us to shed tears of compassion for the sorrow that our ancestors knew thousands of years ago and as we experience today.

(Everyone lift the *matzah* (מַצֵּה) – unleavened bread – with the *maror* (מָרֹר) – bitter herbs)

Leader

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ
עַל אֲכִילַת מָרֹר

Barukh atah the LORD eloheynu melek ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tivanu al achilat maror.

All

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who has set us apart by His commandments and has commanded us to eat bitter herbs.

(Everyone eat the *maror* (מָרֹר) – bitter herbs.)

We Dip Twice – Charoset תְּרוֹסֶת

Leader

On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them twice. We have already dipped the parsley into the salt water.

(Lifting the *charoset* (תְּרוֹסֶת), the brown apple mixture) – The children of Israel toiled to make treasure cities for Pharaoh, working in brick and clay. We remember this task in a mixture called *charoset* (תְּרוֹסֶת), made from chopped apples, honey, nuts and wine. Let us once again scoop some bitter herbs onto a small piece of *matzah* (מַצָּה). But this time, before we eat, let us dip the herbs into the sweet *charoset* (תְּרוֹסֶת).

All

Mark 14:18 – 20

And as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you who is eating with Me shall deliver Me up." And they began to be grieved, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another, "Is it I?" And He answering, said to them, "It is one of the twelve, he who dipping with Me in the dish."

(Everyone eat the charoset (תְּרוֹסֶת) – apple mixture.)

Tonight We Recline – M'soobiyn מְסַבֵּין

Leader

On all other nights we eat either sitting or reclining, but tonight we eat reclining. The first Passover was celebrated by a people enslaved.

All

As our fathers were once slaves, and then set free, we too now as slaves will also be set free!

Leader

The children of Israel were instructed to eat the Passover in haste, their loins girded, their staffs in their hands, their sandals upon their feet, awaiting departure from the bondage of Egypt. We too shall soon be prepared to eat the Passover in haste, with our loins girded, with our

staffs in our hands, with our sandals upon our feet, awaiting departure from the bondage of Egypt.

All

Jeremiah 16:14 – 15

"Therefore see, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it is no longer said, 'the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'the LORD lives who brought up the of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I shall bring them back into their land I gave to their fathers."

The Story of Passover – Magiyd מַגִּיד

Leader

Exodus 6:5

"Moreover, I have heard the groan of the Children of Israel whom Egypt enslaves and I have remembered My covenant."

The story of Passover is a story of miracles, a story of redemption, a story of the mighty power of God to overcome evil.

Reader 1

Exodus 1:6 – 7

And Joseph died, and all his brothers, and all that generation. And the children of Israel bore fruit and increased very much, multiplied and became very strong, and the land was filled with them.

Reader 2

Exodus 1:8 – 10

Then a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph, and he said to his people, "See, the people of the children of Israel are more and stronger than we, come, let us act wisely towards them, lest they increase, and it shall be when fighting befalls us, that they shall join our enemies and fight against us, and shall go up out of the land."

Reader 3

Exodus 1:11 – 12

So they set slave-masters over them to afflict them with their burdens, and they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Ramses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they increased and grew, and they were in dread of the children of Israel.

Reader 4

Exodus 1:13 – 14

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with harshness, and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all kinds of work in the field, all their work which they made them do was with harshness.

Reader 5

Exodus 1:22 – 2:2

And Pharaoh commanded all his people saying, "Throw every son who is born into the river, and keep alive every daughter." And a man of the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived and bore a son. And she saw that he was a lovely child, and she hid him three months.

Reader 6

Exodus 2:3 – 4

And when she could hide him no longer, she took an ark of wicker for him, and coated it with tar and pitch, and put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the edge of the river. And his sister stood at a distance, to know what would be done to him.

Reader 7

Exodus 2:5 – 6

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river, and her young women were walking by the riverside. And when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her female servant to get it, and opened it and saw the child, and see, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the children of the Hebrews."

Reader 8

Exodus 2:7 – 9

And his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." And the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, then I shall pay your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

Reader 9

Exodus 2:10

And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I have drawn him out of the water."

Reader 10

Exodus 2:11 – 12

And in those days it came to be, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brothers and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. So he turned this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he smote the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Reader 11

Exodus 2:15

And Pharaoh heard of this matter, and he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

Reader 12

Exodus 2:23 – 25

And it came to be after these many days that the king of Egypt died. And the children of Israel groaned because of the slavery, and they cried out. And their cry came up to God because of the slavery. And God heard their groaning and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked on the children of Israel, and God knew!

Reader 13

Exodus 3:1 – 2

And Moses was shepherding the flock of Jithro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Messenger of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. And he looked and saw the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

Reader 14

Exodus 3:7 – 8

And the LORD said, "I have indeed seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their slave-drivers, for I know their sorrows. And I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey..."

Reader 15

Exodus 3:9 – 10

"And now, see, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. And now, come, I am sending you to Pharaoh, to bring My people, the children of Israel out of Egypt."

Reader 16

Exodus 3:11 – 12

And Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" And He said, "Because I am with you. And this is to you the sign that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you are to serve God on this mountain."

The Cup of Plagues – Eser Makot עֶשֶׂר מַכּוֹת

Leader

Exodus 6:5 – 7

"And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered My

covenant. Say, therefore, to the children of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I shall bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and shall deliver you from their enslaving, and shall redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments, and shall take you as My people, and I shall be your God. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God who is bringing you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.'

Moses left the wilderness to return to Pharaoh's palace, the very place where he had been raised. He returned with the message which the LORD had given him.

All

Exodus 5:1 – 2

And afterwards Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh, "thus said the LORD God of Israel, 'Let My people go, so that they keep a festival to Me in the Wilderness.'" And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor am I going to let Israel go."

Leader

But God Himself had warned Moses of the resistance that he would encounter.

All

Exodus 3:19 – 20

"But I know that the king of Egypt is not going to let you go, not even by a strong hand. And I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with all My wonders which I shall do in its midst. And after that he shall let you go."

Leader

God sent plagues, one by one, yet with each plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart. The Egyptians became afflicted with discomfort and disease, bane and blight. Still, Pharaoh would not relent. With the tenth and most awful plague, God pierced through the hardness of Pharaoh's impenetrable heart.

All

Exodus 4:22 – 23

"And you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus said the LORD, 'Israel is My son, My firstborn, so I say to you, let My son go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, see I am killing your son, your firstborn.'"

Exodus 12:12

"And I shall pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and shall smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And on all the mighty ones of Egypt I shall execute judgment. I am the LORD."

Leader

Let us fill our cups a second time. A full cup is a symbol of joy and indeed on this occasion we are filled with joy at God's mighty deliverance. But let us also remember the great cost at which redemption was purchased. Lives were sacrificed to bring about the release of God's people from the slavery of Egypt. Yet a far greater price purchased our redemption from slavery to sin – the death of Messiah.

As we recount each plague, let us dip our little finger into the cup, allowing a drop of liquid to fall, reducing the fullness of our cup of joy this night.

All

Blood! Frogs! Lice! Beasts! Cattle Disease! Boils! Hail! Locusts! Darkness! Death of the Firstborn!

(Do not drink the second cup at this time!!)

The Passover Lamb – Pesach פֶּסַח

Leader

Exodus 12:13

"And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I shall pass over you, and let the plague not come on you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt."

Exodus 12:8

"They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire – with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs shall they eat it."

Unleavened Bread מַצָּה

Bitter Herbs מָרֹר

Passover Lamb פֶּסַח

All

We have eaten the matzah (מַצָּה) to remind us of the haste with which the houses of the children of Israel, fled Egypt. We have tasted the bitter herbs (מָרֹר) to remind us of the bitter slavery they experienced in Egypt.

Leader

(Lifting the shank bone of the lamb) – This roasted shank bone represents the lamb whose blood marked the houses of the Children of Israel, signifying their obedience to God's command.

Reader 1

Exodus 12:3, 5 – 7

"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month each one of them is to take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

'Let the lamb be a perfect one, a year old male. Take it from the sheep or from the goats.

'And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then all the assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it between the evenings.

'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.'"

Reader 2

Exodus 12:8, 11, 13

"They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire – with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs shall they eat it.

"And this is how you eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Passover of the LORD.

"And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I shall pass over you, and let the plague not come on you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt."

Leader

We are reminded by Moses that it was the LORD Himself who redeemed the children of Israel from slavery.

Deuteronomy 26:8

"And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and with an out-stretched arm, with great fear and with signs and wonders."

Exodus 12:12

"I shall go through the land of Egypt on this night . . .

All

I, and not an angel.

Leader

"and I shall strike every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast . . .

All

I, and not a seraph.

Leader

"and against all the Gods of Egypt I shall mete out punishment . . .

All

I, and not a messenger.

Leader

"I am the LORD."

All

I myself and none other.

We who are the firstborn, Israel, by applying the blood of Jesus the Messiah, to the doorpost and lintels of our heart, believe he is the Lamb of the LORD, our Passover. Like our fathers in the land of Egypt, we know that it was the LORD Himself, and not an angel, the LORD Himself, and not a seraph, the LORD Himself, and not a messenger, who achieved final redemption of our fathers from Egypt, and it is He who will deliver us from this present day Egypt. The LORD Himself, through Jesus our Messiah.

It would Have Been Sufficient – Dayenu יָיִן

Leader

Psalms 145:5 – 8

"I declare the esteemed splendor of Your excellency, And the matters of Your wondrous works. And they speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I recount Your greatness. They send forth the remembrance of Your great goodness, And they sing of Your righteousness. The LORD shows favor and is compassionate, patient and great in kindness."

Leader

If the LORD had merely rescued us, but had not judged the Egyptians,

All

Dayenu!

Leader

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

All

Dayenu!

Leader

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

All

Dayenu!

Leader

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

All

Dayenu!

Leader

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

All

Dayenu!

(Everyone drink the cup of eser makot (עֲשֶׂר מַכּוֹת) – plagues.)

The Passover Supper – Shulchan Orech שְׁלֻחַן עֹרֵךְ

Leader

Exodus 12:14
"And this day shall become to you a remembrance. And you shall observe it as a festival to the LORD throughout your generations – observe it as a festival, an everlasting law."

(Everyone eat!)

The Afikomen Dessert – Tzafun תְּצַפֵּן

Leader

Isaiah 53:8 – 9
"He was taken from prison and from judgment. And as for His generation, who considered that He shall be cut off from the land of the living? For the transgression of My people He was stricken. And He was appointed a grave with the wrong, and with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was deceit in His mouth."

It is time for us to share the *afikomen* (אַפִּיקוֹמֵן), the dessert, the final food eaten at this *moed* (מוֹעֵד). It is said, that the taste of the *afikomen* (אַפִּיקוֹמֵן) should linger in our mouths. So let us now eat the *matzah* (מַצָּה), meditating on the broken body of the Lamb of God and let us allow the taste to linger in our mouths.

The Cup of Redemption – Ga'al גָּאֵל

Leader

Exodus 6:6
"... I shall redeem you with an outstretched arm ..."

(Lifting the cup) – This is the cup of redemption, symbolizing the blood of the Passover Lamb.

All

I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.

Leader

The prophet Isaiah reminds us,
Isaiah 59:1
"The LORD's arm is not too short to save ..."

It is our own righteousness that falls short. Though the LORD searched, He could find no one to intercede,

Isaiah 59:16

"... Therefore his own arm brought him salvation ..."

Just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation to our fathers while still in the midst of Egypt, so the Messiah's atoning death will again bring salvation to us here while we are in the midst of Egypt.

All

Jeremiah 23:5 – 8

"See, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I shall raise for David a Branch of righteousness, and a King shall reign and act wisely, and shall do right-ruling and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel dwell safely. And this is His Name whereby He shall be called: Yahweh tzidqanu (יהוה צדקנו) – the LORD our righteousness.' Therefore, see, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when they shall say no more, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the seed of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and from all the lands where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell on their own soil."

Leader

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן

Barukh atah ADONAI eloheynu melek ha'olam borey pri hagafen.

All

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(Everyone drink the cup of ga'al (גָּאֵל) – redemption.)

The Prophet Elijah – Eliyahu HaNavi אֵלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא

Leader

(Lifting the extra cup from Elijah's place at the table) – This cup is for Elijah the Prophet, Eliyahu HaNavi. At this time let one of the youth open the door to welcome Elijah to our Passover.

(A young person opens the door.)

All

Malachi 4:4 – 5

"Remember the Torah of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel – laws and right-rulings. See, I am sending you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD."

Leader

Elijah did not see death, but was swept up to heaven by a great whirlwind, in a chariot of fire. It has been our hope that Elijah would come at Passover, to announce the Messiah, Son of David.

Before the birth of John the Immerser, an angel of the LORD said,

Luke 1:13 – 17

"... do not be afraid, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard. And your wife Elisabeth shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you shall have joy and gladness, and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great before the LORD, and shall drink no wine and strong drink at all. And he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he shall turn many of the children of Israel to the LORD their God. And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the insight of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the LORD."

Later Jesus spoke of John,

Matthew 11:14

"And if you wish to accept it, he is Elijah who was about to come."

It was this same John who saw Jesus and declared,

John 1:29

"... behold, the Lamb of God who bears the sin of the world!"

The Cup of Praise – Hallel הלל

Leader

Exodus 6:7

"And shall take you as My people, and I shall be your God. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God who is bringing you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

Let us lift our cups for the fourth and last time and give thanks to God, our great redeemer.

Psalms 136:1 – 16, 26

Leader – Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – Give thanks to the God of gods,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – To Him who alone does great wonders,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – Who by his understanding made the heavens,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – Who spread out the earth upon the waters,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – Who made the great lights,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – The sun to govern the day,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – The moon and stars to govern the night,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – And brought Israel out from among them,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – To him who divided the Red Sea asunder,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – And brought Israel through the midst of it,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – To him who led his people through the desert,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader – Give thanks to the God of heaven,

All – *His love endures forever.*

Leader

(Still lifting the cup) – Let us Bless the name of the LORD.

Leader

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן

Barukh atah ADONAI eloheynu melek ha'olam borey pri hagafen.

All

Blessed are You, the LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(Everyone drink the cup of hallel (הַלֵּל) – praise.)

Leader

Our Passover is now complete, just as our redemption is forever complete. Let us conclude with the traditional hope that we may celebrate Passover next year in Jerusalem.

All

Next year in Jerusalem!