

# SACRED NAME MESSIANIC HAGGADAH

## READ as the SEDER for NAZOREAN PASSOVER

### *Preparing for Passover*

*“For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses...” Exodus 12:15*

**Leader** During the days before Passover, leavened items are removed from the home. These include all breads and cakes that contain yeast. Preparation begins with a thorough cleaning, culminating in a ceremonial search for leaven called *bedikat khametz*. Let us also ready our hearts for the Passover Seder, *the order of service*. Tradition teaches that in each generation, we must consider ourselves as having personally been freed from Egypt. As we prepare for this experience of personal redemption, let us put far from us the leaven of sin hidden within our hearts.

*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 Yahweh. Its timelessness comes from the eternal truth of His involvement with His people. As Yahweh cared for the children of Israel in ancient times, He cares for all who are His today.

Upon the table is a *seder* plate, holding the ceremonial items of Passover. There are bitter herbs, a roasted egg, 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 Yahweh’s love.

One of Messiah’s last earthly acts was the celebration of the Passover. Gathering his disciples in a small room in Jerusalem, he led them in a *seder*. “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15). He passed the foods among them. It was there, in the context of this celebration that Yahshua revealed to them the mystery of Yahweh’s plan of redemption. He spoke to them of his body and blood. He explained to them that he would have to die.

It was no coincidence that Messiah chose the Passover for the setting of what is now often remembered as Christian Communion, “the Lord’s Supper.” For in the story of the Passover lamb, Yahshua could best communicate the course he would be taking over the confusing hours that were to follow. Here, as we participate together in the Passover Seder, may we experience once again Yahweh’s great redemption. Jackson Snyder [www.JacksonSnyder.org](http://www.JacksonSnyder.org)

### *We Light the Candles*

*Yahweh is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? Psalm 27:1*

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

**A Righteous Woman** (*lighting the candles*) **says:** Blessed are You, Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who has set us apart by His Word, 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).

### *The Four Cups of Wine*

*Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do...” Exodus 6:1*

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

*“...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 Elohim...”*

**Leader** At Passover, we celebrate these promises of redemption and relationship by filling our cups four times. With each cup, let us remember the union that Yahweh desires.

### *The Cup of Sanctification*

*“...I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians...” Exodus 6:6*

**Leader** Let us lift our first cup together and bless the name of Yahweh.

**All** Blessed are You, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

**Leader** As he began his final Passover Seder, Yahshua the Messiah shared a cup with his disciples, and said to them,

*“Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom comes” (Luke 22:17,18).*

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

### *We Wash our Hands*

*Who may ascend the hill of Yahweh? Who may stand in his set-apart place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart. Psalm 24:3,4*

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

(*Pass the bowl of water*) Let us also reflect upon the gesture of humility and the lesson of commitment made by Messiah Yahshua, when, on that night, he laid aside his garments and girded himself with a towel.

*After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me “Teacher” and “Master,” and rightly so, for that is what I am. “Now that I, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet” (John 13: 12-14).*

## Parsley

...the Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to Yahweh... Exodus 2:23

**Leader** (*lifting up the parsley*) Passover is a holiday that comes in the springtime, when the earth is becoming green with life. This vegetable, called *karpas*, represents life, created and sustained by Almighty Yahweh.

(*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.

**All** Blessed are You, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who created the fruit of the earth.

**Leader** Now let us, together, eat the *karpas*.

## The Four Questions

“...when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them...” Exodus 12:26

### A Young Child

How different this night is from all other nights!

On all other nights we eat bread or *matzah*.

On this night why do we eat only *matzah*?

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?

## We Answer the Questions

“And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and thy sons forever.” Exodus 12:24

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

## The Matzah

(Unleavened Bread)

**Leader** On all other nights we eat bread with leaven, but on Passover we eat only *matzah* - 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 the dough flat! But even more important than that, the scriptures teach us that leaven symbolized sin; that is, breaking the law (1 John 3:4).

**All** Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast - as you really are. For Messiah, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the feast! Halleluyah! (1 Corinthians 5:7)

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

**Leader** (*lifting the plate which contains the three matzot*) This is the bread of affliction, the poor 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* are wrapped together for Passover. There are various explanations for this ceremony. The rabbis call these three a “Unity” (an *Echad*). Some consider it a unity of the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Others explain it as a unity of worship - the priests, the Levites, and the people of Israel. We who know Messiah can see in this unique unity of our Elohim - Father, Son, and Spirit. In the *matzah* we can see a picture of Messiah. See how it is striped?

**All** But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).

**Leader** See how the *matzah* is pierced?

**All** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for his only son... (Zechariah 12:10).

**Leader** (*removing and breaking the middle matzah 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* - the *dessert*. It is wrapped in a white cloth just as Messiah's body was wrapped for burial. (*Wraps the afikomen.*)

If the children will cover their eyes, I will hide the *afikomen*. (*Does so.*) Just as I have hidden the *afikomen*, so Messiah was placed in a tomb, hidden for a time.

But just as the *afikomen* will return to complete our Passover Seder, so the sinless Messiah rose from the dead to ascend into heaven. (*Breaks a piece of matzah from the other half of the middle piece and distributes the remainder among the people at the table.*)

Let us now share a piece of this unleavened bread of Passover.

**All** Blessed are You, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

## The Maror

(Bitter Herbs)

**Leader** On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on Passover we eat only *maror*, bitter herbs.

As sweet as our lives are today, let us still remember how bitter life was for the children of Israel in the land of Egypt. (*Lifting the horseradish.*)

...so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made them bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and all kinds of work in the fields... (Exodus 1:12).

As we scoop some *maror* onto a piece of *matzah*, 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.

**All** (*Lifting the matzah with the maror*) Blessed are You, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who has set us apart by His Word and commanded us to eat bitter herbs. (*All eat.*)

## ***The Kharoset***

*(We Dip Twice)*

**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 kharoset, 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 *kharoset*, made from chopped apples, honey, nuts and wine. Let us once again scoop some bitter herbs onto a small piece of *matzah*. But this time, before we eat, let us dip the herbs into the sweet *kharoset*.

**All** *(Lifting the matzah with the maror and kharoset)* 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 Yahweh. *(All eat.)*

**Leader** *While they were reclining at the table eating, Yahshua said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me - one who is eating with me." They were saddened and one by one they said to him, "Surely, not I?" "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips unleavened bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:18-20).*

## ***Tonight We Recline***

**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** Once we were slaves, but now we are 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 Today we all may recline and freely enjoy the Passover Seder.

**All** Messiah said, *"Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).*

## ***The Story of Passover***

*"I have remembered my covenant." Exodus 6:5*

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

**Reader 1** Yahweh had promised the land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yet here were their children in Egypt. The Pharaoh who had come to power feared them. "These foreigners in our midst are prospering and have grown numerous," he thought. "Suppose they join with our enemies and turn against us!" Pharaoh decided to exert greater control over this people, imposing harsh and bitter slavery upon the Israelites. Still, Yahweh blessed His people in strength and number.

**Reader 2** Pharaoh grew more frightened and ordered every baby boy among the Israelites to be drowned in the Nile River. One Hebrew couple hid their little boy for three months. Finally, entrusting his future to Yahweh, they set him in a basket and placed him upon the river. His sister, Miriam, watched as he floated downstream. Discovering the basket,

Pharaoh's daughter took pity on the child and chose to raise him as her own son. She called him Moses, meaning "drawn from the water."

**Reader 3** Moses grew and became aware of the travail of his people. One day, in a rage, he lost control and killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave. Fleeing the palace and the eye of Pharaoh, Moses became a shepherd in the land of Midian, far from the cries of his suffering brothers and sisters.

**Reader 4** Yahweh saw the affliction of the children of Israel and heard their groaning. He would raise up a deliverer to lead them out of bondage. It was then that He appeared to Moses in the midst of a bush that burned with fire, yet was not consumed. Moses drew close and listened as Yahweh commissioned him to go to Pharaoh. Fearful and reluctant, still Moses agreed to bring Yahweh's message to the king of Egypt, "Let My people go!"

## ***The Cup of Plagues***

*"I will free you from being slaves..." Exodus 6:6*

**Leader** Moses left the wilderness to return to Pharaoh's palace, the very place where he had been raised. He returned with the message that Yahweh had given him. But Yahweh Himself warned Moses of the resistance that he would encounter.

**All** *"But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go" (Exodus 3:19,20).*

**Leader** Yahweh 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, Yahweh pierced through the hardness of Pharaoh's impenetrable heart.

**All** *"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn - both men and animals - and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt; I am Yahweh." (Exodus 12:12)*

**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 Yahweh'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 Yahweh'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 recite each plague three times, let us dip a little finger into the cup, allowing a drop of liquid to fall, reducing the fullness of our cup of joy this night

**All** *(Each plague is recited three times.)* Blood! Frogs! Lice! Beasts! Mad Cow! Boils! Hail! Locusts! Darkness! Death! *(Do no drink the second cup at this time.)*

## The Passover Lamb

*“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.” Exodus 12:13*

**Leader** Rabbi Gamaliel taught that in recounting the Passover story one must be certain to mention three things:

the Unleavened Bread  
the Bitter Herbs  
the Passover Lamb.

**All** We have eaten the matzah to remind us of the haste with which the children of Israel fled Egypt. We have tasted the bitter herbs to remind us of the bitter slavery they experienced there.

**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 Yahweh’s command.

**Reader 1** “... on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of the houses where they eat the lambs.” (Exodus 12:3,5-7)

**Reader 2** “That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt; your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is Yahweh’s Passover. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” (Exodus 12:8,11,13).

**Leader** We are reminded by Moses that it was Yahweh Himself who redeemed the children of Israel from slavery. “So Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders” (Deuteronomy 26:8). On that same night I will pass through Egypt.”

**All** I, and not an angel.

**Leader** “And strike down every firstborn - both men and animals -

**All** I, and not a seraph.

**Leader** “And I will bring judgment on all the elohim of Egypt;

**All** I, and not a messenger.

**Leader** “I am Yahweh.”

**All** I myself and none other.

**Leader** (*Lifting the egg*) Likewise, a roasted egg has been added to the Seder. It is called *khagigah*, a name signifying the special holiday offering. The egg is regarded as a symbol of mourning, reminding us of the destruction of the second Temple. It is also considered by many to denote new birth and eternal life, since the shape of an egg shows no beginning and no end. The roasted egg may be eaten later, during the seder meal.

**All** We who have trusted Yahshua the Messiah believe he is the Lamb of Yahweh, our Passover. Like the ancient Israelites, we know that it was Yahweh Himself, and not an angel, Yahweh Himself, and not a seraph, Yahweh Himself, and not a messenger, who achieved final

redemption from sin and death. It is Yahweh Himself, through Yahshua his Son, who takes away the sin of the world.

## Dayenu

*They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145:7*



**Leader** How great is Yahweh’s goodness to us! For each of His acts of mercy and kindness we declare *dayenu* – “it would have been sufficient.” If Yahweh 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!

**Leader** But the set-apart One, blessed be He, provided all of these blessings for our ancestors, and not only these, but so many more.

**All** Blessed are You, O Yahweh, for You have, in mercy, supplied all our needs. You have given us Messiah, forgiveness for sin, life abundant and life everlasting. Halleluyah!

## The Passover Supper

*“Ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh.” Exodus 12:14*

Lets us eat the Passover.

## The Afikomen

*For the transgression of my people he was stricken. Isaiah 53:8*

**Leader** It is time for us to share the *afikomen*, the dessert, the final food eaten at Passover. It is shared as the Passover lamb was shared from the time of the Exodus until the destruction of the Temple. It is said that the taste of the *afikomen* should linger in our mouths. Messiah broke *matzah* and gave thanks to Yahweh.

**All** Blessed are You, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

**Leader** It was then that Messiah added the words, “*This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*” (Luke 22:19) Let us now eat *matzah*, meditating on the broken body of the Lamb of Yahweh who takes away the sin of the world. Let us allow the taste to linger in our mouths.

## ***The Cup of Redemption***

*“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm...” Exodus 6:6*

**Leader** Let us fill our cups for the third time this evening. (*Lifting the cup.*)

This is the cup of redemption, symbolizing the blood of the Passover Lamb. It was the cup “after supper,” with which Messiah identified himself.

**All** “I will redeem you with and outstretched arm...”

**Leader** The prophet Isaiah reminds us, “*Surely the arm of Yahweh is not too short to save*” (*Isaiah 59:1*). It is our own righteousness that falls short. Though Yahweh searched, He could find no one to intercede. “*So his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.*” (*Isaiah 59:16*)

Yahshua the Messiah lifted the cup, saying, “*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*” (*Luke 22:20*) Just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation in Egypt, so Messiah’s atoning death can bring salvation to all who believe.

Blessed are you, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Let us gratefully drink.

## ***The Prophet Elijah***

**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 children open the door to welcome Elijah to our Seder. (A child opens the door)

**All** “*See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of Yahweh comes.*” (*Malachi 4:5*)

**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 Baptizer, an angel of Yahweh said, “*And he will go on before Yahweh, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to make ready a prepared people*” (*Luke 1:17*). Later Yahshua spoke of John, “*And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come*” (*Matthew 11:14*). It was this same John who saw Yahshua and declared, “*Look, the Lamb of Yahweh, who takes away the sin of the world*” (*John 1:29*)!

## ***The Cup of Praise***

*“I will take you as my own people and I will be your Elohim.” Exodus 6:7*

**Leader** Let us fill our cups for the fourth and last time and give thanks to Yahweh, our great redeemer. Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good.

**All** His love endures forever. Give thanks to Yahweh Almighty.

**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, 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 Yahweh of heaven.

**All** His love endures forever. (*Psalm 136:1-16,26*).

**Leader** (*Lifting the cup*) Let us lift our cups and bless the Name of Yahweh!

**All** Blessed are You, O Yahweh our Elohim, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. (*All drink.*) Halleluyah! Halleluyah!

**Leader** Our Passover Seder is now complete, just as our redemption is forever complete.

Let us conclude with the traditional wish that we may celebrate Passover next year in Jerusalem.

**All** Next year in Jerusalem!