

Messianic Jewish Passover Haggadah

Original text
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When God brought our fathers out of Egypt, He commanded them to eat only unleavened bread with the Passover meal:

"For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native. Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread." (Ex. 12: 19-20)

(Before the ceremony of searching for leaven begins, a candle is lit and the following prayer is recited)

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Asher Kiddshanu B'mitzvo-tav,
Vitzee-vanu Al be-ur Cha-maytz.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who made us holy with His commandments,
and commanded us to remove the leaven.

(The search for the leaven is concluded. After the leaven has been gathered and wrapped securely, the following is said...)

“Any leaven that may still be in the house, which I have not seen or have not removed, shall be treated as if it does not exist and as the dust of the earth.”

Kindling the candles

*(The lady of the house will kindle the candles
and then say the following)*

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Asher Kiddshanu, b'mitzvo-tav,
vitzee-vah-nu l'had-leek nair shel yom tov.

Blessed art Thou. O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who has made us holy by your commandments
and has commanded us to kindle the festival lights.

As a woman begins the Seder and brings light to the table, let us remember that the Lord used a woman to bring forth our Messiah, the light of the world.

(Fill the first cup and say the Kiddush)

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Boray P'ree Hagaphen.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who makes a distinction between the holy and the plain, between light and darkness, between Israel and the other nations, between the seventh day and the six days of work. You have distinguished and made holy your people with your holiness. Blessed art Thou, who makes a distinction between holiness and holiness.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
She-hech-ee-anu, V'keey'manu,
V'hee-gee-anu Laz-man Hazeh.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who has kept us in life, preserved us,
and has enabled us to reach this season

(Drink the first cup of wine)

Urchatz

(Wash your hands, without saying the blessing.)

Carpas

(Parsley is dipped in salt water, distributed to everyone at the table, and the following blessing is said:)

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Boray P'ree Ha-ada-ma.

Blessed art Thou. O Lord our God, King of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the earth.

(All eat the parsley)

The wine which is red represents the blood of the Passover Lamb. The parsley represents the hyssop used to put the blood of the lamb upon the top and sides of the door frame. The salt water represents the Red Sea; as well as the tears shed in Egypt.

Yachatz

The matzah is found in its covering, a unified holder (matzah tosh) comprised of three sections. The middle matzah is removed and broken in half. Leave half of it in the holder. The other half is wrapped in a napkin and put aside until after supper for the Afikomen (Have the children close their eyes and hide the Afikomen.)

The reason why the middle matzah is broken is not clear in Jewish tradition. Some rabbis claim the unity stands for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; others say for the Cohanim, the Levites, and for Israel. But these interpretations do not explain why the middle matzah is broken. As Messianic believers, we understand this tri-unity represents God, who is One, yet three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God eternally existent in three persons.

Maggid

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of the 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; you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 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. 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. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with the bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire...Do not leave any of it until morning. If some is left until morning, you must burn it. 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 the Lord's Passover. On that 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 the Lord. 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." (Ex. 12:1-13)

As God saw the blood and passed over the houses of the Israelites; so does He pass over sins when He sees Yeshua's blood shed on our behalf.

We keep Passover to remember the physical deliverance God gave us in Egypt and we keep Messiah's Passover to remind us of the spiritual deliverance He brings us from sin.

*The second cup of wine is filled.
The youngest asks the four questions*

The Four Questions

Ma Nish-tah-na Ha-lai-lah Ha-zeh Me-cal Ha-lai-lote?

1. She-b'khal Ha-lae-lote Aw-nu Okh-lean Kha-matz U-matzah.
Halai-lah Ha-zeh Koo-Low Matzah:
2. She-b'khal Ha-lae-lote Aw-nu Okh-lean Sh-are Y'ra-kot
Halai-lah Ha-zeh Maror:
3. She-b'khal Ha-lae-lote Ain Aw-nu Mat-be-lean
A-fee-loo-Paam Eh-khat. Ha-Lai-lah Hazeh Sh'tay F'-amim.
4. She-b'khal Ha-lai-lote Aw-nu Okh-lean Bayn
Yoshveen Uvayn M'subeen. Ha-lai-lah Hazeh Koo-lah-nu
M'subeen:

Why is this night different from all other nights?

1. On all other nights, we eat either leavened bread, or matzah;
on this night why do we eat only matzah?
2. On all other nights we eat vegetables and herbs of any kind;
on this night, why do we eat only bitter herbs?
3. On all other nights, we never dip our herbs even once;
on this night, why do we dip them twice?
4. On all other nights we eat sitting up or reclining; on this night,
why do we eat in a reclining position?

The Answer

We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt and the Lord our God brought us out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. If God had not brought our forefathers out from Egypt, then even we, and our children and our children's children might still have been enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt. Therefore, even if we were all wise, all people of understanding, even if we were all old and well learned in the Torah, it would still be our duty to tell the story of the departure from Egypt. And the more one tells of the departure from Egypt, the more He is to be praised.

Blessed is God, who gave the Torah to His people Israel. The Torah speaks about four sons: one who is wise and one who is contrary: one who is simple and one who does not even know how to ask a question. The four sons represent four responses people may have to God and His Word.

The wise son asks: "What is the meaning of the rules, laws and customs which the Lord our God has commanded us?" You shall explain to him all the laws of the Passover, to the very last detail about the Afikoman.

The contrary son asks: "What is the meaning of this service to you?" Saying you, he excludes himself; therefore, tell him plainly, "I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came forth from Egypt" It is necessary for each person to look upon himself as if he personally came forth from Egypt.

Likewise, it is necessary for each person to have his own relationship with God. It is not enough to have a relative or friend who believes in Yeshua. But each person must receive Him as his Messiah and atonement. As Yochanan Ben Zachariah said, "...do not begin to say to yourselves, 'we have Abraham as our father', for I tell you that out of these stones, God can raise up children for Abraham. Produce fruits in keeping with repentance". (Luke 3:8)

The simple son asks, "What is this?" To him you shall say, "With a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."

As for the son who does not even know how to ask a question you must begin for him, as it is written in the Scriptures. "You shall tell your children on that day, this is done because of that which the Lord did for me when I came forth out of Egypt".

The cup of judgment

(As each of the ten plagues is named a drop of wine is removed from the cup with a finger and splashed onto the plate)

1. Blood
2. Frogs
3. Gnats
4. Flies
5. Cattle disease
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Slaying of the first born

Dayenu

Had He brought us out from Egypt
And not judged them,
It would have been enough for us!

Had He judged them
And not judged their idols
It would have been enough for us!

Had He judged their idols
And not slain their first born
It would have been enough for us!

Had He slain their first born
And not given us their property,
It would have been enough for us!

Had He given us their property
And not divided the sea for us,
It would have been enough for us!

Had He divided the sea for us
And not brought us through on dry ground.
It would have been enough for us!

Had He brought us through on dry ground
And not drowned our oppressors.
It would have been enough for us!

Had He drowned our oppressors
And not helped us forty years in the desert,
It would have been enough for us!

Had He helped us forty years in the desert
And not fed us manna.
It would have been enough for us!

Had He fed us manna
And not given us the Sabbath,
It would have been enough for us!

Had He given us the Sabbath
And not brought us to Mount Sinai.
It would have been enough for us!

Had He brought us to Mount Sinai
And not given us the Torah,
It would have been enough for us!

Had He given us the Torah

And not brought us into the Land of Israel.
It would have been enough for us!

Had he brought us to the Land of Israel
And not built us the Holy Temple,
It would have been enough for us!

As followers of the Messiah, we will add a further “Dayenu” knowing that if God had only provided atonement for us through the death of the Messiah; it would have been enough for us. But He did much more. God did not abandon Yeshua to the grave, but raised Him from the dead as King of kings and Lord of lords, and blessed are those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, for they too will live and reign with Him for ever and ever!

The Passover Offering

The Passover offering which our forefathers ate in temple times - what was the reason for it? Because the Holy One, blessed be He, spared the lives of our forefathers in Egypt, as it is written, “and when your children ask you, ‘what does this mean?’ then you 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,’” (Ex, 12:26-27)

It is also written, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep is silent before her shearers, so He did not open His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

Also, “John saw Yeshua coming to him and said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,’” (John 1:29)

The Matzah

This Matzah which we eat...What is the reason for it? It is because there was not enough time for our fathers’ dough to rise when the Holy One, blessed be He, redeemed them, as the Scriptures say, 'They baked cakes of unleavened bread, the dough was without yeast because they did not have time to prepare food because they had been driven out of Egypt.'” (Exodus 12:39)

The Matzah is unleavened; in its baking, it is pierced and striped. It is unleavened because it is to be without contamination, a symbol of sin. Pierced and striped, it illustrates the Messiah, who being without sin was pierced for our iniquities and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

The Bitter Herbs

This bitter herb (maror) which we eat...what is the reason for it?" It is because the Egyptians embittered the lives our ancestors in Egypt, as it is written: "So they put slave drivers over them to oppress them with forced labor...but the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor, the Egyptians used them ruthlessly. (Ex. 1:11-14) The

bitter herb reminds us of the sorrow, persecution, and suffering of our people, but praise be to the Mighty One of Israel who delivered His people from the house of bondage in Egypt.

(The second cup is raised, and all recite...)

Therefore, we are bound to thank, praise, laud, glorify, extol, honor, bless, exalt, and reverence Him, who performed for our fathers and for us all these miracles. He brought us from slavery into freedom; from sorrow into joy; from mourning into festivity and from servitude into redemption.

We praise God for the redemption He has brought us: redemption from slavery, through the death of Egypt's first born: redemption from sin, through the death of God's Son. It is written, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have everlasting life."

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Boray p'ree Ha-gaphen.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God,
King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

(All drink the second cup of wine.)

Rakhatz

(Wash the hands and say...)

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Asher Kiddshanu B'mitzvo-tav,
Vitzee-vanu al n'tee-lat ya-da-yim

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God,
King of the universe,
who made us holy with His commandments,
and commanded us concerning the washing of hands

Motzi and Matzah

(Take remaining half of middle piece of Matzah still in Matzah tosh along with 2 other pieces of Matzah, if necessary, break into small pieces and distribute 3 pieces to each person at the table)
(Say the blessing over the Matzah)

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Ha-motzi Lechem Min Ha-aretz.

Blessed art Thou O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Asher Kiddshanu B'mitzvo-tav,
Vitzee-vanu Al A-khee-lat Matzah.

Blessed art Thou O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who made us holy in His commandments
and commanded us concerning the eating of matzah.

(Eat the Matzah)

Bitter Herbs (Maror)

(Dip matzah in the bitter herbs and say...)

Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohanu Melech Ha-olam,
Asher Kiddshanu B'mitzvo-tav, Vitzee-vanu
Al A-khee-lat maror.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who made us holy with His commandments, and commanded us
concerning the eating of bitter herbs.

Haroseth

(Dip matzah in haroseth and say)

As we eat the sweet after the bitter, so does our God bring sweetness
in place of the bitterness of life, as He did for our forefathers before us.

As the bitter herb is a symbol of suffering, the salt water is a symbol of tears, the parsley is a symbol of hyssop, and the wine a symbol of blood; the haroseth is a symbol of the bricks which were made by our people in Egypt.

Betzah

The egg symbolizes new life for the Israelites as they came forth out of Egypt. The egg also symbolizes "new life" for believers in Yeshua. "If anyone is in the Messiah, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come. (2 Cor. 5: 17)

Shank Bone

The shank bone is a reminder of the Passover lambs that were slaughtered. For us as believers, it is a reminder of Yeshua, our Passover Lamb.

Serve and eat the Passover meal

(Before resuming, children search for Afikomen – after bringing afikomen back to the table, they receive a “reward”. The afikomen is then broken into small pieces and distributed to all at the table)

Concerning the Afikomen, it is written: "And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Yeshua said to them, "I tell you the truth, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven; for the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir", they said, "from now on, give us this bread."

Then Yeshua declared, "I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never go thirsty...I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven. If a man eats this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my body, which I give for the life of the world."

It was this middle matzah, which is broken, hidden away, brought back, broken and distributed, that Yeshua pointed to and said, "This is my body which is given for you." Afikoman means *I have come*, but more specifically *that which was hidden, to be brought out later*.

As the matzah is unleavened, striped, pierced, and bruised, so was our Messiah without sin, striped by the Roman's whip, pierced by nails and the soldier's spear, and bruised for our iniquities.

For the one who believes that Yeshua is the Messiah, this Afikomen symbolizes His sacrifice of atonement for our sins so that we might have peace with God.

For the one who does not believe in Yeshua, this is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate during the exodus from Egypt.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Ha-motzi lechem min ha-aretz

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
Who brings forth bread from the earth.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Ha-motzi lechem min ha-sha-ma-yim

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
Who brought forth bread from heaven

(As you believe in your heart, eat the Afikomen)

The Cup of Redemption
(The third cup is filled)

This cup, the cup of redemption symbolizes God's promise of redemption from slavery. It was this cup, after supper, in the upper room that Yeshua raised and said, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for you." He died to give us atonement from sin and new life with God; just as the Passover Lamb was sacrificed to bring us redemption.

For the believer in Yeshua this cup symbolizes our participation in the New Covenant, that God has forgiven our sins because of Yeshua's sacrifice.

For the one who does not believe in Yeshua, this cup symbolizes the redemption from slavery in Egypt.

Baruch Atah Adonai. Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam,
Boray p'ree Hagaphen.

Blessed art Thou. O Lord our God. King of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

(Let each one drink according to his faith)

(Open the door for Elijah the prophet)

Yochanan ben Zachariah, whom Yeshua spoke of as the forerunner of Himself, fulfilled the role of Elijah. The prophet Malachi wrote, "See, I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly, the Lord you are seeking will come to His Temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire will come, says the Lord Almighty." (Malachi 3: 1)

Concerning Yochanan, it is written:

"And so Yochanan came... preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. This was his message, 'after me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals, I am unworthy to untie.'" (Mark 1:4, 5, 7)

The cup of praise

(Pour the fourth cup of wine)

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good;

His mercy endures forever!
Give thanks to the God of gods;
His mercy endures forever!
Give thanks to the Lord of lords;
His mercy endures forever!
To Him who alone performs wondrous deeds;
His mercy endures forever!
To Him who made the heavens in wisdom;
His mercy endures forever!
Who expanded the earth above the waters;
His mercy endures forever!
Who made the great lights:
His mercy endures forever!
The sun to rule by day:
His mercy endures forever!
The moon and stars to rule by night
His mercy endures forever!
Who smote the Egyptians in their first born:
His mercy endures forever!
And brought Israel out from among them:
His mercy endures forever!
With a strong hand and an outstretched arm:
His mercy endures forever!
Who divided the Red Sea in two:
His mercy endures forever!
And caused Israel to pass through its midst:
His mercy endures forever!
And overthrew Pharaoh and his army:
His mercy endures forever!
To Him who guided us through the wilderness:
His mercy endures forever!
Who smote great kings:
His mercy endures forever!
And slew mighty kings:
His mercy endures forever!
And gave their land as an inheritance:
His mercy endures forever!
As an inheritance to Israel, His servant:
His mercy endures forever!
Who remembered us in our humiliation:
His mercy endures forever!
And redeemed us from our oppressors:
His mercy endures forever!

Who gives food to all flesh
His mercy endures forever!

O give thanks to the God of heaven!
His mercy endures forever!

(Together)

ALL: The voice of song and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; open the gates of righteousness for me, I will enter through them, to give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This has come from the Lord. It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

ALL: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. We bless You from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and it is He who gives us light... You are my God; I will praise You. You are my G-d, I will extol You. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever!

Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohanu Melech Haolam, Boray P'ree Hagaphen

ALL: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

ALL: Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has provided our needs, both physical and spiritual; who has provided us with atonement and abundant life in our Messiah Yeshua.

(Drink the fourth cup)

Ended is our Passover Seder according to custom, statue, law and grace. As we were privileged to celebrate it this year may we perform it in the future.

O Father in Heaven, restore the congregation of Israel in your love, speedily lead your people, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, to Zion in joy.

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!