

## *Preface*

This Haggadah (Hag-ga-dah הגדה translated “the telling”) is the result of requests made over the last ten years from people interested in celebrating their own Passover Seder (Se-der סדר translated “order”).

After my family and I lived for 2 ½ years in Israel and participated in both Orthodox and Messianic Passover Seders, we returned to Oregon determined to remember God’s provision as seen in Passover, and to share Jesus Christ as revealed in the Seder ritual. Since then, we have celebrated the Seder as a family and with many different church groups.



For the sake of completeness, I must emphasize that whether or not a family does a Seder at Passover in their home, their standing before the Lord is unaffected – we are saved by grace alone, through Christ alone, for the glory of God alone.

We enjoy celebrating the Passover Seder for its lessons of God’s sovereignty and grace in the lives of His children and to see the marvelous revelation of Jesus Christ as the coming Messiah, our Redeemer, in the ritual items used in the Seder.

We pray you will be blessed as you explore this annual festival and we also pray for Jesus Christ to reveal Himself to you and your family this Passover (Pe-sakh פסח) season.

# *An Introduction to Passover*

*Leader* - Read this introduction before your meal begins:

In order to prepare your home for the Passover, the entire house must be cleaned to remove any leaven. (This cleaning of the home by our Jewish neighbors is most likely the source of our “spring cleaning” tradition!) Then the morning before Passover begins, the mother leaves one piece of leaven out and the father performs the Be-di-kat Kha-metz (בדיקת חמץ - Search for the Leaven) ceremony.

The father searches through the house with the children to find the last piece of leaven. Once the leaven is discovered, the father brushes the leaven into a cloth with a feather. He then removes the leaven and burns it outside while repeating a blessing. Leaven symbolizes sin and we should rid our lives of it because sin is rebellion against the things of God and we should seek to live each day God blesses us with to His honor and glory.

We come to this Passover Seder (Hebrew for “order”) with many different backgrounds and experiences. For some this is a ‘first’ and you are curious about this Jewish festival. For some, you were invited by a friend or family member and really have no idea, other than there will be a lot of good food, what the evening will hold. For others, this is not new but perhaps simply different. In any case, you are invited to relax and enjoy this time as we gather around the Seder table, decorated with many strange items. Taste perhaps new, slightly different foods, and experience God’s provision and care through the retelling of the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. This is a story of redemption in our past as well as our present.

This is the very same meal that our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated with his disciples in the Upper Room, the night he was betrayed. In this Seder meal he revealed how the traditional ritual symbols pointed to Him, the Messiah, instituting what we now call “The Lord’s Supper.” The New Testament record of that night gives brief snapshots out of the Passover Seder. Not every aspect of the Seder is seen in the New Testament record but enough “pieces of the puzzle” are there to assure us that they indeed celebrated the Passover Seder together that night. This ritual meal had been celebrated for over one thousand years, always pointing to the Messiah, and it was fulfilled that night in Jesus Christ!

We read together from this Haggadah (Hebrew for “the telling”) to remember how God saved the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. In this re-telling, we will see many different symbols:

	<b>Orthodox Jewish meaning</b>	<b>Messianic meaning</b>
Seder Plate	Bitter herbs, sweet apple mix, bone, etc.	Bone - Jesus, the Lamb of God
Matzah Tash	Abraham, Isaac & Jacob	Father, Son & Holy Spirit
Middle Matzah	Afikomen (Greek for “the Coming One”)	Jesus Christ - pierced & bruised
Bowl of Salt Water	Tears of Affliction	We are the Salt of the Earth



All these symbols and more are waiting for us tonight!

Let us listen, taste, touch and share in this Passover Seder.

## *Lighting the Seder Candles*

### ***Leader:***

We now begin our Seder with the Lighting of the Candles. The candles are lit by the Mother after which she waves her hands three times over the candles and says:

***A Mother:*** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has set us apart by His Word, and in whose Name we light the festival lights. Amen.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו בדברו ובשמו אנהנו  
מדליקים הנרות של יום טוב אמן

*Ba-ruk'h A-tab a-do-nai, E-lo-hey-nu Me-lek'h Ha-o-lam, A-she'r Kid-sha-nu Be-de-varo U-vish-mo A-nak'h-nu Mad-li-kim Ha-ner-ot Shel Yom Tov. Amen.*

### ***Leader:***

A woman lights these candles as a reminder to us of two things: First, to point to our Redeemer, who was to come to us as the promised seed of a woman.

***All:*** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (Gen. 3:15)

### ***Leader:***

Second, as children of God and ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we are called to be a light to the world

***All:*** “You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14a, 16)

### ***Leader:***

May we be the light we are called to be, remembering that the source of that light is Jesus Christ!

# *The Four Cups of Wine*

## *Leader:*

We will partake of four cups of “the fruit of the vine” this evening, each one representing a different aspect of the Exodus story. Each cup bears a name: Sanctification, Plagues, Redemption, and Praise. They not only speak to God’s working in the lives of the children of Israel, but to His work in our lives today.



*All:* “And God spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am the Lord...I have also established My covenant...I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel...I am the Lord; I will bring you out...I will rescue you...I will redeem you with an outstretched arm...I will take you as My people, and I will be your God...And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.’” (from Ex. 6:2-8)

## *Leader:*

In the Passover, we celebrate the Redemption of the children of Israel and our Redemption through the Messiah. As we drink each cup, let us remember the relationship God desires with His people.