

The **4 Cups** are based upon the four “**I Wills**” of Exodus 6:6-7 - “*Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians*” (Exod. 6:6-7).

### **The Cup of Sanctification**

In the first part of the Seder, Jewish families will drink the **Cup of Sanctification**, eat **karpas** (parsley dipped in salt water symbolizing the tears of slavery) and **matzo** (unleavened bread). The head of the Seder breaks the “middle piece of matzo” and wraps it in a linen cloth. He offers a **Kiddush** (blessing) upon the cup, karpas, and matzo and all partake of them.

### **The Cup of Praise**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cup is poured, but not immediately drunk. First, a small child asks **4 Questions**: “*Why is this night different from other nights in that we eat only unleavened bread?*”; “*Why is it that we eat only bitter herbs?*”; “*Why is it on this night we dip twice?*”; and “*Why on this night do we all recline?*” The answers to these questions allow the leader to instruct his family about their Jewish heritage and God’s deliverance to their ancestors. A blessing is offered and all drink the **Cup of Sanctification**. This act is followed by a festive dinner to be enjoyed before observing the 3<sup>rd</sup> act.

### **The Cup of Redemption**

During the meal, the leader hides the “**Afikomen**” (half of the middle piece of matzo broken earlier). A search by the children is made and the finder rewarded. If you ask a Jew why this custom is observed, most will not know. It appears to be a tradition started by 1st Century Jewish Christians. The Afikomen pictures Messiah, Who was broken for us on Calvary, wrapped in linen, and buried in a borrowed tomb. On the third day, He arose from the grave! There is great reward for all who find Him! Jesus is our “Afikomen”! A blessing is offered for the **Cup of Redemption** and all drink. The invitation today is for all to “*come and drink of the water of life freely*” (Rev. 22:17).

A child is then selected to “**Look for Elijah**”. Jews believe that Messiah will come during Passover or another major feast. A chair and plate are set for the Elijah whom they believe will precede Messiah’s coming. Sadly, Jews do not realize the angel of the Lord alluded to John the Baptist “*going before Jesus Christ in the spirit and power of Elijah*” (Luke 1:17).

### **The Cup of Communion**

The last cup is called the **Cup of Communion**. It emphasizes the joy anticipated by the coming Messianic Kingdom. Jews long for Messiah to deliver them from the Times of the Gentiles (Lk. 21:24).

A blessing is offered, and the cup is consumed. The leader reads “**Aliyah**” (Ascent) Psalms followed by singing and praise of the LORD. “**Next Year in Jerusalem**” is the theme of their celebration.

### **A Personal Invitation**

My friend, Messiah Yeshua came nearly 2,000 years ago as the Lamb of God. He shed His precious blood on Calvary, but on the third day, He rose from the grave! He ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for all who believe on Him.

Will YOU accept Him as YOUR LAMB? Bow your head right now and ask Jesus into your heart. Paul wrote, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Romans 10:9-10).



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# **The Feast of Passover:** “Jewish Memorial of God’s Deliverance”



## **The Four Cups**

Cup of Sanctification  
Cup of Praise  
Cup of Redemption  
Cup of Communion



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**JEWISH WORLDWIDE MISSION MINISTRIES**



## —The Feast of Passover—

In Leviticus Chapter 23, we find 7 feasts instituted in the Law. Every Jew understood the importance of observing these feasts. There were consequences for those who failed. Only one verse is mentioned about this first feast of the Jewish calendar – **Passover**. *“In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD’s Passover” (Lev. 23:5)*. Most Jews at that time had just “lived” Passover and were quite familiar with the feast. Let’s look at Exodus 12 and review this First Passover in Egypt.

After 430 years of Egyptian slavery, God called Moses to lead the Jews out of Egypt. Nine times Moses stood before Pharaoh and demanded that he let God’s people go. Nine times Pharaoh refused, and nine times God sent a plague upon Egypt.

When Pharaoh refused a tenth time, God responded by sending a tenth plague, *“death of the firstborn.”* Jehovah also provided a means of deliverance from the 10<sup>th</sup> plague of death that was to come.

Moses informed the Jews to *“take to them every man a lamb” (Exod. 12:3)*. The lamb should be *“without blemish, a male of the first year, taken out from the sheep, or from the goats” (Exod. 12:5)*. The people were to observe it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and then kill it in the evening (*Exod. 12:6*).

After killing the lamb, they were to *“take the blood and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of the houses, wherein they shall eat it” (Exod. 12:7)*. They were to roast their lamb with fire and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (*Exod. 12:8*). They were to eat this Passover meal with their traveling clothes on and their staffs in their hands (*Exod. 12:11*).

Next, Jehovah revealed His plan for Israel on this night. God said, *“I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute*

*judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.” (Exod. 12:12–13a)*. In this first Passover, God revealed His Sovereign plan of deliverance. Deliverance is only possible by the Blood of the Lamb.

## —Passover: A Portrait of Messiah—

It is important to see the types of Messiah in the Passover. As with all the feasts, Passover provided valuable characteristics of Messiah.

Notice the **3 Specific Dates** – 1<sup>st</sup> month; 10<sup>th</sup> day; 14<sup>th</sup> day (*Exod. 12:2-3; 6*). The Feast of Passover is observed in the 1<sup>st</sup> month (Nisan) of the Jewish religious calendar. They were instructed to choose a lamb on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan and observe it for 4 days. On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan they were to kill the lamb, smear its blood on their doorposts, roast it, and eat it. Passover is always celebrated in late March or early April.

There are **3 Specific References to Lamb** – **A lamb; The lamb; Your lamb** (*Exod. 12:3-5*). It matters what you think of Jesus Christ – The Lamb of God. Many think Jesus was “**A**” good man. Many believe Jesus was “**The**” prophet of God. But unless you personalize Jesus Christ by faith as “**Your**” Lamb, He is of no efficacy to you.

Notice **3 Specific Characteristics of the Lamb** – **Spotless lamb; Select lamb; Sacrificial lamb**. Not just any lamb would do! It had to be a “**Spotless lamb**”; *“without blemish” (Exod. 12:5)*. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was without sin. Peter declared, *“...the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:19)*. The lamb was a “**Select lamb**” – *“...a male of the first year: taken out from the sheep or goats” (Exod. 12:5)*. Only Jesus was qualified to become our Redeemer; to offer Himself as a sacrifice acceptable for the sins of the world. Just as importantly, it had to be a “**Sacrificial lamb**”. The lamb had to be killed. In regard to our salvation, God’s Word states, *“...without the shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22)*. *Leviticus 17:11* declares, *“...for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”* The Passover lamb is a portrait of the “*Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8)*.

Likewise, we see foreshadowings of Messiah in the other two elements of the feast. In the **Unleavened Bread** we see **3 Specific Characteristics of Messiah**. It is “**Pure**” – it contains no leaven; a biblical symbol of sin. The same

is true of Jesus who knew no sin. It is “**Pierced**” – so too was our Lord pierced with a crown of thorns, nails pierced His hands and feet, and a spear pierced His side. It is “**Pinstriped**” – Jesus was beaten with many stripes. Isaiah wrote, *“And 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” (Isa. 53:5)*.

**Bitter Herbs** reveal the bitterness that Messiah endured when He drank the bitter dregs of the cup of our salvation (*Matt. 26:39*). The bondage of **SIN** is **Bitterness!** Only by God’s grace through faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ can one be delivered from the bitterness of sin. Yes, Christ is our Passover! (*1 Cor. 5:7*)

## —Passover: A Jewish Memorial—

Exodus 12:14 states, *“And this day shall be to you for a memorial: and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations: ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”* **Passover is NOT a feast of the Church.** It is a Jewish memorial that God has commanded Jews to keep as an ordinance forever.

Each year on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, Jews observe Passover. Though they may not observe it exactly the same way, the idea of a memorial is similar in all Passover observances.

The word “**Seder**” means, “**order**”, and it is conducted by following the order of a “**Haggadah**”.

The word, “**Haggadah**”, is Hebrew for “**telling**”, and over 88 Haggadahs have been developed by various rabbis. There are 5 actions that are observed in preparation for Passover: **1.)** Removal of all leaven **2.)** Setting the table **3.)** Search for leaven **4.)** Prayer of nullification **5.)** Lighting of the festival lights. Each of these actions is done ceremonially to instruct the entire Jewish family of the importance of the Jewish memorial.

## —The Four Cups—

The Passover Seder is divided into 4 parts. Each part is represented by a different “**Cup**”:

- 1.) Cup of Sanctification**
- 2.) Cup of Praise**
- 3.) Cup of Redemption**
- 4.) Cup of Communion**