

Passover Seder: Christ in the Passover

“Of all the holidays the world has ever celebrated, only seven have been given by God; and all seven were given to the nation of Israel. Passover is the first of these. . . Passover is among the most joyous and festive of the Jewish holidays.” (“Passover Haggadah” by Tom Simcox, c 2001 by the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., P.O. Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099)

While Passover is indeed a Jewish holiday, it is certainly worth experiencing for every believer: Jewish and Gentile! The richness and symbolism are encouraging, instructive and enlightening. *“The Feast of Passover was celebrated by Jesus of Nazareth. It was at the Passover that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, or communion. The rich symbolism of the Seder service paints a very clear and revealing picture of Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior, helping us better understand this ordinance.”* (“Jewish Culture and Customs” by Steve Herzig, c1997 by the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., P.O. Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099)

Elements/Symbols:

- **The lamb** (shankbone): represents the unblemished lamb that sacrificed before the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.
- **Matzoh**: unleavened bread (in scripture, leaven is symbolic of sin)
- **Bitter herbs**: represents the bitterness and sorrow of slavery

- **Parsley/salt water**: parsley symbolizes the hyssop branch used to spread blood on the door posts and salt water symbolizes tears or sorrow
- **Charoset**: This sweet mixture represents the mortar and liberation from slavery
- **Roasted egg**: symbolizes springtime and/or the destruction of the temple
- **Bowls of water**: symbolizes purification and cleansing
- **Four cups of wine/grape juice**: represents the 4 “I wills” of God in Exodus 6:6-7

Passover service order (seder)

1. Candles lit
2. Reading of Exodus 12:1-14
3. 1st cup of sanctification
4. Ritual cleansing
5. Eating the “karpos” (parsley dipped in salt water)
6. Afikomen bag
7. Four questions
8. Answering the four questions/10 plagues
9. Hillel sandwich!
10. 2nd cup of deliverance
11. Ritual cleansing
12. Eating the bitter herb and charoset
13. Dinner!
14. Afikomen and sharing the bread
15. 3rd cup of redemption
16. Elijah’s chair
17. 4th cup of acceptance
18. The Hallel
19. Next year in Jerusalem!