



MESSIANIC
PASSOVER
HAGGADAH

BY JEWISH VOICE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

*ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
OF A SEDER*



The Passover Seder, steeped in history and symbolism, tells the story of Israel's exodus from Egypt and highlights God's redemptive work. For Messianic Jewish Believers, it also points to the deeper spiritual truths fulfilled in Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. Below are the essential elements of a Seder, along with their symbolic meanings and roles in the ceremony.



1. Z'ROAH (THE SHANK BONE)

ELEMENT: A roasted lamb shank bone.

SYMBOLISM: The Z'roah represents the lamb sacrificed during the first Passover, whose blood marked the Israelites' doorways and spared them from the plague of the firstborn.

For Messianic Jewish Believers, this is ultimately fulfilled in Yeshua, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice ensures eternal life and deliverance from the judgment of sin.

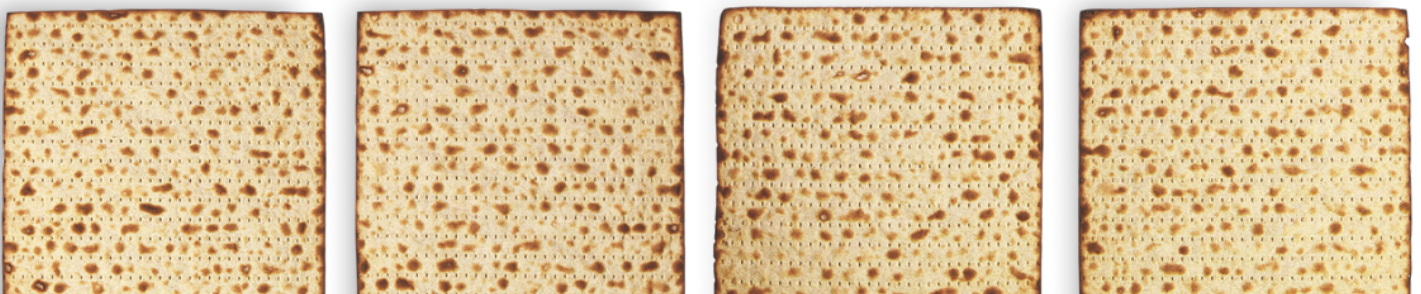
2. MATZAH (UNLEAVENED BREAD)

ELEMENT: Flat, unleavened bread.

SYMBOLISM: Matzah represents the haste in which the Israelites left Egypt, without time for their bread to rise. The absence of leaven also symbolizes purity and sinlessness.

For Messianic Jewish Believers, matzah holds profound significance as a symbol of Yeshua. Its pierced and striped appearance is often seen as a prophetic representation of His body, broken for the sins of the world.

During the Seder, the middle matzah is broken, with one half hidden as the afikomen. This strikingly resembles Yeshua's death, burial, and resurrection.



3. MAROR (BITTER HERBS)

ELEMENT: A bitter herb, often, horseradish.

SYMBOLISM: The bitterness of maror represents the harsh slavery the Israelites endured in Egypt. It is traditionally eaten with a blessing to remember the suffering of their ancestors.



For Messianic Believers, maror also reflects Yeshua's suffering. By taking on the bitterness of sin and death, He became our Passover Lamb who redeemed us fully.

4. THE FOUR EXPRESSIONS OF REDEMPTION

ELEMENT: Four cups of wine, one for each key stage of the Seder.

SYMBOLISM: Each cup represents one of God's promises to Israel in Exodus 6:6-7 — *"I will bring you out, deliver you, redeem you, and take you to be My people."*

- **Cup of Sanctification:** Acknowledges the holiness of the evening.
- **Cup of Deliverance:** Reflects freedom from oppression.
- **Cup of Redemption:** Central to Messianic celebration, as it mirrors Yeshua's redemption through His blood (referenced at the Last Supper).
- **Cup of Praise:** Celebrates God's goodness and the hope of final restoration.

For Messianic Believers, the wine emphasizes God's covenant fulfilled through Yeshua's atoning death and resurrection, connecting the Exodus to spiritual deliverance.



5. TELLING OUR CHILDREN

ELEMENT: A summarized story of **Exodus 1–12** is recited for all, but especially for the younger generation. Children ask 4 questions to prompt the story telling.

SYMBOLISM: The retelling of the Exodus story is central to remembering God's faithfulness to redeem and deliver His people.

Each element of the Seder plays a role in retelling the story of redemption and brings profound depth, forming a tapestry that weaves the past, present, and future into one beautiful meal of remembrance and hope.

**NOW, I INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME IN A
PASSOVER SEDER MEAL.**



*15 TRADITIONAL STEPS
OF THE PASSOVER SEDER*



The Passover Seder is a beautiful and deeply symbolic meal that recounts God's mighty redemption of Israel from slavery in Egypt and points us to the ultimate redemption through Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. Below is a detailed outline of the 15 traditional steps of the Seder, along with blessings, meanings, and Messianic interpretations.

1. KADESH – THE SANCTIFICATION

ACTION: The Seder begins with the first of four cups of wine. Wine is poured, and a blessing is recited.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, Borei p'ri hagefen."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.)

ACTION: The Cup of Redemption is consumed, after the blessing.

SIGNIFICANCE: There are four cups of wine used throughout the Seder meal. They come from the four promises God made to His people in **Exodus 6:6–8**. The first cup sanctifies the evening, setting it apart as holy. It references God's promise, saying, *"I will bring you out."* This can also reflect Yeshua's sanctification of His disciples during the Last Supper.

2. URCHATZ – WASHING OF THE HANDS

ACTION: Participants wash their hands, typically without a blessing, because no bread is present.

SIGNIFICANCE: This act symbolizes spiritual cleansing and preparation. Messianic Jewish Believers reflect on Yeshua washing the disciples' feet, a profound act of humility and servitude.

3. KARPAS – DIPPING THE VEGETABLE IN SALT WATER

ACTION: A small piece of a green vegetable from the ground (often parsley) is dipped in salt water and eaten.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, Borei p'ri ha'adamah."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the ground.)

SIGNIFICANCE: The green vegetable symbolizes spring and renewal, while the salt water reminds us of the tears shed in Egyptian slavery. For Messianic Jewish Believers, it also points to the tears Yeshua shed as He interceded for us in Gethsemane.

4. YACHATZ – BREAKING THE MIDDLE MATZAH

ACTION: The middle piece of matzah is broken in two. One half is wrapped in a cloth & hidden as the afikomen. (The children or your guests will look for the afikomen later in step 12.)

SIGNIFICANCE: This step is profoundly Messianic. Matzah is unleavened (representing sinlessness) and striped and broken, which many Messianic Jewish Believers see as a picture of Yeshua. The broken matzah reminds us of His broken body, and the hidden afikomen wrapped in a cloth represents His burial.

5. MAGGID – THE TELLING OF THE EXODUS STORY

ACTION: The second cup of wine, the Cup of Deliverance, is poured. The story of the Exodus is told. Typically, the youngest child asks the Four Questions, and the plagues are remembered as adults answer. Feel free to invite children and adults to respond to the questions and participate.

- ***Why is this night different from all the other nights?***

Tonight is different because we remember that our people were slaves in Egypt under Pharaoh, and our God brought us out with strength and the might of His hand. If God had not brought us out, we would still be slaves today in Egypt, and the preparation for our redemption in our Messiah, the slaying of the Passover Lamb, would not have taken place.

- ***On all other nights, we eat bread or matzah. On this night, why do we eat only matzah?***

Matzah reminds us of how the Israelites didn't have time to add yeast to their dough as they fled from Egypt.

- ***On all other nights, we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night, why do we eat only bitter herbs?***

The maror reminds us of the bitterness of the bondage of slavery. We also remember that Messiah, our Passover Lamb, set us free from the bondage of sin.

- ***On all other nights, we do not dip our vegetables even once. On this night, why do we dip twice?***

We dip twice, first as a symbol of replacing our tears with joy, and second, to sweeten the taste of bitterness, knowing that Yeshua is our sweetness in the bitter times of life.

- ***On all other nights, we eat our meals sitting or reclining. On this night, why do we only recline?***

Reclining is a symbol of the free man who can eat in leisure. So, this pillow reminds us of our freedom, for in trusting God, we are secure.

ACTION: Upon completion of the Maggid, the blessing over wine is recited and the second cup, the Cup of Deliverance, is consumed while reclining on the left side.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, Borei p'ri hagefen."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.)

SIGNIFICANCE: This is the heart of the Seder as we recount God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. For Messianic Jewish Believers, it also mirrors the greater redemption brought through Yeshua, who delivers us from slavery to sin.

6. RACHTZAH – THE SECOND WASHING OF THE HANDS

ACTION: Hands are washed again, this time with a blessing. Note: A second hand washing is not observed in all modern Seders, but feel free to observe this step with your guests.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al netilat yadayim."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us regarding the washing of hands.)

SIGNIFICANCE: It reflects a need for spiritual renewal and cleanliness before partaking in the meal. Yeshua's continual cleansing power is emphasized, as we are called to walk in purity before Him.

7. MOTZI – BLESSING OVER THE GRAIN

ACTION: The leader lifts the matzah and recites the blessing over bread.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.)

SIGNIFICANCE: Traditionally, this recognizes God as the source of sustenance. For Messianic Jewish Believers, it also symbolizes Yeshua, the Bread of Life, who sustains us forever.

8. MATZAH – EATING THE MATZAH

ACTION: A piece of matzah is eaten.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al achilat matzah."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctifies us with His commandments and commanded us to eat matzah.)

SIGNIFICANCE: Eating the matzah commemorates the haste with which Israel fled Egypt. Messianic Jewish Believers reflect on Yeshua's sinless body, broken for us in redemption.

9. MAROR – EATING THE BITTER HERBS

ACTION: A portion of the bitter herbs is eaten, sometimes with a little charoset.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al achilat maror."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctifies us with His commandments and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.)

SIGNIFICANCE: The bitter reflects the harshness of slavery. For Messianic Jewish Believers, it also reminds us of Yeshua's suffering, as He bore our sins on the executioner's stake.

10. KORECH – THE HILLEL SANDWICH

ACTION: A piece of matzah topped with some maror and charoset is eaten.

SIGNIFICANCE: This step traditionally embodies the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of redemption. For Messianic Jewish Believers, the combination also reminds us of Yeshua's suffering and the sweetness of the salvation He brings.

11. SHULCHAN ORECH – THE FESTIVE MEAL

ACTION: The dinner is served, which often includes brisket or roasted chicken. A full meal is often served.

SIGNIFICANCE: The meal celebrates freedom and God’s provision. During this time, Messianic Jewish families often reflect on Yeshua’s presence among us, symbolized in the breaking of bread during the Last Supper.

12. TZAFUN – EATING THE AFIKOMEN

ACTION: The afikomen (hidden matzah) is found, and each participant eats a piece.

SIGNIFICANCE: The afikomen, broken, hidden, and reappearing, mirrors Yeshua’s death, burial, and resurrection. Sharing it as the “last thing eaten” during the Seder parallels His statement, “This is My body, given for you.”

13. BARECH – THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

ACTION: The third cup of wine, the Cup of Redemption, is poured, and the Birkat Hamazon (Grace After Meals) is recited.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, Borei p'ri hagefen."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.)

ACTION: Upon completion of Barech, the blessing over wine is recited and the third cup is consumed while reclining on the left side.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, Borei p'ri hagefen."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.)

SIGNIFICANCE: The Cup of Redemption beautifully highlights God's promise to redeem His people. For Messianic Jewish Believers, this is particularly moving as it reflects the redemption accomplished by Yeshua's blood.

14. HALLEL – PRAISE

ACTION: The fourth cup of wine, the Cup of Praise, is poured and participants recite or sing psalms of praise, often from Psalms 113–118.

ACTION: Upon completion of the Hallel, the blessing over wine is recited and the fourth cup is consumed while reclining on the left side.

BLESSING:

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, Borei p'ri hagefen."

(Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.)

SIGNIFICANCE: Traditional Jewish families celebrate God's deliverance through praise. Messianic Jewish Believers praise God not only for the Exodus but also for the redemption Yeshua has brought to the world.

15. NIRTZAH – CLOSING THE SEDER

ACTION: The Seder concludes with the prayer that we will share it "*next year in Jerusalem!*"

BLESSING:

'Shana haba'ah b'Yerushalayim

(Next year in Jerusalem!)

SIGNIFICANCE: This is a proclamation of hope and future restoration. For Messianic Jewish Believers, it looks forward to the return of Yeshua and the establishment of His Kingdom in the New Jerusalem.

The Passover Seder magnifies the beauty of redemption and the history of the Jewish people. Messianic Jewish Believers and Christians can celebrate God's faithfulness and the ultimate fulfillment of His promises in Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah, through the Passover Seder

To learn more about Passover, please visit jewishvoice.org/passover.





Proclaiming Jesus the Messiah to the World