



THE BLOCK

Community on Columbia -- A Neighborhood Home Church in East Dallas -- communityoncolumbia.org

PASSOVER

NOTES & SCHEDULE

Why should Christian believers want to celebrate a Jewish feast?

Because without an understanding of these festivals and their place in Jewish life in the first century, most of the sayings and activities of Jesus and his disciples will be meaningless to us.

Here are a few reasons, among many, to celebrate Passover:

1. Jesus and His disciples celebrated the feast together the night before His crucifixion. They had to walk over 75 miles, with a price on their heads, to be in Jerusalem for the feast.
2. Paul, the other disciples and all believers celebrated the feast for the first 100 years of the church.
3. Jesus said, when He took the bread and the wine on that fateful night almost 2,000 years ago, "as oft as you do this, do it in remembrance of me." We take the bread and the wine at our weekly "Agape Feast" which is in fact a mini-Passover.
4. We gain insight into the meaning of the lamb, the bread and the wine--the essential symbols of our faith.
5. Our celebration of Passover is the perfect type of our exodus from the world system and is a living picture of our common salvation.
6. Joy and freedom are the fruits of understanding Passover.

The Passover was a major sacrifice, yet one distinct from all others. It did not originate in the Law, for it was instituted before the Law had been given or before the Covenant had been ratified by blood. In a sense, it was the cause and the foundation of all the Levitical sacrifices and of the covenant itself. It cannot be classed with any of the various kinds of sacrifices, but rather combined them all, yet differed from them all. Just as the priesthood of Christ was real, yet not after the order of Aaron, but of the order of Melchizedek, so was the sacrifice of Christ real, yet not of the order of the Levitical offerings, but after that of Passover.

Jewish tradition records many things occurring at Passover:

1. Horror of Great Darkness fell on Abraham when God revealed to him the future of the seed.
2. Abraham was fed by Melchizedek.
3. Abraham ate Passover with heavenly guests and Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, but Lot escaped.
4. Death of first-born of Egypt.

5. Walls of Jericho fell.
6. Destruction of Midian's hosts.
7. Captains of Sennacherib and King of Assyria were overtaken.
8. Handwriting appeared on wall to declare Babylon's doom.
9. Haman perished - hung on a tree.
10. Final Judgment came upon Edom.

READINGS LEADING UP TO PASSOVER

Day	Torah	Prophets
1.	Ex 12:21-51; Num 28:19-25	Josh 5:2-6:1; Is 42
2.	Lev 22:26 - 23:33; Num 28:19-25 2	Kings 23:1-9; 21-25
3.	Ex 13:1-16; Num 28:19-25	2 Chron 30:1-27
4.	Ex 22:25 - 23:19; Num 28:19-25	
5.	Ex 33:12 - 34:26; Num 28:19-25	Ezk 36:16-37: 14
6.	Num 9:1-14; Num 28:19-25	
7.	Ex 13:17 - 15:26; Num 28:19-25	2 Samuel 22: 1-51
8.	Duet 15:19 - 16:17; Num 28:19-25	Is 10:32 - 12:6

The Song of Solomon is read on the intervening Sabbath.

New Testament References:

Mark 14, John 13, Acts 2:9-10, John 19:36, Matthew 26, John 1:29, I Corinthians 5:7-8, I Peter 1:19, Luke 22, Revelation 5:6, I Corinthians 11:17-34

Passover-Related Scriptures in the Gospels:

Matthew 19:1 - 28:15, Luke 17:11 - 24:35, Mark 10:32 - 16:13, John 11:1 - 20:25 (Also: John 2:13 - 3:2, John 6:4, Luke 2:41 - 53)

The ancient rabbis taught that Israel (a type of the church) was betrothed on Passover, empowered and cleansed on Pentecost and married on Tabernacles.

REMEMBER: FREEDOM AND JOY ARE THE DOMINANT THEMES!

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

6 p.m. - Cook-out at Lair House

Please make every effort to be at the cook-out by 6 p.m.

7: 30 p.m. - Pre-Passover Celebration

Skits, Huffy awards, miscellaneous unsanctioned silliness, then sing the Psalms of Ascent

SATURDAY

Sunrise: Fast of The First-Born

This is a "wimp" fast, i.e., abstain from food, coffee, soft drinks and cigarettes. Drink only water. The fast lasts until the Seder meal begins. Following the pattern of Jacob and Esau--first the natural, then the spiritual-- our flesh precedes Christ, who is born in us. Thus we all fast leading up to the Seder meal, when Christ is revealed.

9 a.m. – Decorate and Prepare for Seder Meal

12:30 p.m. - Preparation In Minyans (Bible Study Groups)

1. Search for Leaven---You must search-out and rid yourselves of the three types of leaven that Jesus warned about -- i.e, anything that puffs you up as the leaven does the bread:
 - a. Leaven of the Pharisees - hypocrisy
 - b. Leaven of Herod - seeing lack in any arena of your life.
 - c. Leaven of the Sadducees - not seeing the power of God.
2. Resolve differences among the brethren - first in your Bible study group, then the Seder group, then the whole Body. Make sure there is genuine forgiveness not merely a truce. (Note: It's best to start this process right now.)
3. A ceremony to burn the leaven in each minyan.

3 p.m. - Seder -Remember to bring a white shirt or white dress/blouse to wear!

The Seder meal will be observed separately by each of the three Seder Groups in their usual meeting places unless otherwise specified.

6:30 p.m. - Festive Meal

All the Seder groups will eat this meal together in the backyard behind the Lair house.

8: 30 p.m. - Afikomen (the origin of Communion)

All groups will take the Afikomen together after our meal in the backyard.

9 p.m. - Sing the Hallel

SUNDAY

8: 30 - 10 a.m. - Continental Breakfast in the Lair.

10 a.m. - All groups will meet together in the backyard. The Passover sermon by Melito of Sardis, first delivered around 150 AD, will be read as we celebrate Christ's resurrection and close out our Passover festivities.