

Passover in the Old Testament and New Testament

by Karen Sue Nyquist

Words that are italicized within quotes are added by me.



1. **What is Passover?** - Passover is the day when God passed over the Jewish homes in Egypt, protecting them from the 10th plague. After this last plague, Pharaoh freed the Israelites. In their Exodus, they left Egypt and the bondage of slavery. To celebrate, God instituted the Passover. God said, “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year... keep it until the fourteenth day ... Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it ... they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it ... nor shall you break one of its bones ... Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:5-7, 46, 13).

2. **Does the Passover in the Old Testament have anything to do with Jesus Christ/ (Yeshua HaMashiach) in the New Testament?** Let’s compare both Testaments.

3. **The Passover Lamb and The Lamb of God** - “One of the most pervasive images in the New Testament is that of Jesus as our Passover lamb” (1).

The prophet, John the Baptist, saw Jesus and exclaimed, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). At the first passover, the Jews were **delivered from slavery**, but Jesus/Yeshua came to deliver the whole world from the **slavery of sin**. Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). “For God did not send His Son (*Jesus Christ*) into the world to condemn the

world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:17). “The greater Exodus that the Messiah accomplishes benefits not only Israel but the nations of the world as well” (1).

4. **Cleaning Out the House In Preparation for the Passover/Pesach** - Before Passover begins, Jews clean their houses of any leaven, which represents sin. A few days before Passover, Jesus cleansed the temple. “Then He (*Jesus*) went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves’ ” (Luke 19:45-46). “And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!’ ” (John 2:16).

5. **Inspection of the Lambs** - The Passover lambs were to be presented to the priests on Nisan 10 (Exodus 12:3) and inspected for four days. Jesus, the Lamb of God, arrived in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Nisan 10, then was questioned/inspected by the chief priests and religious leaders on the following days four different times (Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-34; 14:53-65). “And you know that He (*Jesus Christ*) was manifested to take away our sins and in Him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5). Jesus was the perfect lamb, He had no sin!

6. **The Passover Meal/Seder and the Last Supper** - Jesus’ last Passover with His disciples is called the Last Supper. During that meal, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper (Communion or the Eucharist). Some of the prescribed items for the Passover meal are:

a. **Matzoh** - “Also, the *matzoh* used for the Passover Seder must be prepared a certain way. Of course, it must be unleavened—leaven is often equated with sin in the Scriptures, and Jesus is sinless. Second, the *matzoh* must be striped—Jesus’ “stripes” (*His wounds*) are what heal us spiritually (Isaiah 53:5) (2). (*Many believe this refers to physical healing also.*)



And third, the *matzoh* must be pierced—Jesus was nailed to the cross” (Psalm 22:16) (2). This resulted in His hands and feet being pierced. “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take eat; this is my body’” (Mark 14:22). He was showing that, as the Lamb of God, He was willing to die for the sins of the world (John 10:11) and this unleavened bread represented His body.

b. Cups of Wine - During their last Passover meal, “Jesus took the first cup - (the cup of sanctification) - and promised His disciples that the next time He drank the fruit of the vine with them would be in the kingdom (Luke 22:17). Later in the Seder, “Jesus took the third cup—the cup of redemption—and used that cup as a symbol of the New Covenant in His blood. “*Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the new covenant ((the New Testament)), which is shed for many’*” (Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:20). Thus Jesus fulfilled the Passover symbolism and infused the whole feast with a new meaning” (2).



7. The Blood of the Passover Lamb and of the Lamb of God - “The Israelites who applied the blood of the Passover lamb were spared that death: ‘When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you’” (Exodus 12:13). “The blood of Yeshua (*Jesus*), the greater Passover lamb, spares us from death: ‘In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses (*sins*)’ ” (Ephesians 1:7) (1). “**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**” (Romans 6:23). “... Him (*Jesus*) who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood ...” (Revelation 1:5). Our New Testament celebration is for freedom from sin and from death!

8. None of the Passover Lamb’s Bones Could be Broken - On the passover, the Roman soldiers crucified Jesus. “But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs” (John 19:33).

(1) “The Messiah Would Be the Passover Lamb,” jewsforjesus.org

(2) “How do the elements of the Passover Seder point to Christ?,” 1/4/2022, got questions.org

9. Time to Reflect - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “But as many as received Him (*Jesus*), to them He

gave the right to become children of God,” (1 John 1:12). One of the songs sung in the Passover meal is Psalm 118. Verses 22-24 say, “The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing; It *is* marvelous in our eyes. This *is* the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.” Yes, the day that Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for our sins, is a day that makes us rejoice. Unfortunately, many people have rejected Jesus, even though He has become the chief cornerstone (Acts 4:10-11). Will you reject Him or receive Him as your Lord and Savior?

A Suggested Prayer: “Jesus, I believe You are God’s Son, the Lamb of God. Please, forgive me and cleanse me of all my sins, and give me eternal life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Right now, Jesus, I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. I want to have a new vibrant relationship with God. AMEN!” Name _____ Date _____

Now that you have received Jesus, start praying to Him and read the Bible. Go to a good church where you feel God’s presence, they preach the Bible, you can get baptized, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

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