



PASSOVER

2013 VERSION

PREPARATION

This meal marks the beginning of a day of rest as a family together. We stop and rest from our work, just like God rested from His work of creation.

We celebrate the freedom God has given us, just as He brought freedom to the Israelites when He set them free from being slaves in Egypt. Tonight, we especially remember this as we celebrate Passover.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

As the wife lights the candles, she says:

I light the two Sabbath candles, to remind us of the rest and freedom God has given us. As I light them, I welcome into our home Shalom Bayit, the peaceful harmony that comes from God's presence.



**All: May these candles bring peace in our souls,
goodness and cheer in our hearts,
and happiness in our families and in our homes
as they spread their light on each of us.**

**(sung) We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe x2
Who has given us Jesus, light of the world.
We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe.**

*The wife wafts the light towards herself and around the home.
After the candles are lit, we greet each other with this traditional
Hebrew Sabbath greeting which means 'peaceful Sabbath':*

All: Shabbat Shalom!

THE FOURTH CUP

With this last cup, we remember God's promise, "You will be my people and I will be your God. "

Baruch Atah Adonia, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam,
borei p'ri ha-gafen.

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the universe,
who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

We remember how God made the Israelites His people.

All: We celebrate the freedom God brings.

All drink the fourth cup of wine/juice



THE THIRD CUP- THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

This is probably the cup with which Jesus asked His friends to remember Him on the night of His last Passover, what is known as The Last Supper. Jesus is described as our redeemer, because He died in our place, just as the Passover lamb died in place of the first born Israelites.



We remember how God redeemed His people.

All: We celebrate the freedom God brings.

Baruch Atah Adonia, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam,
borei p’ri ha-gafen.

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the universe,
who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

(sung) We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe x2

Who has given us Jesus, light of the world.

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe.

All drink the third cup of wine/juice

THE FIRST CUP - KADESH

The Bible tells us the four promises God made His people:

“I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians,
I will deliver you from slavery,
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm,
I will take you as my people and be your God.”



As a symbol of these four promises, we will drink wine or juice four times. As we drink we will remember and celebrate God’s four promises to Israel and to us: Freedom, Deliverance, Redemption, and making us His people.

The wine is poured, and we all hold our cups

Wine is a symbol of joy and celebration. As we drink this wine, we thank God for this opportunity to gather together to observe this festival just as God’s people have done for centuries.

We remember how God brought His people out from slavery.

All: We celebrate the freedom God brings.

Baruch Atah Adonia, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, borei p’ri ha-gafen.

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

All drink the first cup of wine/juice

KARPAS – GREEN VEGETABLES

This is the first of two pairs of elements representing a mixture of positive and negative experiences or emotions. They remind us that life is often a confusing mixture of joy and sorrow, of bitter endings and sweet new beginnings. We rejoice in the fact that God works in all the circumstances of life, just as he heard the cries of slaves and brought deliverance.



Holding up parsley:

Passover is a Springtime festival, the season of new life. This vegetable, called Karpas, represents life, created and sustained by God. We are filled with joy at the goodness of God in bringing into our lives all good things.

Holding up the salt water:

Yet as good as God intended life to be, it is often mixed with tears. Tonight, we are celebrating the freedom and wonderful deliverance that God brought the Israelite as slaves in Egypt. But we do not forget that life in Egypt was hard and that life is sometimes immersed in tears.

Baruch Atah Adonia, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, borei p'ri ha-adamah. We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

*Everyone dips a spring of parsley the salt water and eats it.
Starter is eaten.*

TRACHATZ - WASHING THE HANDS

Traditionally, washing hands is always done before eating bread.

The Bible says that only people with clean hands and a pure heart can stand in God's holy place. We wash our hands with water in recognition that, through Jesus, God makes our hearts clean.



Take it in turn to wash our hands.

TZAFUN – A BLESSING FOR THE BREAD

On Sabbaths we usually have two loaves (as a symbol of the double portion of manna the Israelites collected in the desert on the day before the Sabbath).



On Passover we have three matzoh. The third is a symbol of the Passover lamb which was killed and whose blood was put on the Israelites door frames so that the angel of death passed over them and did not kill their first borns.

For us, the Passover lamb is a symbol of Jesus, the lamb of God whose body was broken and whose blood was shed to bring us freedom. As we break and eat this bread, we remember Jesus.

Baruch Atah Adonia, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, ha-motzi lechem min ha-aretz

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth.

Thank you, God, for Jesus, the bread of life.

Everyone has some bread.

THE SECOND CUP - THE CUP OF DELIVERANCE

We remember how God delivered the Israelites.

All: We celebrate the freedom God brings.

Baruch Atah Adonia, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam,
borei p'ri ha-gafen.

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the universe,
who brings forth the fruit of the vine.

(sung) We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe x2

Who has given us Jesus, light of the world.

We bless you, Lord our God, King of the Universe.

All drink the second cup of wine/juice.



MAGGID – THE STORY

God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would be a great people, a promise he renewed to each generation, to Isaac and Jacob. Jacob's children came to live in Egypt where his son, Joseph, was advisor to Pharaoh.



Years passed and another Pharaoh came to power who did not remember Joseph and did not know his God, so he enslaved the Israelites.

He forced them to work hard making bricks of clay and straw with which to build his cities. As the people increased, he was afraid that they might rebel, so he ordered every newborn boy drowned. They knew only toil, suffering, and tears.

They cried out to God, hoping that He would remember the promises He had made. And God heard their cry and remembered the promises. Through a wise mother and sister, God saved the life of the boy Moses. After he had grown up, God sent Moses to set the Israelites free from being slaves in Egypt.

When Moses asked Pharaoh to free the Israelites, he refused and increased their labour. So God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh and the land of Egypt so they would know that the Lord is God, and let the people go.

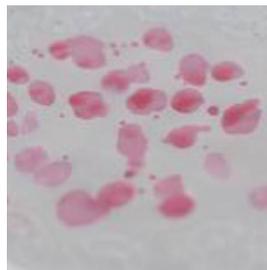
The leader takes the second cup and holds it.

In a moment we will drink the second cup, the cup of deliverance, and we will celebrate in joy God's deliverance from slavery. A full cup is a symbol of joy.

Yet our joy is diminished because the Egyptians, who are also God's children, also suffered. We do not rejoice at the death of any of God's children. As we recount the plagues, we will spill a drop of wine from our cups for each plague to remember that deliverance does not come without cost.

Everyone takes the second cup and uses their finger to drop a drop of wine on their plate as they say each plague.

- Blood.
- Frogs.
- Lice.
- Swarms.
- Cattle Disease.
- Boils.
- Hail.
- Locusts.
- Darkness.
- Death of the First Born.



Pharaoh continued to refuse to let the people go until the last plague. By following God's instructions and putting the blood of a lamb on the door posts of the houses, the Israelites were spared this plague as death "Passed Over" their houses.

PESACH, MATZOH, MAROH

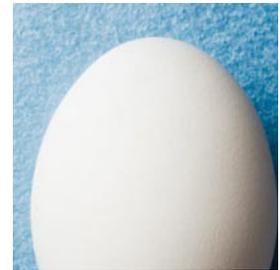
The lamb bone is held.

This is the symbol of the Passover lamb that was killed.



The egg is held.

The egg is a symbol of mourning, and is to remind us that the Temple in Jerusalem, the place of sacrifices, is no longer standing. But since it has no beginning and no end, the egg is also a symbol of new life and hope.



The matzoh is held.

Tonight we eat Unleavened Bread because the Israelites had to leave so fast that they could not wait for their bread to rise.



Matzoh is the simple bread of poverty. Tonight it becomes a symbol to remind us that our lives are about much more than the material things we have.

The maror (horseradish) is held.

Tonight we eat bitter herbs to remind us of how bitter the Israelites lives were as slaves in Egypt.

