

- *Karpas* (celery, parsley, greens): The Hebrew word means 600,000 the recorded number who left Egypt. (These plants stay green all year and represent the everlasting life because of Jesus Christ's Resurrection).
- *Wine or grape juice*~Wine represents *Joy*: As the service proceeds, as each plaque is mentioned, each person sips a little of the wine. This means that until we are totally free and out of bondage, joy is incomplete. (At the Last Supper Jesus said that the wine represented His own life's blood, poured out for us. He had to die so that we could know the total joy of freedom and forgiveness).
- *Elijah's cup*~usually a treasured one filled with wine: is placed on the table to await the arrival of the Messiah. (Jesus said to Matthew 11:14 that John the Baptist was the promised Elijah who was to announce the messiah's coming. For Christians this cup does not remain untouched. It is shared by everyone at the table in the joy that our hope had come true. The Messiah has come to us and is alive to give our lives eternal life).

The Seder Ceremony

The youngest son or male asks the same question 5 times, and the father or grandfather answers explaining why. Here is the question, and the answers.

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs.

On this night, only bitter herbs.

On all other nights we do not dip even once.

On this night we dip twice.

On all other nights we eat either sitting up or reclining.

On this night we all recline.

On all other nights we eat in any ordinary way.

On this night we dine in special ceremony.

It is also interesting to note that we find Jesus and His Disciples were "Reclining" while they ate the Passover on the night of the Last Supper.

*(excerpted from: rainbowcastle.org)



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The Last Supper



He took the bread blessed, broke and gave it to His disciples, saying.. "TAKE AND EAT YE ALL OF THIS, FOR THIS IS MY BODY"... in like manner after He had supped, taking also this excellent chalice into His Holy and venerable hands, and giving thanks to thee He blessed and gave it to His disciples, saying: "TAKE AND DRINK YE ALL OF THIS, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL TESTAMENT; THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: WHICH WILL BE SHED FOR YOU

Significance of Passover to the Last Supper

***T**he day on which Christians remember the Last Supper is also known as Maudy Thursday. The word *Maudy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which means 'command'. When Jesus and His disciples ate the "Last Supper" it was on the first night of the Passover Festival, or during the Seder Meal. During the meal, Jesus explained to His disciples that the Bread was *His Body* and the wine was *His Blood* of the new covenant, shed for the remission of our sins. Jesus instructed us to "Do This in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19).

The example Jesus set in washing the feet of His disciples is something still done today on Maudy Thursday before the Passover supper. Most Churches offer a Maudy Service in which they end the services with Communion, breaking the Bread and Drinking the wine in remembrance of Jesus' death.

Passover is the celebration of God delivering the Israelites out of slavery from Pharaoh, the Egyptian Ruler. God commanded the Israelites to remember the Passover as a festival to the Lord for generations to come (Exodus 12:14). Most Jewish families continue to observe the feast of Passover Seder (supper) on the first day of Passover. Passover is a week long celebration.

Why would a Christian family celebrate a Seder meal? In the New Testament Jesus commanded us to remember His death by observing *The Last Supper* and it was the *Seder* meal that He was eating when He instructed us to remember Him by partaking of the Bread and Wine together. In the Old Testament God commanded the Israelites to remember the Seder Passover meal as a festival unto the Lord for generations to come (Exodus 12:14). Today, the meal in the Upper Room has become part of Holy Week. Each ingredient in a Passover Meal has a special meaning.

As Christians, we can explain that we are all "chosen people" if we have been "born" into God's family by believing in His Son, Jesus, as our Messiah. We can share the cup of joy with other Christians out of thanksgiving that Jesus became the final "Lamb" to be sacrificed in order that our "joy may be full".

Food for Passover

In Exodus 12:8, God instructed the Israelites to eat three-foods~1. Roasted Lamb (Pesah), to be eaten with 2. bitter herbs (Maror) and 3. unleavened bread, or bread made without yeast. Below are the Passover foods and the explanations of the meanings from the Old Testament Exodus story (and the New Testament story of Jesus' as our Messiah).

- *Three whole Matzoz* (unleavened bread): A reminder that the Israelites did not have time to wait for the yeast bread to rise because they had to be ready to move when God said. A piece of the middle one is hidden for a child to find. (New Testament represents the Body of Jesus Christ broken for our sins. As Christians it is a reminder to live so that we are always "ready to go" when Jesus returns. Also yeast sometimes represents the evil in the world. God wants His people to be pure).
- *A roasted lamb*~placed to the host's right: In memory of the lamb sacrificed by Israelites the night before their flight from Egypt. (Jesus is our perfect Lamb sacrificed for us).
- *A roasted egg*~to the left: in mourning for destroyed temple. (Symbol of the free-will offering that was given with the lamb. This represents giving more to God than just what is demanded. This is a gift of love. Jesus is God's ultimate gift. God's law demanded justice, but with the gift of Jesus, God gives us more than justice: He gives us mercy, love and forgiveness).
- *Maror* (bitter herbs)~placed in the middle of the plate: A reminder of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt. (As Christians we remember that many suffered so that we may know the joy of the good news of Jesus).
- *Charoseth* (chopped almonds, apple, wine, sugar and cinnamon): symbolizes the mortar which the Jews had to mix in making bricks for the king of Egypt.
- *Salt water*: To signify the Red Sea which miraculously parted to let the Israelites across. (Represents the tears of all of God's Saints).