

פסח

PASSOVER



Passover is a Jewish and Samaritan holy day and festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Israelites from slavery. It is also known as **Festival of the Unleavened Bread**. Passover begins on the 15th day of the month of Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew calendar, in accordance with the Hebrew Bible. The Exodus of the Jews from Egypt took place in the spring and so Passover must be celebrated in the spring.



SAVING PRINCIPLES ARE TAUGHT BY THE PASSOVER FEAST

From: *Days of Awe: Jewish Holy Days, Symbols, & Prophecies for Latter-day Saints*,
by Gale T. Boyd, July 2007, Scripture Mastery Resources, pp. 79-82

The Passover teaches us of the saving power of God. As it recalls the physical deliverance from slavery and the worldly culture of Egypt, it reminds us that we can be delivered spiritually, as well. We can be delivered from the chains of sin, out of the world, into grace. As we wander the wilderness in search of the promised land, we can be upheld by God's outstretched arm. We can be protected, nurtured, taught, and healed.

As the Passover speaks of deliverance and redemption, it also predicts exact events. Jesus, our Savior, would be born in a stable at the Passover season and become the Lamb of God. He would be the Only Begotten of the Father. He would become the great, atoning sacrifice, pure and undefiled. He would be pierced and striped, and crucified. He would be buried, but he would rise again. The sacramental bread would become a symbol of his flesh. The sacramental wine would become a symbol of the blood he shed for us. And what about the cup of wine that Jesus declined to drink? He promised his apostles that he would not drink of the fruit of the vine until he would drink it new in the kingdom of God, when it is established on the earth (Luke 22:15-20, Matthew 26:27-29). The exact event that Jesus was pointing to at the Last Supper is described in the Doctrine and Covenants. The event is still future (**D&C 27:5-14**—emphasis added):

"Behold, this is wisdom in me, wherefore, marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with Moroni, whom I have sent unto you to reveal the Book of Mormon, containing the fulness of my everlasting gospel, to whom I have committed the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim.

"And also with Elias, to whom I have committed the keys of bringing to pass the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began, concerning the last days.

"And also John the son of Zacharias, which Zacharias he (Elias) visited and gave promise that he should have a son, and his name should be John, and he should be filled with the spirit of Elias;

"Which John I have sent unto you, my servants, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, to ordain you unto the first priesthood which you have received, that you might be called and ordained even as Aaron;

"And also Elijah, unto whom I have committed the keys of the power of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, that the whole earth may not be smitten with a curse;

"And also with Joseph and Jacob, and Isaac, and Abraham, your fathers, by whom the promises remain; "And also with Michael, or Adam, the father of all, the prince of all, the ancient of days;

"And also with Peter, and James, and John, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses of my name, and bear the keys of your ministry and of the same things which I have revealed unto them;

*"Unto whom I have committed the keys of my kingdom, and a dispensation of the gospel for the last times, and for the fulness of times, in the which **I will gather together in one all things, both which are in heaven, and which are on the earth;***

"And also with all those whom my Father hath given me out of the world."

This fulfillment of events predicted during the Last Supper will be a pilgrimage feast and a great sacrament service that we could qualify to attend.

SYMBOLS ESTABLISHED BY GOD

The Lord originally established this imagery in order to prepare the Children of Israel to recognize and receive him. He has fulfilled the symbols he created by saving us temporally and spiritually. He has used these symbols to prophesy of exact events. He was born at Passover; he died on Passover; he was the Passover. In truth, then, a celebration of the Passover encompasses both Christmas and Easter, with a complete dedication to things spiritual - the material world has never been allowed to intrude upon this holiday. Its rich messianic images, shared in an atmosphere of familial togetherness and rejoicing, can be a special blessing to Latter-day Saints.

A PASSOVER FAMILY HOME EVENING

(Passover occurs each year in late March-early April.)

Songs especially suitable for a Passover Family Home Evening are as follows:

Redeemer of Israel.....	#6
Israel, Israel, God is Calling.....	#7
Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah.....	#83
I'm a Pilgrim, I'm a Stranger.....	#121
Does the Journey Seem Long?.....	#127
Ye Elders of Israel.....	#319

Preparation:

- Purchase matzah crackers from the supermarket or from a kosher foods store accessed on the Internet.
- Purchase a small bottle of horseradish (not creamed). Have on hand some celery or parsley, a hard-boiled egg, a chicken bone or neck, a bowl of salt water, and some grape juice.
- Make a recipe of *charoset*. Or make *charoset* together as a family activity.

CHAROSET
(Ashkenazic recipe)

8 tart apples (Granny Smith)	¾ Cup raisins
4 ounces walnuts or almonds	1 tsp. cinnamon
A little grape juice	Sugar to taste

Pare, then grate the apples on coarsest setting, or chop very fine. Plump the raisins by letting them sit for about 10 minutes in hot water. Drain. Mash the raisins slightly. Grind or finely chop the nuts. Mix all the ingredients together, binding them with a little juice. (*Charoset* represents the mortar used to make and set the bricks the Israelites were forced to produce in Egypt. It also represents the sweetness of hope.)

- Have a Bible on hand to read from Exodus and Luke and a Book of Mormon to read from.
- Flannel board pictures of Moses or the Exodus story can be used as visual aids.

Ask:

Does anyone know the story of Moses and the "Exodus"?

Try to remember and shape the story without referring to the scriptures Guide the discussion so that the following points are included:

1. Jacob and his sons went to Egypt, because there was a famine in Canaan.
2. The Egyptians welcomed Jacob's family, because Joseph had found honor in the court of Pharaoh. The Egyptians gave them land and food.
3. Jacob's family grew and grew into a large population. Joseph died, and the later Pharaohs forgot what he had done to help Egypt. They were afraid that the descendants of Jacob (called the Israelites) would join with their enemies and fight against Egypt. They began to oppress the Israelites and made them slaves. They had to make bricks and do other hard labor. The Israelites prayed for deliverance.
4. Moses had been raised in Pharaoh's court, but he had to run away, because he killed an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating an Israelite slave. He had been gone from Egypt for many, many years. When he was about 80 years old, the Lord appeared to him in a burning bush and commanded him to go back to Egypt and talk to Pharaoh, to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free.
5. Moses went to Egypt. His brother Aaron helped him. Pharaoh wouldn't listen, so the Lord sent plagues on the Egyptians. The last plague killed all the first-born of Egypt, and Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go.
6. The armies of Pharaoh followed the Israelites to kill them. The Lord parted the Red Sea, and the Israelites fled through it on dry ground. The Egyptian soldiers followed them, but they were swallowed up in the sea.
7. The plagues and the parting of the Red Sea were great miracles. The Israelites want to remember them always, so they can remember how great the Lord is, and how he blesses and watches over us.

Ask:

Was it difficult to remember the whole story?

The Jews don't want to ever forget the miracles of God, so they have a holiday to help them remember. The holiday comes once a year, and it is called Passover.

1. At Passover the Jews have a big feast. They tell the story of Moses and the Israelites.
2. At the Passover feast, the Jews serve foods that represent parts of the story. The foods help them to remember:
 - The **bone** represents the lamb they sacrificed the night before they left Egypt. The Lord commanded them to sacrifice the lamb as an offering.
 - The **charo-set** represents the mortar the Israelites used to make bricks for the Egyptians. It is sweet, because it also represents the sweetness of hope. Even when they were slaves, the Israelites had faith and hope.

- The **egg** represents a temple offering and new birth in the spring. The Israelites left Egypt in the spring.
- The **celery** and **parsley** represent the green herbs that grow in springtime. The Israelites were grateful for their crops and harvests.
- The **horseradish** is bitter. Eating it brings tears to your eyes. It represents the bitterness of slavery and oppression.
- The **salt water** represents the tears of affliction.
- The **matzah** is really "unleavened bread." The Israelites left Egypt so fast, that they didn't have time to allow their bread to rise. It baked in the hot sun. Now, it also represents the manna that God gave the Israelites to eat in the wilderness.
- The "**wine**" (grape juice) is called "the fruit of the vine." It represents joy. Our joy comes from being saved.

Demonstrate...

that during the Passover feast, Jews dip the herbs in the salt water to eat, and they eat a piece of *matzah* with *charoset* and horseradish. They sip the wine to remember the covenants the Lord made with Israel. Let everyone try it. Doing this helps Jews to **remember** the experiences of their ancient fathers. We need to remember the way the Lord can save us with miracles. Reciting the story of the Exodus helps us remember. Nephi did this when his brothers were losing their faith. **Read 1 Nephi 17:23-29, 40, 42.**

Explain:

Jesus went to Jerusalem with his family every Passover. They took offerings to the Temple (a lamb, just like at the time of the Exodus). Jesus was born in April, so the Passover season was also the time of his birthday. When Jesus was just about to turn thirty-three years old, he went to Jerusalem. Instead of having the Passover feast with his family, he called his apostles together to have the feast with them (Luke 22:7-16). This time, Jesus wanted his apostles to remember more than the deliverance from Egypt. He wanted his disciples to remember that he was the deliverer, and that he would deliver them from sin, the way he delivered their forefathers from slavery in Egypt. Jesus blessed the matzo (the unleavened bread) that represented manna from heaven. He passed it to his disciples and told them to eat it in remembrance of his body. Jesus is the "bread of life." This bread became the sacrament bread. When we partake of the sacrament bread, we do it in remembrance of Christ. Then Jesus blessed the wine. This "cup of joy" would represent the blood he shed for the remission of sins. The remission of our sins brings us joy. So, the Passover symbols became the Sacrament symbols. Instead of having Passover once each year to remember, we take the Sacrament every week.

