Introduction

Passover is freedom and Yahweh calls us into the freedom secured for us in the Messiah’s death and resurrection. When we celebrate Passover, we remind our selves freedom is our heritage and destiny. We were made for it.

This booklet is designed to help families experience the Passover through relationship and structure. Relationally speaking, the booklet provides opportunity for participants to engage one another through story, questions, and worship. The relational components give call people to experience the Passover in communion with God and those who love Him. Structurally speaking, the booklet builds on and modifies elements from traditional Judaism. The structural components guide the participants through the worship experience.

In the end, our hope is that the richness of God’s presence, of tradition, and of worship draw you into God’s presence. Since the Passover calls us to experience freedom, its our desire you know His freedom as you worship.

The Place of Tradition

Tradition is ritual with spiritual significance. They help us find meaning through the structure of ideas, themes, and worship experiences. While tradition is never to transcend or contradict the instruction or principles of God’s Word, it is a helpful tool to learn how to engage God in new and old ways.

Developing Personal, Family, and Corporate Traditions

This guide is intended to be just that—a guide. Where it’s helpful, use it. Where it’s distracting or confusion, then don’t use it. The ideas and liturgical experiences are only intended to facilitate a meaningful encounter with God through the Sabbath. If, after using the guide, you’d like to experiment with other forms consistent and complimentary to the Word, then do so (don’t incorporate something that contradicts the Word or comes from another religion). Use your God-given creativity and imagination.

Necessary Items for Passover Celebration

1. **Small bowl** to hold water for hand washing.
2. Small amount of **parsley** for each person.
3. Small amount of **salt water** for dipping parsley (you can put the salt water in the small bowl used for hand washing).
4. Small amount of **bitter herbs** for each person (horseradish is easy).
5. **Unleavened bread** and a white napkin.
6. Small amount of **kharoset** for each person (find recipes online).
7. The **shank bone** of a lamb.
8. **Wine** or **grape juice** for each person, enough to drink multiple times.  
9. A goblet for **Elijah’s cup**.

## For the Dinner

### When Celebrated as Families

If you’re celebrating Passover in your home, it’s traditional to eat a celebratory meal while the Passover celebration takes place. Prepare what your family enjoys...and make sure you eat unleavened bread.

### When Celebrated in Community Settings

If you’re celebrating in a larger community setting, the following parameters will be helpful.

1. **Helpful foods** to eat for this event include: cheese, olives, unleavened bread, dried fruit, pre-cut vegetables, and any other non-messy finger foods. **Foods to avoid are anything that requires the use of utensils.**  
2. Paper plates, cups/plastic glasses, plastic flatware, and napkins.  
3. **Plastic tablecloth** and **blankets** to sit on (every family must have a plastic tablecloth to place under their blanket to protect the carpet from spills).  
4. **Water** for drinking.

## Before the Passover Celebration Begins

The facilitator should provide a personal word of welcome to the participants and do the following...  
- Make appropriate introductions  
- Give helpful information about the setting/facility  
- Provide direction for the children

## Tips for Facilitating the Passover Celebration

The Passover celebration is a meal and worship experience. It follows a set order of readings, prayers, and acts of worship. To ensure it runs smoothly, one person should facilitate the experience.

The facilitator’s purpose is to help each person participate in the celebration. Primarily, this is experienced by helping people understand the meaning of each worship element, know what’s going on, and asking them to participate in the readings, prayers, and acts of worship.
Helpful tips for the facilitator include...

- Giving people the booklet to review before they arrive.
- Giving people the sections of the booklet they will read.
- Make sure those to whom you assign reading are comfortable and capable of reading.

Discussion Questions

In various sections, there are discussion questions. There are helpful aids for a small group. For larger groups, they should be avoided as they will make the celebration too long.

Readers

This booklet is laid out so reading can be done in three different ways:
1. The leader reads everything except what is marked for a group reading.
2. The leader appoints readers for different sections before the Passover begins except for what is marked for group reading.
3. The participants share reading responsibilities by taking turns, except for what is marked for group reading.

Sections for group reading are marked in **bold red**. If there are additional readings or prayers the leader would like the entire group to read, that is acceptable. However, the sections must be marked beforehand.
The Passover Celebration

Introduction

Tonight, we share a meal to help us remember the story of Passover and to that which it points: Jesus’ death. In Exodus 12:25-27, the Torah instructs us to remember Passover.

*It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’* (Exodus 12:25-27)

Truths To Remember

- **First**, as we celebrate Passover and retell the Exodus story, we are to consider ourselves redeemed and delivered from the clutches of Egypt. We have been grafted into His body through adoption, and the history of Israel has become our history.
- **Second**, as we celebrate Passover and retell the Exodus story, we are to remember it’s a story of redemption, of a loving God who longed for His people to be free to serve Him in sincerity and truth. It is the story of freedom, hope, deliverance, redemption, and salvation.
- **Third**, as we celebrate Passover and retell the Exodus story, look for the Redeemer. He alone redeemed Israel. He alone redeems us from sin and death through His Redeemer, Jesus. One of Messiah’s last earthly acts was to celebrate Passover, which He longed to share with His disciples (Luke 22:15). In it, Jesus revealed the mystery of Yahweh’s plan of redemption. He spoke of His body and blood and death. It’s no coincidence Messiah chose Passover as the setting for what is now celebrated as communion, the Lord’s Supper. Through the bread and wine of Passover, we are reminded of His death.
- **Fourth**, the word *Hagaddah* means “the telling.” Passover has been retold for thousands of years. It’s a story of miraculous transitions—from slavery to freedom from despair to hope, from darkness to light. Its greatness is the greatness of Yahweh. Its timelessness comes from the eternal truth of His interaction with His people. As Yahweh cared for Israel in ancient times, He cares for all who are His today. Upon the table is a seder plate, holding the elements of Passover. There are bitter herbs, a sweet apple mixture, parsley, and a bone. Through them, our senses can fully participate in the story, seeing, smelling, and tasting each one. We will read and pray. Listen to every word. Through these experiences, we can receive Yahweh’s love.

As we tell the story and participate in worship, feel free to enjoy your dinner.
Candle Lighting

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1).

Our celebration begins by lighting candles for two reasons. First, it’s a way to consecrate our time together. Second, it’s a symbolic way of inviting the illumination of the Holy Spirit into our celebration. We ask a woman to light the candles tonight to remind us our Redeemer came into the world as the seed of a woman.

As a woman lights the candles, she prays...

Blessed are You, Yahweh, our light and salvation. May Your presence illuminate our celebration and cause us to see You in the light of Your glory in Your Messiah, Jesus.

The Four Cups

But Yahweh said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do…” (Exodus 6:1).

In Exodus 6:6-7, Yahweh revealed His intention to redeem Israel, His people.

Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians (Exodus 6:6).

This verse shows us four ways Yahweh accomplished redemption for Israel. These four pathways of redemption show us how God calls us out of bondage into freedom. To commemorate theses four acts of redemption, we will drink from our cups four different times tonight.

- The Cup of Sanctification focuses on, “...I will bring you out...”
- The Cup of Deliverance and Judgment focuses on, “...I will deliver you...”
- The third cup, the Cup of Redemption focuses on, “...I will redeem you...”
- The Cup of the Kingdom focuses on “...I will take you to be my people...”

The Cup of Sanctification

“...I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians...” (Exodus 6:6)
The first cup is the Cup of Sanctification, reminding us God promised to bring His people out of Egypt to sanctify them from all the other nations. As we drink, we remember God has set up apart us in the Messiah and we are sanctifying this special meal from all others.

**Pray...**

_Blessed are you, Yahweh, our King and Redeemer, for You brought us out from bondage and slavery and set us apart. We thank You because You chose us for salvation and sanctification through Jesus our Messiah._

**Drink from the Cup of Sanctification**

**Washing Hands**

_Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3,4)_

Before us, we have a small bowl filled with water. With it, we will wash our hands, symbolically cleansing ourselves for the time we spend here together.

Washing our hands reminds us we are to come to God cleansed and prepared for worship. And, Jesus invited His disciples into spiritual purity when He washed their feet. In His example, we are reminded of His humility and how we are to love and serve one another.

**As hands are washed, pray...**

_Blessed are you, Yahweh, our King and Redeemer, for You purify and make us clean. Thank You Holy Spirit that You fill us with the purifying power of Your presence._

**Discussion Questions**

- In the last year, how has Jesus’ death freed me to walk in deeper intimacy with Him?
- In the last year, how has Jesus’ death changed my experiences in worship?

**Parsley**

_...and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God (Exodus 2:23)._

Only on this night do we dip vegetables in salt water. The parsley and salt water reminds us of the tears shed in Egypt by the Israelites and the tears we shed when we were in sin and death. It reminds us that sorrow and sadness come with sin.
As parsley is dipped in salt water and eaten, pray...

Blessed are You, Yahweh, for You are our God even in tears and sorrow.

The Four Questions

“...when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them...” (Exodus 12:26)

Traditionally, a child asks four questions during the Passover celebration to prepare us hear and respond to Yahweh’s story of redemption.

A child stands and reads the following questions...

- Why do we eat only bitter herbs on this night, when all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables?
- Why do we dip our vegetables on this night when we do not dip our vegetables even once all other nights?
- Why do we eat this meal seated when on the night of the Passover they ate the meal standing?
- Why do we eat unleavened bread on this night when all other night we eat either leavened bread or unleavened?

The Bitter Herbs

So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor (Exodus 1:13,14).

On this night, we eat bitter herbs. Life in Egypt was filled with tears and bitterness, especially when the Hebrew children were thrown into the Nile River. As sweet as our lives may be today, there was a time when they were filled with the bitterness and misery of sin.

Pray...

Blessed are You, Yahweh, our Redeemer. Remind us of the bitterness of sin and teach us to hate the ugliness and misery of living in it.

Place bitter herbs on unleavened bread and eat
Discussion Questions

- In the last year, what have I discovered about the bitterness of sin?
- In the last year, how was I reminded of the reality of sin’s bondage and bitterness?

The Kharoset

*Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass (Psalm 37:3-5).*

On all other nights, we don’t dip our vegetables even once. On this night, we dip them twice—as we have already dipped the parsley in the salt water. The kharoset reminds us of the mortar the Hebrews used while in captivity. Even in the most bitter of circumstances, our lives can be sweetened by our hope in God, just as the lives of God’s people were sweetened in Egypt by the hope of His redemption.

Pray...

*Blessed are You, Yahweh, for You are a God of hope. Even in the bitterness of sin, we have the sweetness of hope in You.*

Place kharoset and bitter herbs on unleavened bread and eat

Resting & Reclining

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).*

On the night of Passover, Israel ate quickly, ready for travel with staff in hand. Tonight, we rest and eat with leisure. They were enslaved, being prepared for their departure. We are free, remembering our freedom in rest of Messiah’s.

The Passover Story

*“I have remembered my covenant…” (Exodus 6:5).*

Yahweh promised the blessing of abundant, eternal life and the land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through their seed, all the nations of the world would be blessed. But, during a famine, Jacob and his family left Israel and went to Egypt where they were blessed
and had favor with Pharaoh. However, a new Pharaoh arose, who feared them because they were so numerous and blessed. In fear and tyranny, he enslaved the Israelites and forced them to build his cities. Theirs was a harsh and bitter existence, accompanied with tears and sorrow. Still, God blessed His people and they continued to prosper. In the midst of their suffering, they cried out to Yahweh for deliverance.

Pharaoh grew more fearful and told the Hebrew midwives to kill any male children born to the Hebrews. In defiance, the midwives did not kill the baby boys. Then, Pharaoh ordered all the newborn Hebrew boys to be thrown into the Nile River. One family hid their baby boy for three months and put him in a basket to float down the river. Pharaoh’s daughter found him and raised the baby boy as her own. She named him “Moses” meaning “drawn from the water”.

Moses grew up in Pharaoh’s court and, one day, discovered the misery of Israel. Watching an Egyptian taskmaster beat a fellow Hebrew, Moses killed the taskmaster. When Pharaoh heard about it, he set out to kill Moses for his crime. So, Moses fled from Egypt and went to Midian. During Moses’ forty-year absence, Yahweh looked on the affliction of His people, and raised up Moses to be their deliverer. While in the wilderness, Yahweh spoke to Moses through a burning bush. Although he was reluctant and fearful, he obeyed God’s command to lead the Hebrews to freedom. However, Yahweh warned Moses he would face resistance.

But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go (Exodus 3:19,20).

Moses left the wilderness and went to Israel and told them of God’s plan. Then, he went to Pharaoh in the name of Yahweh and said: “Let my people go, that they may serve me.” Pharaoh did not listen. God told Moses Pharaoh would not listen and that it would take several miraculous judgments before Pharaoh would let Israel go. One by one, Yahweh sent plagues upon Egypt and their idols. And with each plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart. Eventually, God sent a plague that would change Pharaoh’s mind—the death of the first-born. It was on this night Yahweh delivered His people by judging the Egyptians’ first-born with death.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am Yahweh (Exodus 12:12).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Cup of Deliverance and Judgment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“...and I will deliver you from slavery to them...” (Exodus 6:6).</td>
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The second cup is called the Cup of Deliverance & Judgment. In it, we remember the plagues God sent to destroy the Egyptians and exalt His name in the earth. With each
plague, deliverance was one step closer. Just as God judged the gods of Egypt, so too He judged our sin in the Messiah and freed us from bondage and condemnation.

When the following statements are read, each person is to dip one finger in their glass and let a drop of wine fall on their plate...

- **Blood**...judgment on the Egyptian god of life.
- **Frogs**...judgment on the Egyptian goddess of fertility.
- **Lice**...judgment on the Egyptian god of the earth/soil.
- **Beasts**...judgment on the Egyptian god of insects.
- **Blight**...judgment on the belief Egyptian gods lived in animals.
- **Boils**...judgment on Egyptian gods of medicine and intellect.
- **Frogs**...judgment on the Egyptian goddess of fertility.
- **Lice**...judgment on the Egyptian god of the earth/soil.
- **Beasts**...judgment on the Egyptian god of insects.
- **Blight**...judgment on the belief Egyptian gods lived in animals.
- **Boils**...judgment on Egyptian gods of medicine and intellect.
- **Hail Mixed with Fire**...judgment on the god of the sky, bringing death instead of life.
- **Locusts**...judgment on the god of crops/agriculture.
- **Darkness**...judgment on the primary Egyptian god, the sun.
- **Death of the First Born**...judgment on Pharaoh himself, the one supposed to be the incarnation of the sun god, and his first-born son who would continue as the king/deity.

Pray...

_Blessed are You, Yahweh, our Redeemer and Judge. Thank You that You delivered us from Egypt and, through Jesus’ death and resurrection, judged sin and death._

Discussion Questions

- In the last year, what have I discovered about freedom through Jesus’ death?
- In the last year, how have I come to know Jesus as the truth that leads to freedom?

The Lamb of God: The Shank Bone

_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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:13)._

On the night of the Passover, the only way to escape from the death of the firstborn was the lamb’s blood. Those who trusted in Yahweh’s provision took a lamb without blemish, killed it, and placed the blood on the doorposts of their house. This symbolized one had died to protect them. The Angel of Death passed over the homes upon which the blood was smeared. The roasted shank bone represents the lamb whose blood marked the houses of Israel. Yahweh’s instruction included the following (Exodus 12:3, 5-8, 11, 13):

- On the tenth day of the first month, each man was to take one lamb for his household.
- The animal must be a year old male without defect.
The animal was brought into their home on the tenth day of the month and slaughtered on the fourteenth day.

They were to put blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their houses. They were to roast the meat in fire and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. They were to eat it quickly, with their cloaks tucked into their belts, sandals on their feet, and staffs in hand. 

The blood was a sign. When Yahweh saw the blood, He would pass over them.

Discussion Questions

- In the last year, how has Jesus shown me His death is sufficient to restore my life?

Yahweh Our Redeemer

*And Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders (Deuteronomy 26:8).*

Moses reminds us Yahweh Himself redeemed Israel from slavery.

- On that same night I will pass through Egypt...*I, and not an angel.*
- And strike down every firstborn, both men and animals...*I, and not a seraph.*
- And I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt...*I, and not a messenger.*
- I am Yahweh...*I myself and no other.*

All who trust Jesus the Messiah believe He is the Lamb of God, our Passover. Like the ancient Israelites, we know Yahweh—and not an angel—not a seraph—not a messenger—achieved final redemption for us. And, it is through Jesus that Yahweh saves us.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).*

It Would Have Been Enough

*They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness (Psalm 145:7).*

How great is God’s goodness to us! For each of His acts of mercy and kindness we declare *dayenu,* it would have been enough.

- If Yahweh had merely rescued us, but had not judged the Egyptians...it would have been enough!
- If He had only destroyed their gods, but had not parted the Red Sea...it would have been enough!
- If He had only drown our enemies, but had not fed us with manna...it would have been enough!
- If He had only led us through the desert, but had not given us the Sabbath...it would have been enough!
- If He had only given us the Torah, but not the land of Israel...it would have been enough!

Yahweh not only gave all these blessings but also gave us so much more!

**Pray...**

_Blessed are you, Yahweh, for You have supplied all our needs from Your abundant mercy. You have given us the Messiah, forgiveness of sin, and abundant, eternal life._

**Drink from the Cup of Deliverance**

### The Unleavened Bread

..._He was stricken for the transgression of my people (Isaiah 53:8)._ 

On all other nights we eat bread with leaven, but on Passover we eat only unleavened bread. As Israel fled from Egypt, they did not have time for their dough to rise. It’s the bread of affliction, the poor bread our fathers ate in the land of Egypt.

Three pieces of unleavened bread are wrapped together for Passover. Various explanations are offered for this tradition. The Rabbis call these three a “Unity.” Some consider it a unity of the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—or of worship—the priests, the Levites, and the people of Israel. We who know Messiah can see the unique triune nature of God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Tradition instructs us to remove the middle piece and break it in half.**
- Just as the middle piece of the unleavened bread is broken, Messiah was afflicted and broken. One half is now called the _afikomen_, which means “The Coming One”. Notice how the unleavened bread is striped and pierced. In this, we see the Messiah.

_But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:5)._ 

_And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zechariah 12:10)._ 

**Tradition instructs us to wrap one half of the broken bread in a white cloth.**
- Just as the middle piece of broken bread is wrapped in a white cloth, Messiah’s body was wrapped for burial.
Tradition instructs us to hide the *afikomen*, the broken bread wrapped in white cloth.

- Just as the *afikomen* is hidden, Messiah was hidden in the tomb.

**The leader hides the *afikomen* while the children hide their eyes**

Tradition instructs the children find the *afikomen* later to complete the celebration.

- Just as the children find the hidden *afikomen*, Messiah rose from the dead.

The final food eaten at Passover is the unleavened bread, the *afikomen*. It’s been shared as part of the Passover celebration just as the Passover lamb was shared from the time of the exodus until the destruction of the Temple. When Messiah shared the Passover meal with His disciples, He broke the unleavened bread and gave thanks to Yahweh. It was then He added the words:

>“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19).

Even more, God’s Word teaches us that leaven symbolizes sin.

>Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Messiah, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed (I Corinthians 5:7).

**Children are now to find the *afikomen***

**Pray...**

>Blessed are You, Yahweh, for You are our Redeemer and Sanctifier. You gave Your Son to be broken and pierced for our redemption and sanctification. Jesus, we bless You for the love You shows us when You gave Your body for our life.

**Eat the unleavened bread**

**The Cup of Redemption**

>“...I will *redeem* you with an outstretched arm and great judgments...” (Exodus 6:6)

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 27:27-28)
The third cup is called the Cup of Redemption. It’s this cup with which Jesus identified His death. Because of sin, we were condemned to death. Nothing we do or say can earn God’s forgiveness. None of us seeks after God. None is righteous. None can boast of anything before Yahweh. While we can’t save ourselves, Yahweh can.

\[
\text{Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear (Isaiah 59:1).}
\]

In His everlasting mercy, Yahweh chose to redeem us by His own salvation.

\[
\text{He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him (Isaiah 59:16).}
\]

To accomplish His salvation, Yahweh sent His Son. Jesus’ blood purchased our redemption and rescued us from sin and death. He became sin that we might become the righteousness of God. We drink from this cup because He provided our redemption by His grace alone. Just as the blood of the lamb brought salvation in Egypt, so Messiah’s atoning death can bring salvation to all who believe.

\[
\text{In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7).}
\]

**Pray...**

\[
\text{Father, we bless You for have revealed life through Your Son, Jesus, our Messiah. In Him, You made the perfect and eternal sacrifice. Jesus, it's by Your blood we have life. You gave Your life to rescue and return us to favor and blessing. As we eat and drink, we receive Your life, forgiveness, and deliverance.}
\]

Drink from the Cup of Redemption

**The Prophet Elijah**

\[
\text{“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes” (Malachi 4:5).}
\]

This cup is for Elijah the Prophet. Based on Malachi’s prophecy, it has been Israel’s hope that Elijah would come at Passover to announce the Messiah, Son of David. Before the birth of John the Baptist, an angel of Yahweh said,

\[
\text{“...and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared” (Luke 1:17).}
\]
Later, Jesus spoke of John the Baptizer in this way:

*and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come (Matthew 11:14).*

John the Baptizer, when He saw the Messiah, declared:

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).*

Elijah the forerunner has come. He announced the Messiah’s entrance into the world. Now, we carry the spirit of Elijah, declaring the Messiah’s second coming.

### The Cup of Praise and the Coming Kingdom

*I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians (Exodus 6:7)*

The fourth cup is the Cup of the Coming Kingdom. Jesus said He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until He did so with us in His Kingdom.

*I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom. (Matthew 27:29)*

As we drink, we are reminded to pray for the Spirit of Elijah of rise in us personally and corporately so we proclaim His salvation to the nations until the day of our wedding feast with Him. And, as we drink, we praise Yahweh’s salvation.

- Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- Give thanks to the God of gods...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- Give thanks to the Lord of lords...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- To him who alone does great wonders...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- And brought Israel out from among them...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- With a strong hand and an outstretched arm...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- To him who divided the Red Sea in two...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- And made Israel pass through the midst of it...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
- Give thanks to the God of heaven...*for his steadfast love endures forever*
Pray...

_Hallelujah, Yahweh our God reigns! We rejoice and give You glory. Our future is in Your hands and we stand secure in Your grace. Jesus, we long for the day when Your kingdom is exalted, when we see you face-to-face, and when we share in the beauty of the wedding feast. May You be exalted forever and ever! Amen._

Drink from the Cup of Praise and the Coming Kingdom

Conclusion

Our Passover Celebration is now complete, just as our salvation in Messiah is now complete. Let’s conclude with the traditional wish that we may celebrate Passover in Jerusalem next year... “Next Year in Jerusalem”.