

+ Preparation for Pesach +

(a Messianic Celebration)

+ Setting the Table

Pesach is a family holiday, celebrated in the context of a household. Moses is told "Tell the whole community of Israel that ... each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household." Exodus 12:3.

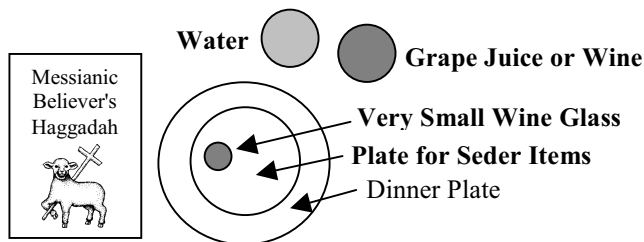
For the Pesach Seder Father will sit at one end of the table, Mother at the other. The plate with the three matzah (item #4) should be near Father, along with the wine and water servers. The Pesach Plate should be within arms reach of Father. The two white candles in holders, along with matches, should be set in front of Mother's place.

+ Individual Places

Each person at the Seder will need a very small glass for the ceremonial wine, a small white plate, a glass for water, an optional glass for grape juice or table wine, and, if the full meal is served, a dinner plate with flatware and napkin. Both Father and Mother should have a Haggadah. One for each child/guest is helpful.

Though not essential, a lamb place card for each person can remind us that we are part of The Great Shepherd's flock and that He willingly laid down His very life for us.

And because this is a special meal do enjoy bringing out the special dishware to make the table setting festive!



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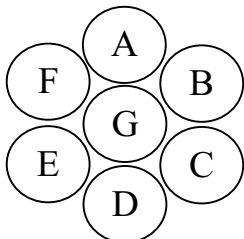
Besides the usual items for a dinner there are certain other essential items for Pesach.

1) **Elijah's Place:** Reserve a seat and place-setting at the table for Elijah (or just his cup if space is a problem). The reference to Elijah the Prophet is explained in the Haggadah. Remember to fill his cup each time a "cup" is poured.

2) **Wine Cups:** You will need a special cup for the fruit of the vine at each place-setting. This cup is filled and drained four times during the Seder. Very small wine cups work well for those not used to wine. Three of the cups will be diluted with water and it is only the last that is not.

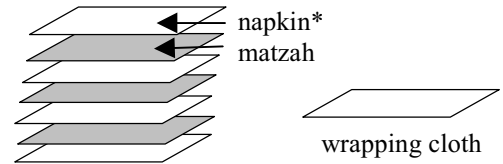
3) **The Pesach Plate:** (The Pesach items can be placed on the special plate available for the Pesach Seder. A variety of styles are available.)

- A - **PARSLEY** sprigs for as many settings as you have;
- B - **MATZAH** (representative pieces)
- C - A cup of ground/grated (not creamed) **HORSERADISH**;
- D - A cupful of **KHAROSET***;
- E - A **LAMB** shank bone (item #6);
- F - A single **EGG**: boil 10 minutes, broil in oven to brown;
- G - A cup of **SALTED water** with enough salt to be cloudy.



* Kharoset:
 1 tart apple (serves 4)
 1 tbs. Pesach Wine
 1 tsp. Honey
 ½ cup finely ground walnuts
 ½ tsp. Cinnamon (optional)
 Pare, core, peel, and grate apple; add the rest and leave it refrigerate several hours to brown.

4) **Matzah:** This is a **MUST**. There is no substitute for matzah at Pesach. Some food stores may carry matzah (or contact a local Jewish congregation). You'll need a separate plate with three matzah in a unity-holder (or four napkins* with three matzah), and a wrapping cloth.



During the Seder, the Father will reach into the matzah "unity" and remove the middle piece. After he breaks it in half, he will wrap it in the wrapping cloth.

Include separate plates of matzah for eating during the meal (one or two matzah per person).

5) **Pillows:** As we are instructed to eat in leisure during the Pesach Seder, each person should have a pillow or just the pillow case for his chair. Special pillow cases could be used for this festive occasion.

6) **Shank bone of a Lamb:** This bone is one of the ceremonial elements of the Seder Plate. The shank bone is to be unbroken. You should be able to purchase a shank bone for a butcher. If you wash it well and roast the bone in the oven it keeps very nicely and you can use it yearly for Pesach as it is a symbol for the entire lamb.

+ Ransoming the Afikomen

A powerful object lesson is found in the piece of matzah known as the Afikomen. The redemption of it is a highlight of Pesach for the children. Every family has their own tradition in how this piece of matzah disappears and reappears. An important lesson in the game is that it teaches of the Yeshua's burial and resurrection.

The Father asks the children to cover their eyes so that he may hide the wrapped Afikomen from them. After the meal, a few minutes are devoted to searching for the Afikomen. When it is found and brought to the Father, the Father "pays" for its return.

While Afikomen "payments" have risen along with food, real estate, and anything else! ... **we can rejoice that the ransom Yeshua paid for us is been enough for all eternity! Through Him we are redeemed and restored!**

The Afikomen is Tzaphum - "I Come".

*It must be the **LAST FOOD EATEN** at Pesach so all cakes and cookies must be finished **BEFORE** the eating of the Afikomen.*

The ransoming game draws the attention back to the Seder where the serious matter of YHVH's redemption is discussed.

And as we complete each Pesach, may it be that the next one ...will be in our Father's House!