

# *Seder*

*Seder* is a ceremonial dinner that commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and includes the reading of the Haggadah (*text recited*) and the eating of symbolic foods, generally held on the first night of Passover by Reform Jews and Jews in Israel and on both the first and second nights by Orthodox and Conservative Jews outside of Israel.

The Hebrew word *Seder* means *arrangement or order* and refers to an Orchestrated Ceremony or Liturgy with a number of distinct phases or steps. *For instance a Shabbat Seder will define Liturgy for a Shabbat ceremony, whereas a Passover Seder will define Liturgy for observing a Passover ceremony.*

A *Passover Seder* also refer to a ceremonial meal that includes symbolic foods and the reciting of the story of Passover as the Haggadah (*which means 'telling'*).

**The Seder Plate** is the central object of the Passover Table. **The seder plate** has six dishes around a bowl of salt water where each dish contains a food that is used while telling the story of Passover during the reading of the *Haggadash*.

These foods include:

- 1 Beitzah – a roasted egg
- 2 Karpas – Parsley ( or vegetable)
- 3 Maror – Bitter herb ( horseradish)
- 4 Charoset – Chopped apples and nuts
- 5 Ze'roa –Roasted shank bone
- 6 Chazeret – Romaine lettuce

In addition to these ceremonial eaten foods, the Seder includes a kosher meal (*satisfying the requirements of Jewish Law; genuine or legitimate*) that is eaten later in the ceremony

Preparing for a Passover Seder involves cleaning your house of all *chametz*, (*Leaven or food mixed with leaven*) cooking a Kosher meal and setting the seder table with special Passover dishes (*it is customary to use your most beautiful silver, dishes and tableware for Passover*).

For the Seder table you will (*minimally*) need the following items:

- 1 Holiday Candles
- 2 Kosher wine and wine cups for each person
- 3 Matzah –(thin crisp unleavened bread) 3 sheets for use with the Afikomer ceremony (Afikomer: a pieced broken off from a matzo during a Seder and put aside—hidden - to be eaten at the end of the meal)
- 4 A Seder Plate with all the necessary items listed above
- 5 A wine cup for Elijah (not included by Messianic Jews)
- 6 Afikomen bag (matzah tosh)
- 7 Salt Water for dipping
- 8 A hand washing basin and towels for washing
- 9 A Haggadah for each person
- 10 A kittle (white robe) for the seder leader
- 11 Pillows (for reclining)
- 12 A bible (for reading selected verses)

The *Seder* itself starts after the woman of the house performs the candle lighting blessing. (*bringing the Messiah into the world*). The father of the house then leads the other guests through the meal, reciting the various blessings and reading from the *Haggadah*. Others at the table, including children, are involved in the ceremony.

During the Seder, the whole household takes on the sanctity of the Temple where the ‘sacrifice’ becomes the seder meal.

Four Cups of Wines are drunk during the Passover Seder, remembering the four promises of God given to Moses

Ex. 6:6 “**Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and (1) I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, (2) and I will deliver you from their bondage. (3) I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.**

7 (4) **‘Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.**

First Cup: **I will bring you out** (*Cup of Sanctification*)

Second Cup: **I will set you free** (*Cup of Deliverance*)

Third Cup **I will redeem you** (*Cup of Redemption*).

This is the cup He took for the introduction of Communion for the Church Age.

Fourth Cup: **I will take you for my people** (*Cup of Restoration*)

## **Each Step of the Seder:**

*The First Step:* The Seder Leader calls out: “*Kadesh*”

After the candles have been lit and everyone is seated around the Seder Table, we are ready to begin the Passover Seder by saying **Kiddush** over the first cup of Passover wine. This is called the ‘*Cup of Sanctification*’ (ie. **Kiddush**)

The word **Kiddush** means sanctification, which means to **set apart** or **make holy**.

When the Lord said that He would take the Israelites out from Egypt; He separated them and therefore sanctified them.

### *The Second Step:* The Seder Leader calls out “**Urchatz**”

The Second step is to wash your hands before you eat the **karpas**. However the blessing recited is intentionally left unrecited at this point in the service.

The Talmud ask, “*why do we wash our hands at this point in the Seder?*” and answers that it is an unexpected activity that prompts the children to ask questions. In fact, much of Passover is designed with the child in mind, since it is written “**In every generation, each person must feel as if he personally had come out of Egypt, as the Torah says: ‘You should tell your child on that day, ‘When I left Egypt, Adonai did miracles for me’ ”**

*Jesus* and *Urchatz* it is possible that Jesus washed His disciples feet at this point in the early Seder, He had with His disciples.

*The Third Step:* The Seder Leader calls out ‘**Karpas**’ Everyone is to partake of the *karpas*, a vegetable (often parsley) dipped into salt water and vinegar. The vegetable symbolizes the lowly origins of the Jewish people; the salt water symbolizes the tears shed as a result of our slavery.

### *The Fourth Step:* The Seder Leader calls out ‘**Yachatz**’

*Yachatz* means to ‘divide’ Three **malzot** that have been placed in a white bag (called a **matzah tosh**) are taken out and shown to all. The leader then says: “**this is the lechem omi—the bread of affliction – which our forefather ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry-let them come and**

**eat. All who are need-let them come and celebratethe Passover with us...**"

***The Fifth Step:*** the leader calls out '***Maggid***' (itinerant Jewish teacher)  
And it shall come to pass that your child will ask you, **"What do you mean by this service?"** And you shall tell him; **With a mighty hand, God took us out of Egypt."**

We cannot eat the Seder meal until the story of Passover is told with joy and gratitude. The *Maggid* section of the Passover Seder is when we read from our *Haggadahs* about *yetziat mitzraim* = the Exodus from Egypt.

***The Sixth Step:*** The Seder Leader calls out "***Rachtzah***" (hand wash).  
Here we recite the traditional blessing. **"Blessed art thou, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who hast sanctified us with thy commandments, and commanded us about washing the hands"**

***The Seventh Step:*** The Leader calls out ***Motzi Matza*** (Past and Future)

Here the leader takes three **matzot** (with the broken one in the middle) lifts them up for all to see, and we all recite: **"Blessed art thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth"**

The leader next breaks the bottom matzot into pieces and gives a piece to everyone at the table. He then recites: **"Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, Who sanctified us with his commandment, commanded us to eat matzah."**

*The Eighth Step:* The Seder Leader calls out “**Maror**” (bitter herb.)

This is taking some romaine lettuce and covering it with horseradish. (bitterness.)

*The Ninth Step:* The Leader calls out “**Korech**” (Seder sandwich).

*The Tenth Step:* **Eating the Seder Meal**

*The Eleventh Step:* The Leader calls out “**Tzafun**”

The children have found the lost **Afikoman**, (piece broken off); it is unwrapped and broken into small portions so that everyone present may partake of it.

*Tzafun* means hidden—Jesus Christ (YESHUA) used the symbol of the **Afikomen** to represent His body that was broken for the sins of the world. We are now ready to partake of the Bread of Life. Matthew 26:26 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

*The Twelfth Step:* The Leader calls out “**Barech**” (blessing). After we eat the **Afikomen**, we pour the third cup of wine (the *Cup of Redemption*) and give thanks to the Lord for the fellowship and the meal we have shared.

*The Thirteenth Step:* The Seder Leader calls out “**Hallel**” (Praise)  
And with this we come to the fourth cup of wine (the *Cup of Restoration*.)

This *Cup of Restoration* represents the fourth ‘**I will**’ by God in Exodus 6:6-7.

**I will make you my people**

Since Jesus told his disciples that He would not drink the Fourth Cup but promised to do so with them in the coming Kingdom (Matthew 26:29) called the *Cup of Restoration*.

*The Fourteenth Step:* The Seder Leader calls out “*Nirtzah*”

Our Passover Seder is now complete, we shout out “*Next year in Jerusalem, we are hopeful that one day soon we will enjoy fellowship together with the Messiah Himself in His coming Kingdom.*”

We will spend the rest of the evening singing beautiful Seder Songs and enjoy one another’s company.

And when we leave we say to one another:

*“May the Lord God of Israel bless you,  
keep you, and shine His face upon you”*