

The Congregation of Yahweh

The Passover Meal



A Preparation Guide



CONGREGATION OF YAHWEH

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Revised

March 2012
November 2014
January 2022

Published by The Congregation of Yahweh UK
© March 2012

27a Carlton Road, Sneinton, Nottingham NG3 2DG
Tel +44 (0)115 8378083 Email: admin@CongYah.co.uk or visit our Website: www.CongYah.co.uk
Find us at: www.facebook.com/TheCongregationofYahwehUK

For a Jewish person one of the most important events of their year is their Passover Meal. They usually have two; one with their own family and the following night with other Jewish people from the community – or as many as can make it¹. It is a time to look back and to remember what great and mighty things Yahweh has done for them. As New Covenant believers, we too celebrate this Festival knowing that Yahweh’s Passover Lamb, Yahshua has been sacrificed and through that we have been redeemed.

PREPARATIONS

- **THE HOME**

As we approach the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread it is our custom to clean and remove all leaven² from our homes. This act provides us with the opportunity to focus our thoughts on the state of our spiritual lives. Running up to the Feast we take the time to do a spiritual ‘audit’ and prepare our hearts and lives to meet together as members of a New Covenant Community.

- **THE TELLING**

Each year at the Passover Festival meal the story of Israel’s oppressive slavery and dynamic rescue from Egypt is retold alongside the account of Yahshua’s suffering and redemptive work at Calvary. This has been done in various forms; frequently through music, readings, prayers and even drama. In all of this it is important that the authenticity and solemnity of the account is preserved. Jewish people use a ‘Haggadah’ which is a script for the telling of the deliverance and usually involves everyone partaking of the meal. The Congregation has developed a ‘Haggadah’ for New Covenant believers. This is suitable for use in a home group setting. It tells the story of Passover and its significance for today’s believers with a blend of scripture and Judic traditions. The Congregation of Yahweh has a wealth of material and songs written for the Passover and some of these have also been included.

- **THE ROOM**

Great care is taken to prepare the room in which the Festival meal

¹The Congregation of Yahweh is accustomed to celebrating only one Festival meal

²See the appendix for what is included in leaven

will be eaten. We remember, from the Gospels, that Yahshua told His disciples to prepare the place where they were to celebrate the Passover (see Luke 22:7-13). The room is cleaned, decorated, and table(s) set. The decoration and ambiance of the room should give emphasis to the great deliverance that Yahweh wrought on behalf of His people and the freedom and new life they now enjoy. With this in mind great care and attention should be given to preparing the room.

- **THE MEAL**

The food for the meal is prepared on the Passover day, and all those partaking of the meal help in its preparation. We include the children because Passover is a time when the whole family celebrates.



PLEASE NOTE

Due to the laws of the land we are unable to prepare the Passover meal in the way Yahweh first instructed the Israelites (Exodus 12:1-11). For example, we cannot slaughter the lamb; we cannot roast the lamb on an open fire, with no broken bones, and certainly not whole. After the meal, whatever remains of the lamb should be burnt. Again, in many areas of the country, this is prohibited by local council bye-laws for environmental reasons. In these circumstances what is important is our motive – we endeavour to keep the Feast in the best way we can, in the spirit Yahweh intended us to keep it. If it is not possible to burn the remains of the lamb, wrap the leftovers (including bones) carefully in foil or grease-proof paper, then place in a plastic bag and deposit in the bin to be collected by the refuse agency.

When purchasing the lamb we should try to get the best quality available (in the Scriptures it was a lamb without blemish).

This should be prepared without seasonings, and roasted in the oven.

The Festival meal is a time of thanksgiving and joy. It is eaten by those who are redeemed and born again into the family of Yahweh. The evening begins with the lighting of candles and introductions. Usually, the youngest child (person) will then ask the father/leader, “Why is this night different from all other nights?” The father/leader (with the help of all gathered) will then go on to tell the story of how Yahweh delivered His people from Egypt and how, in the New Covenant context, He has delivered us from the slavery of sin.

On the Passover table there will be various foods that represent different aspects of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. These foods form the core of the meal.



LAMB

We remember the lamb that was killed, its blood put around the door post. On seeing the blood of the lamb the angel of Yahweh passed over and the family was saved. The lamb was roasted and eaten by members of the household. We also remember the blood of the ultimate Passover Lamb (Yahshua); His blood applied to our hearts.

MATZOS

Unleavened bread – the Israelites didn’t have time to add leaven to the dough because they left Egypt in great haste. In this case leaven speaks to us of sin and the old life. From a New Covenant perspective it represents the broken body of Yahshua given for our salvation.

A SMALL BOWL OF SALT WATER

The salt water represents the tears the Israelites shed in their slavery. We dip some salad (parsley, celery, lettuce) into the water and eat it to not only remind us of our ancestors’ tears, but also of the many tears that have been shed because of the hardship and oppression that Yahweh’s people have endured.

HAROSETH*

These look like mud balls and signify the bricks the Israelites had to make to build cities for Pharaoh.

BITTER HERBS (MAROR)

Typically parsley, watercress, chicory, horseradish, and olives. These speak of the hard labour and bitter afflictions the Israelites endured, also including the persecution and afflictions that New Covenant believers have endured throughout the ages.

KARPAS

Spring vegetable e.g. Parsley, Lettuce, Celery

FRUIT

These depict Yahweh's goodness and abundant blessing.



WINE

Jewish people believe you should drink four cups of wine at specific times during the Festival meal. These represent the four expressions of redemption in Exodus 6:6-7; namely...

I will bring you out

I will deliver you

I will redeem you

I will take you

In a New Covenant setting the wine represents Yahshua's blood - which was not only the blood that saves and cleanses from sin, but also the blood that sealed (made good) the New Covenant.



Our Passover Table

Lamb	Wine	Avocado pear	Parsley
Matzos	Fruit Juice	Lettuce	Radishes
Salt water	Cold Drink	Spring onions	Tomatoes
Butter	Cucumber	Watercress	Olives
Haroseth	Celery	Horseradish	Chicory

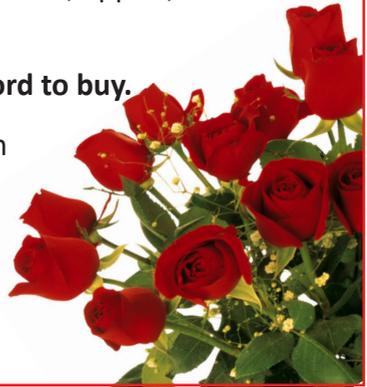
We have various types of fruit:

Pears, grapes, bananas, oranges, grapefruit, apples, mixed nuts, dates.

We use the best products we can afford to buy.

The table is beautifully decorated with candles, flowers, glasses, serviettes, etc.

Everything bought for the meal should be checked for leaven (see appendix).



KOSHER CARE

The wine we use should be “Kosher for Passover” as it has no form of yeast in it.

The matzos we use for Passover also has on its box “Kosher for Passover”. This means that the ovens used for its baking have been thoroughly cleaned out and inspected by the chief rabbi, who also supervises the baking.

You can buy Palwin N°.10 wine and Rakusen's Matzos from Ocado Supermarket: www.ocado.com and Sainsbury's



OUTLINE FOR FESTIVAL MEAL

With the preparation of the home, the room, the meal, and of course our personal lives, we are now ready to begin the evening of celebrations.

- Gathering/welcoming of guests for the evening
- Lighting of the candles
- Introduction to the four cups of wine
- Retelling the Passover story: Exodus and Yahweh's Passover lamb, Yahshua, who has taken away our sins and redeemed us
- Eating the meal with Breaking of Bread and feet washing³
- Conclude with extracts from the Hallel - a selection of Psalms (113-118) used on joyous Festival occasions
- Final blessing



³We include the breaking of bread and feet washing because of what Yahshua did at the Last Supper (we believe that this was an early Passover meal). He made Himself part of the Passover meal by demonstrating that He was the ultimate Passover lamb (Matt 26:17-30; Luke 22:7-20; John 13:1-17; 1 Cor 11:23-34).

Haroseth Recipe*

1 medium cooking apple
6 tablespoons of chopped nuts
4 tablespoons of ground almonds
1¹/₂ teaspoons of cinnamon
A little kosher wine

Yields 8-10 balls

Grate the apple and mix with the chopped nuts and cinnamon. Bind together with the ground almonds and a little wine. Form into balls. You may have to squeeze the balls to remove the surplus liquid so they will hold their shape.

*Must be avoided by those with nut allergies.



Appendix: What is Leaven?

We remove any foods from our homes that list a raising agent as an ingredient.

These raising agents include: ammonium bicarbonate; ammonium hydrogen carbonate; ammonium carbonate; baker's ammonia; baking ammonia; hartshorn; sodium bicarbonate; bicarbonate of soda; sodium hydrogen carbonate; baker's yeast; baking powder; baking soda; double-acting baking powder; single-acting baking powder; sourdough starter.

Yeast Extract and similar flavourings made from yeast cannot be used as raising agents. Consequently, foods containing them do not have to be removed. These include: Brewer's yeast; nutritional yeast; autolysed yeast; Torula.

Note: Cream of tartar is also not a raising agent.

