

## **A Renewed Covenant Passover Guide**

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We had someone inquire recently concerning how we viewed the Scriptural requirements for Passover. The following is our response and we thought it might also be helpful to others who will be participating with us through our channel live stream for the Passover Celebration.

We will observe our local and on-line gathering as per the Appointed Times schedule for this year on our event page. In our Passover gathering we worship YHVH together, share a special Passover message, and then partake together of the bread and cup. Afterwards, those who are local join together for the Passover meal, (reservations required - please contact us via phone or email if wanting to attend), and those who streamed the service with us can partake of their meal at their location.

The following are Scriptural guidelines we have been convicted to follow at this time, but is in no way meant to be a comprehensive study. We encourage each believer to follow the Set-apart Spirit's leading in their journey but these are the thoughts and guidelines we encourage. We realize there also may be some new thoughts here and again encourage you to test them by the Spirit, the Scripture and the traditions historical beginnings.

1. We do not have a traditional Seder service for Passover. In moving out of the pagan traditions that has crept into most resurrection observances, including those involving Ishtar Sunday and everything connected to it, the Set-apart Spirit exhorted us very early on not to come out of Romanism to then go into Judaism. These are just two sides of the same ditch. In seeking YHVH over this we do not perform the Jewish Seder for Passover because it is not found in our Scriptures and was invented by Rabbinical Judaism. There are some good object lessons contained within it to be sure, but even if you add the Renewed Covenant (New Testament) perspective to it, which many do, we feel you are still just trying to redeem a man made tradition and that is how the teachings of Scripture were infiltrated from the start. Remember the lesson by our Master Yehoshua in considering this:

**“And His taught ones came to the other side, and had forgotten to take bread. And יהושע said to them, “Mind! And beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “Because we brought no bread!” But יהושע, aware of this, said to**

them, “O you of little belief, why do you reason among yourselves because you brought no bread? How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread, but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?” Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”

**Mattithyahu (Matthew) 16:5-8, 11-12 TS2009**

<https://bible.com/bible/316/mat.16.5-12.TS2009>

2. This leaves us simply going back to the Scripture. We believe that in **1 Cor. 11:23** it is very clear from this verse that Sha’ul (Paul’s) was teaching a Renewed Covenant perspective on the Passover meal in this Chapter. This was written after the resurrection and ascension of Yehoshua so it is clearly meant to be a part of the Renewed Covenant instruction. Sadly, again, man made traditions distorted this teaching here and instituted a new concept developed by councils of men called, “The Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, Mass, etc.”. Some are taught to have it weekly, others daily, others, monthly and even quarterly. But in the Scripture Passover is clearly only on the 14th day of the first Hebrew month.

Sha’ul’s context here in **1 Cor. 11:20-34** is clearly concerning Passover and was written to first century followers of Yehoshua. No where in Scripture did YHVH, or Yehoshua, change His Passover meal to “anytime you like”. Clearly, vague translations have exploited the phrase, “**For as often as you eat**”, to imply this.

The NET translation reads, “**...do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**” This shows clearly Sha’ul was not saying, “you can drink of this cup often or anytime you like.” Sha’ul assumed his reader knew about the yearly Passover appointed time and was clearly just restating what Yehoshua had taught His taught ones concerning the “focus” of Passover after His Passover sacrifice. The Renewed Covenant (New Testament) focus is not just a remembrance of the deliverance from Egypt, but now a remembrance of Him, Yehoshua, THE PASSOVER LAMB.

Some take the passage in Acts of “**daily meeting and breaking bread together**” to mean that they had Passover every day, but the text does not say they were having Passover everyday. They were just having fellowship together and eating some bread. The changing to the “whenever you want to” Passover observation was clearly instituted to again pull peoples attention away from The Appointed Passover and The Passover Lamb and is adding to the Torah.

We encourage you to read and meditate in 1 Cor. 11. Realize this entire chapter is about “proper headship” - so no wonder certain authorities desired to change the Passover in order to get us under their headship instead of YHVH’S. By observing the wrong way of guarding our Father’s appointed time of Passover, they accomplish this. I love in **1 Cor. 11: 20**, in The Scripture’s translation, where it is called “**the Master’s Supper**”. We also believe that in renewing our betrothal to Yehoshua our coming Bridegroom this night, we are coming under His headship, or under the protection of His blood. This positions us under His wings during the upcoming judgment of His enemies at the end of this age.

3. That being said, we begin our Passover Meal with partaking of the bread and cup and reading a passage, or selection of passages, from the Good News books of the account of Yehoshua’s last Passover Meal. We may also include a reading from 1 Cor. 11.

*(If you join with us online for Passover we usually conclude the online gathering with partaking of the bread and cup together corporately. You will need to have that prepared beforehand. We then dismiss for everyone to eat their meal at their location.)*

4. Concerning the meal itself, **Ex. 12** is our go to guide for this. Sometimes it is nice to have a card written out on the table and read it before we eat as to why we eat the “items” on this night and what they represent - but not necessary.

There are not a lot of strict guidelines here, as with most of ABBA’s festivals they really aren’t that complicated, but here are the ones we follow:

**vrs. 5-10** We do eat Lamb cooked as prescribed as a reminder of Yehoshua our perfect Passover Lamb slain for us. I have studied that a Pesach Lamb is only to be slaughtered in Yerushalayim but we do not believe we should slaughter a Lamb ceremonially anyway because “**once and for all Yehoshua was slain for all**”. So, we buy our lamb. It should be eaten after the sunset and any lamb not eaten should be burned.

We have some type of bitter herbs with our meal such as horseradish or parsley. We do have other sides as well. Some have a dessert, others do not. Because the first Passover was not a leisurely meal they probably did not have dessert - but as the Ruach leads you. I like to use the matzah, cup, and some grapes on a tray or basket for the center piece. If you do this, you can eat the grapes for dessert, if you like.

**V. 11** Some actually practice this posture as they eat. We have not, but the focus here is clearly - be ready to leave!

We do like to hang up a red silk strip of cloth over our door on this evening to remind us of being under the blood of the Lamb - but again, not necessary.

**V. 15.** Of course we have no leaven for the meal, or the following week during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Some buy the matzah crackers in the store but we prefer to make unleavened bread ourselves.

**Vrs. 26-27** If children are there it is great to have them ask this question and read **v. 27**. You might like to have the question written out on a card for them to read. This is great for instruction and conversation. We also include a passage about Yehoshua our Passover Lamb and who we are remembering this night.

**v. 42** Recently the Set-apart Spirit has also added a “watch” emphasis to our evening. Right now, Marc and I are thinking from 9-midnight.

**vrs. 47-48** From a Renewed Covenant perspective anyone who is not a believer and follower of Yehoshua should NOT partake of the Passover. We believe this ties in with the “judge yourself” portion of 1 Cor. 11.

We always try to remember these three element:

- “Past” - The Exodus from Mitsrayim or Egypt representing to us deliverance from the slavery to sin.
- “Present” - Yehoshua’s Passover sacrifice for us and the renewal of the Everlasting Covenant with YaH’s called out people.
- “Future” - the coming Marriage Supper of the Lamb

So we like to conclude with a reading like **Mk 14:25, Rev. 19:1-9** and you can sing a song to conclude the meal.

We hope this is helpful to those who desire to guard the Passover of YHVH. Always feel free to let the Spirit lead you in your meal.

Some have asked about the foot washing element. We feel this may have been Yehoshua’s institution of the emissaries into the new Melchizedek priesthood under Him as our High Priest. Currently we believe this happens for us at our new birth and immersion.

Again, this is not meant to be an in-depth guide on how to partake of the Passover meal but an offering of Scriptural passages we feel are important to pray over and consider as we seek to guard YHVH'S Passover.

Shalom