

Making Promises

Part 4: The Exodus (Jesus and the Passover)

Review

- When the Hebrews left Egypt, they were given the gold and silver from the Egyptians that would later be used in building the tabernacle.
- The Passover is to be celebrated on the 14th day of Nisan (the first month of the Jewish calendar).

Jesus and The Seder

- "Seder" is the Hebrew word meaning "**order**" or "**procedure**." The Passover meal is often called the "Passover Seder" or simply, "seder" for short.
- There has been significant **debate** over the nature of the meal that Jesus is celebrating with his disciples.
 - The crucifixion happened on **Nisan 14** (Friday according to most commentators), and the Lord died at the same time as the lambs for that meal were being slain in the Temple ritual.
 - However, the Last Supper was celebrated **the night before** (what we would call Thursday night), thus it is argued that it cannot have been the regular paschal meal.
 - **Scripture** seems to support the Last Supper being a passover meal *and* occurring the day before the passover meal would traditionally be celebrated (**Mt. 26:17-20; Lk. 22:15; Jn. 13:1; 18:28; 19:14, 31, 42**).

The Seder Meal

- Though the passover meal is a vital tradition for the Jewish people throughout their history, the practice of the meal has evolved over time.
 - In addition to the few Biblical references to the order of the meal, the basic source for the ancient Passover ceremony is the tractate *Pesachim* in the Mishnah, a document that was written down in c. A. D. 200 by Rabbi Judah ha-Nassi.
- In addition to the ceremonial footwashing by the house servant, after the guests arrived they would all perform a ritual hand washing that was done before every meal. It's unclear if Jesus did this, since he wasn't a fan of handwashing (**Mk. 7:5-9**)

- Each participant has 4 ritual wine glasses (only for ritual wine), placed at their assigned seat. Charoseth (a fruity paste), unleavened bread, vegetables, and red wine vinegar (karpas) should all be on the table.
 - ◉ In Jesus day, the table would've been about 18" off the ground, and the "chairs" would've been pillows meant for reclining while eating.
 - ◉ The head of the family is at one end of the table, and the guests are wrapped around the table (this seems to be the position Jesus takes, since he is clearly officiating the meal).
 - ◉ With each glass of wine comes a recitation of the 4 verbs of Exodus 6:6-7.
- Then the first cup of ritual wine is poured and the first verb of Exodus 6:6-7 is recited by the father: **"I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."**
- The head of the house dips **Karpas**, bitter herbs (traditionally lettuce or celery), into salt water or vinegar. He dips herb together with the chief guest of honor (the person on his right), and then the bitter herbs are passed on down the table (**Mt. 26:23**). The history of Israel is then recited by the head of the table (**Acts 7:2-38**).
 - ◉ The first 2 Hallal Psalms would now be sung (Psalm 113-114)
- The head of the house will pray over the second cup, and read the second verb of Exodus 6:6: **"I will deliver you from slavery to them."**
 - ◉ Following the second cup and the breaking of the bread, the lamb, charoseth, and veggies will be consumed with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the matzah bread.
 - ◉ The $\frac{1}{3}$ of the matzah bread is wrapped in a linen cloth, and put away until the end of the meal.
 - ◉ The host has broken the bread, dips together with the guest of honor, and then passes the bread down the line (**Jn. 13:26**).
- After the meal, the third cup is poured, and the hidden unleavened bread is brought back to the table.
 - ◉ All participants recite the post-meal grace together, and then the prayer over the wine (**Mt. 26:26; 1Cor. 11:23-24**).
 - ◉ Then the father recites the third verb from Exodus 6:6: **"I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment."**
- The The fourth cup of wine is poured and blessed by all. Then the father recites the fourth verb from Exodus 6:6-7:
 - ◉ **"Then I will take you as 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."**
 - ◉ The Final Hallal Psalms would now be sung (Psalms 115-118)

The Exodus: Part 4 (Jesus and the Passover)

Matthew 26:17–20	17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” 18 He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. 20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.
Luke 22:15	And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
John 13:1	Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
John 18:28	Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.
John 19:14	Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”
John 19:31	Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.
John 19:42	So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.
Mark 7:5–9	5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” 6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “ ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” 9 And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!”
Matthew 26:23	He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.
John 13:26	Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.
1 Corinthians 11:23–24	23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
Matthew 26:26	Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”