

Messianic Passover Seder

Welcome to our Passover Seder.

Getting ready for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread means cleaning. This is the time when spring-cleaning takes place. Everyone is busy getting all the leaven (yeast) out of their homes.

*“You know the saying, ‘Just a little leaven makes the whole batch of dough rise’.
Clean out all the old leaven” (1 Corh 5:6-7)*

Leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible. Leaven (yeast) makes dough rise and puff up.

Let's look at some foods that have leaven:

Hamburger Buns Pancakes Pizza Cake
Loaf Bread Waffles PopTarts Cookies Twinkies
Fried Chicken (because the batter on the outside usually has leaven)

Now let's look at some foods that do not have leaven:

Potatoes, Tomatoes
Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, etc)
Fruits (apples, oranges, peaches, pears, bananas, grapes, strawberries, etc)
Eggs, Cheese, Nuts
Grilled Fish, Grilled Chicken

Wow! Think about getting out all the food in your house that has leaven in it! God said to get ready every year for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, His Appointed Time. This Feast lasts for seven days. It is always in the springtime. It is in the 1st month of God's Biblical Calendar.

*“You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread for on this day I brought you out of Egypt.
So, you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance.
You shall eat unleavened bread in the 1st month on the 14th day of the month at evening,
until the 21st day of the month at evening. Seven days there shall be no leaven food in your house...
You shall not eat any leaven.” (Exd. 12:17-20)*

Yeshua also cleansed His Father's house of leaven and corruption during this time.

“The Passover of the Jews was near, and Yeshua went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the Temple those who were selling... and He drove them out of the Temple...and overturned their tables and said, ‘Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business’ (John 2:13-16)

Getting ready for the Feast of Unleavened Bread is also a time to look at the thoughts and intents of our heart. It is a time of spiritual preparation.

“So, let us celebrate the Feast, not with old leaven- the leaven of sin and wickedness.
Let us celebrate the Feast with the unleavened bread of goodness and truth” (1 Cor.5:8)

Let's ready our hearts for the Passover Seder. Seder means order. It is the order of service by which we recall the miraculous provisions of God as He delivered the Israelites from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. The first Passover was celebrated by the Israelites, according to God's command (Exd.12:1-2), the night before the Exodus from Egypt.

The story we tell tonight has been retold for thousands of years. It is a timeless story of the eternal truth of God's involvement and care of His people. It is retold through the Seder Plate that you see on the table. Each item on the Seder Plate plays a part in retelling the story. Be fully prepared to experience each taste, sight, and smell.

Seder Plate

Zeroah - shankbone of a lamb. It symbolizes the Passover Lamb. Through the sacrifice of the substitute lamb, the Israelites were spared the death of their first-born. It reminds us of the sacrifice of the Messiah, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”.

Maror - this bitter herb reminds us of the bitterness of Egyptian bondage. It is represented by ground horseradish.

Charoset - a sweet mixture of nuts, fruit, juice and spices. This brown mixture represents the red clay that the Israelites used to make bricks in Egypt.

Karpas - represented by parsley. It will be dipped in salt water as a reminder of the tears of the Israelites.

Chazeret - a green, spring onion. This is another symbol of bitterness.

Salt Water is in the middle of the Seder Plate.

Matzah - unleavened bread that reminds us of when the Israelites left Egypt. They did not have time to wait for the bread to rise. Matzah is made from water and flour (mixed and baked within 18 minutes or less, before the dough has time to rise).

Juice - everyone drinks 4 cups of juice during the Seder.

Cup of Elijah - a special goblet filled with wine is displayed at the head table to remind us of Elijah, who is referenced in the Seder as the forerunner announcing the coming of the Messiah.

Candle Lighting

The activities of this evening are symbolic of many things. The candles remind us of the true source of light in our lives through the Messiah Yeshua. He declared, *"I am the light of the world: he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

Women: (Lighting candles at the tables)

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
asher kid'shanu bid'varo v'natan lanu et Yeshua Meshkikeynu,
v'tzivanu l'hiyot or la-olam

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe
Who has sanctified us by Your Word and has given us Yeshua our Messiah,
and commanded us to be a light to the world.

Leader:

We begin our service tonight by speaking the words that were spoken by God to Moshe as a promise of freedom. God's words in Exodus 6:6-7 are as real today as they were years ago.

(All)

I will BRING you out of Egypt.....(The Cup of Sanctification)

I will DELIVER you from slavery.....(The Cup of Deliverance)

I will REDEEM you with an outstretched arm (The Cup of Redemption)

I will TAKE you to Me for a people(The Cup of Praise)

The Cup of Sanctification

This first cup is the Cup of Sanctification. Let's raise it together and bless God.

(All) Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam borei pri hagofen

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(Everyone drinks)

Washing of Hands

Karpas

The Green Vegetable

Leader:

The parsley on the Seder plate represents the green sprouting of new life that comes in the spring, the time of the early harvest, the season of Passover. The promise of new life symbolized by the parsley comes forth through the tears of bondage. Thus it is dipped into the salt water to demonstrate that God does hear the cry of our hearts. The Almighty's desire is to restore relationship with all who cry out to Him.

(Everyone get a piece of Parsley from the Seder Plate. Please lift it up)

We dip the karpas in the salt water. The salt water is a symbol of the bitter tears the Israelites shed as slaves in Egypt. As you dip your parsley in the salt water...twice...remember, tears are a part of life... but deliverance comes for God.

(salt water is passed; dip parsley twice in salt water)

Let's eat the karpas.

Breaking the Middle Matzah

Leader: (lifts the matzahtash)

The matzah, or unleavened bread, which we use in the Seder is kept in a matzahtash container. The container has three compartments to hold three matzot. This symbolizes a unity as described by the Hebrew word *echad*. *Echad* is a compound unity – a compound unity consisting of several parts. Although there are numerous explanations given by the rabbis for this ceremony, we recognize this unity as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Now the middle piece of matzah will be broken, wrapped in a linen cloth and put away until later.

(Leader takes the middle matzah and breaks it in two, leaving one half between the two whole ones, and then wraps the other half of the matzah in a linen cloth as the *Afikoman*.)

We will learn more about this mystery of the *Afikoman*, the middle piece of matzah, at the end of our Seder, just after we eat our Festive Meal.

The Four Questions

Child: How different this night is from all other nights!

On all other nights we eat bread or matzah.

On this night why do we eat only matzah?

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables.

On this night why do we eat only bitter herbs?

On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once.

On this night why do we dip them twice?

Leader:

The four questions of Passover have an everlasting significance to us and our children. It is our spiritual duty to pass on our understanding of God's mighty wonders and works to our children.

The Matzah

The Unleavened Bread

Leader:

On other nights we eat bread or matzah, but on Passover and during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we eat only matzah. The Israelites left Egypt in haste, as God commanded them. They took their dough on their shoulders and it did not have time to rise. It was unleavened bread.

In the matzah, we see some interesting comparisons. The matzah is without leaven. So, also the Messiah was without sin. He lived a sinless life. There was no corruption in His life.

"He was in every way like us, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15)

(Everyone should get a piece of Matzah)

Notice the stripes on the matzah. Now notice the brown spots on the matzah.

Just as the matzah is stripped and has brown spots that look like bruises, likewise, the Messiah was bruised in His beatings and the stripes of the whips were on His back.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Now let us break the unleavened bread of Passover.

(All)

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.
Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.
(Eat together)

The Ten Plagues

Also known as the Ten Wonders

Leader:

The story of Passover is a story of miracles, a story of redemption and a story of God's mighty right hand to overcome evil.

First participant:

God promised the Land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But Jacob's children were in captivity in Egypt. The Pharaoh in power was afraid of all the Israelites because of their numbers. He forced them into harsh and bitter slavery. But God blessed His people and caused them to continue to increase in strength and number.

Second participant:

Pharaoh became increasingly afraid of the Israelites and gave orders for every baby boy born to be thrown into the Nile River. One couple placed their infant son in a basket and set him afloat on the Nile River. He was carefully watched by his sister Miryaim as the basket floated to the place where Pharaoh's daughter was bathing. She named him Moshe which means 'pull out' because she pulled him out from the water and raised him as her own son.

Third participant:

Moshe grew up in the palace of Pharaoh. As he grew older he became aware of the plight of his people, the Israelites. One day Moshe saw an Egyptian beating one of his kinsmen and secretly killed him. In fear for this life, he fled to Midian and became a shepherd.

Fourth participant:

God heard the cries of the children of Israel in their slavery. He appeared to Moshe in a burning bush. God told Moshe to go tell Pharaoh, "Let My people go that they may serve Me"

Leader:

When God appeared to Moshe at the burning bush, He said, "I AM WHO I AM". He told Moshe to tell the sons of Israel,

"YHVH, the God of your fathers...has sent me to you.

This is My name forever, and this is My memorial name to all generations" (Exd.3:14-15)

Moshe went and told the sons of Israel. Moshe also went to tell Pharaoh. Moshe said:

"Thus says YHVH, the God of Israel, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness. But Pharaoh said, Who is YHVH that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?

I do not know YHVH and I will not let Israel go" (Exd. 5:1-2)

(All)

YHVH said: I know that Pharaoh will not let you go. But I will reach out My hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders!! After that, he will let you go (Exd. 3:19-20)

Leader

As Pharaoh resisted YHVH's command, YHVH sent His wonders upon the land of Egypt. Yet, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go. YHVH said to Moshe:

"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says YHVH, Israel is My son, My firstborn.

So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me': but you have refused to let him go.

Behold, I will kill your son, your first-born" (Exd.4:22-23)

(All)

YHVH said: For on that night, I will pass through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both men and animals; and I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt; I am YHVH (Exd.12:12)

Leader:

These are the ten wonders brought by YHVH upon the Egyptians: Dip your finger into the cup as we all say each wonder three times and allow a drop to fall. As the juice in our cups is diminished we show the sorrow over the losses to the Egyptians caused by each wonder.

(All)

1) Blood

2) Frogs

3) Lice

4) Gnats

5) Cattle Disease

6) Boils

7) Lightning and Hail

8) Locusts

9) Darkness

10) Death of the Firstborn

Zeroah

The Shankbone of the Lamb

This roasted shank bone represents the innocent lamb whose blood marked the doorposts and lintel of the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, in obedience to YHWH's command.

The Lamb was selected on the 10th day of the 1st month of the Biblical Calendar.

"On the 10th of this month... take a lamb..."

"Your lamb shall be a male - a year old, without spot or blemish" (Exd. 12:3-5)

The Lamb was to be kept in the home for 4 days. I'm sure the children loved having the little lamb in their home. Then on the 14th day, the innocent lamb was taken outside and the throat was slit as the lamb's life and blood were offered to YHWH as a sacrifice.

"Keep the lamb until the 14th day...then... kill it... take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the house...it is YHWH's Passover" (Exd 12:6-11)

The blood of the lamb was placed on the doorposts and lintel of each home. The judgment of YHWH passed over. The lamb died as a substitute - instead of the first born. YHWH said:

"For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the first-born - both man and beast. And against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments. I am YHWH. And the blood shall be a sign... when I see the blood I will pass over, and no plague will befall you..."

Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a Feast to YHWH; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance" (Exd. 12:12-14)

Passover had been celebrated for almost 1500 years before Yeshua, the Messiah, was born. YHWH commanded His people to celebrate Passover each year at the Appointed Time.

"Now Yeshua's parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover" (Luke 2:41)

Yeshua grew up in Nazareth... and every year His family went to Jerusalem for the Feasts.

The Temple was in Jerusalem. Daily the priests made sacrifices to YHWH in the Temple. Traditionally, the morning sacrifice was offered at 9:00am and the evening sacrifice was offered at 3pm in the afternoon. At Passover, the lambs were slaughtered in the Temple at the time of the evening sacrifice. The dead lambs were hung on hooks on wooden poles and skinned and prepared for roasting. All the while, the Levites led the people in chanting the melodies of the Psalms of the *Hallel* - singing praises to YHWH for His deliverance and His redemption.

At Passover, Yeshua was crucified. It was the Appointed Time of YHWH.

He was "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

It was the 14th day of the 1st month of the Biblical Calendar and YHVH provided His Son, Yeshua. The LAMB OF GOD hung on a wooden stake on the Mount in Jerusalem.

the place called "YHVH will provide, as it is said... 'In the mount of YHVH it will be provided'" (Gen.22:14) And at the time of the evening sacrifice, when the priest would take the knife and slit the throat of the Passover lamb in the Temple, Yeshua looked up to heaven and said, "It is finished". The innocent LAMB OF GOD died as a substitute sacrifice for our sin at 3pm in the afternoon.

YHVH had given specific instructions to follow about the sacrifice of the Passover lamb.

"you are not to break a bone of it" (Exd.12:46)

And so, too, with Yeshua - the LAMB OF GOD - none of His bones were broken.

"So the soldiers came...when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear... For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken" John 19: 33-36

The Cup of Deliverance

Leader (raise the second cup)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Who redeemed us and brought us to this night.

We give thanks to You with a new song. A song You have put into our hearts for redemption and liberation of our souls. Blessed are You, O Lord, Redeemer of Israel and all nations.

(All) Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam borei pri hagafen.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(All drink from the second cup)

Maror

The Bitter Herbs

Leader:

Now we come to the most bitter part of the Seder. We will eat the maror to remind us of the bitterness of bondage in Egypt. On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on Passover we eat only maror, bitter herbs. As sweet as our lives are today, let's still remember how bitter life was for the children of Israel in the land of Egypt (lifting the horseradish)

"so the Egyptians worked the Israelites ruthlessly... making their lives bitter with hard labor - digging clay, making bricks and all kinds of field work" (Exd.1:14)

As we eat some maror on a piece of matzah, let us allow the bitter taste to cause us to shed tears of compassion for the sorrow that the Israelites knew thousands of years ago.

(Place horseradish on matzah)

(All)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,
Who has set us apart by His Word and commanded us to eat bitter herbs. (All eat).

Leader:

On other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them... twice. The charoset is a mixture made from chopped apples, honey, nuts and grape juice. With this mixture, we remember how the Israelites labored to make treasure cities for Pharaoh as they worked in brick and clay. (Lifting charoset)

Let us once again place some bitter herbs on a small piece of matzah. But this time, before we eat, let's put the sweet charoset on top of the bitter herbs.

(Put horseradish on matzah, then cover horseradish with charoset)

(All)

(Lifting the matzah with the maror and charoset)

We put the charoset with the bitter herbs to remind ourselves that even the most bitter of circumstances can be made sweet by the hope we have in YHVH. (All eat)

The Festive Meal

Now it is time to eat the festive meal, but the end of our Seder has not yet come. After our meal, we will conclude with a short, but important closing ceremony, by first redeeming the *Afikoman*, and then explaining its deep significance.

The meal will now be served. This is a time to relax, feast and enjoy freedom from slavery. The discussion during the meal should center on the events of the Passover story.

The Afikoman

After the meal, and just before the third cup, the *Afikoman* is redeemed from the child who found it. It is explained, distributed and eaten. All that is left is an empty linen cloth.

Many Messianic pictures are within the Passover Seder. There are also some very interesting parallels that connect Messiah with the *Afikoman* (a Greek word which means "I came"). Remember how the middle piece of the unleavened bread was taken and wrapped in a linen cloth. So, too, was Messiah's body taken and prepared for burial and wrapped in linen cloth.

As the *Afikoman* is hidden until just before the third cup (the cup of redemption), so Messiah's body was placed in a tomb and hidden for three days and three nights. Remember Yeshua said,
"for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster,
so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40)

And just as our *Afikoman* appears again, so, too, does the Messiah appear again. Halleluyah!!! He did not remain in the grave. He arose from the dead!!! And on the Day of Firstfruits, at the Appointed Time, He ascended as the Firstfruits Offering.

"He is the firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18)

"Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20).

The Cup of Redemption

This is the third cup - it is the cup of redemption. Redemption means deliverance or rescue.

(All) YHVH said, "I will REDEEM you with an outstretched hand"

Leader

YHVH rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians who pursued them when they left Egypt. YHVH opened up the Red Sea and the Israelites went through on dry ground...but when the Egyptians went after them into the midst of the sea...YHVH made the waters return..

"Thus YHVH saved Israel that day from the hand of their enemy" (Exd. 14:30).

YHVH brought Redemption to the Israelites that day from the hand of the enemy

*"Your right hand, O YHVH, is majestic in power,
Your right hand, O YHVH, shatters the enemy..."*

In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed" (Exd. 15:6, 13)

♪ Who Is Like You ♪

So, too, has YHVH brought Redemption to all who believe in the finished work of Messiah.

“You were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold...

but with the precious blood of Messiah, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Through Yeshua’s death, burial and resurrection... victory comes to all who believe in Him.

“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah” (1 Corth. 15:55-57)

(All) (lift the cup of redemption)

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha’olam borei pri hagafen

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Let us all drink together with grateful hearts that this was done for us. (All drink)

The Cup of Elijah

There is one place setting that has not been touched throughout the meal. This is the traditional place prepared for Elijah. A place is always set for Elijah at every Passover meal. Elijah is referenced in the Seder as the forerunner announcing the coming of the Messiah. This concept is taken from the traditional understanding of the last two verses of the book of Malachi, which is read on the Sabbath just before Passover.

“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of YHVH.

He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers,
so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse” (Mal.4:5-6)

At this time we also remember that Yochanan the Immerser came as the forerunner of Messiah.

“And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner
before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children...

so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17)

Yeshua spoke about Yochanan:

“This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger before You.

He will prepare Your way before You....

And if you are willing to accept it, Yochanan himself is Elijah who was to come” (Matt.11:7-15)

During every Passover Seder, the door is opened to see if the prophet Elijah might come and announce to us the coming of Messiah. Perhaps tonight you also are anticipating the Messiah. Open your heart and allow the Messiah to reign on the throne in your life!

♪ E-li-ya-hu HaNavi ♪

(door is open to look for the prophet Elijah. Door is closed after song)

The Cup of Praise

Let us all fill our cups for the fourth time. This is the cup of Praise. Speak Psalms of Praise.
(in this responsive reading, let the bold type be read by all)

Hallel

Give thanks to YHVH for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Now let Israel say, "His mercy endures forever"

Now let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever"

Now let those who fear YHVH say, "His mercy endures forever"

With YHVH on my side, I fear nothing...what can human beings do to me?
With YHVH on my side as my help, I will look with triumph at those who hate me.

It is better to take refuge in YHVH than to trust in human beings;

Better to take refuge in YHVH than to put one's trust in princes.

The nations all surround me; in the name of YHVH I will cut them down.

YHVH is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

The sound of rejoicing and victory is heard in the tents of the righteous:
YHVH's right hand struck powerfully! YHVH's right hand is raised in triumph!

YHVH's right hand struck powerfully!

I will not die; I will live and proclaim the great deeds of YHVH!

YHVH disciplined me severely, but did not hand me over to death.

Open the gates of righteousness for me; I will enter them and thank YHVH.

This is the gate of YHVH; the righteous can enter it.

I am thanking You because You answered me; You became my salvation.

The very stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone!

This has come from YHVH, and it is amazing in our eyes.

This is the day YHVH has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Please, YHVH. Save us! Please, YHVH. Rescue us!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of YHVH.

We bless you from the house of YHVH.

YHVH is God, and He gives us light.

Bring the sacrifice bound with branches all the way to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I thank You. You are my God; and I exalt You.

Give thanks to YHVH; for He is good, for His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 118)

Let us lift our fourth cup of juice and bless the name of YHWH.

(All)

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam borei pri hagafen
Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who created the fruit of the vine.

(All drink)

Leader:

Our Passover Seder is now complete. Let us conclude with the traditional wish.

(All)

Lashanah Haba'ah bi Yerushalayim NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!

♪ ♪ Lashanah Haba'ah bi Yerushalayim ♪ ♪

Glossary of Terms

YHWH – the four Hebrew letters Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh. It is a transliteration of the name from the Scriptures which was originally written in Hebrew. This name is usually translated as “the LORD” in English.

Yeshua – (*pronounced Yah-shew-ah*) means “YHWH is salvation” in the Hebrew language.

Yeshua now sits at the right hand of YHWH. Notice the Scripture verses that refer to “YHWH’s right hand”.

Messiah - means “The Anointed One.” Mashiach is the Hebrew word for Messiah.

Yeshua HaMashiach is “the Anointed One” who delivers people from the bondage of sin and slavery.

Torah – first five books of Bible written by Moshe

(Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

Hallel – (Psalms 113-115) It is a blessing to read all these psalms aloud during Passover.

Zooming in on >>> The Biblical Calendar <<< during this Season

~~~1<sup>st</sup> month (Nisan)~~~

10<sup>th</sup> day = choose Passover lamb

14<sup>th</sup> day = Passover \* It's the day the Passover lamb is sacrificed

“In the 1<sup>st</sup> month, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day... is YHWH's Passover “ (Lev.23:5)

Also referred to as Preparation Day in the New Testament

“Now it was the day of preparation... so they cried, ‘Crucify Him!’” (John 19:14-16)

“it was the day of preparation... so the soldiers came...and pierced His side... because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Yeshua there “

(John 19:31,34,42)

15<sup>th</sup> day = Feast of Unleavened Bread begins

The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasts for seven days (Lev. 23:6)

The first day of Unleavened Bread is a holy convocation

“on the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no work” Lev.23:7

The New Testament refers to it as a Holy Sabbath or a High Day. That's the reason there was such a rush to get Yeshua's body in the grave before sunset – before the 15<sup>th</sup> day began, the first day of Unleavened Bread.

“so the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day)”

(John 19:31)

16<sup>th</sup> day = Yeshua - the Bread of Life – was without leaven and lived a sinless life.

In the grave during the Feast of Unleavened Bread without decay or corruption.

17<sup>th</sup> day = In the grave three days & three nights (15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>). The 17<sup>th</sup> was the weekly Sabbath.

Firstfruits = the day the priest waves the firstfruits harvest as an offering

“firstfruits ...on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it” (Lev.23:10-11)

Firstfruits is on the day after the weekly Sabbath after Passover

Firstfruits is always on the first day of the week (it was on the 18<sup>th</sup> day the year Yeshua died)

“Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone taken away from the tomb” (John 20:1)

Halleluyah! God raised Yeshua from the dead!!! He is the firstfruits offering.

He is the firstborn from among the dead (Col. 1:18)

“Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits” (1 Cor. 15:20)

\* Passover is always on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the Biblical Calendar. The Gregorian Calendar has the first month as January, but the first month of the Biblical Calendar is in the spring (March/April) when the barley is ripe. “YHWH said this shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year for you (Exd 12:1). The Biblical Calendar is calculated according to the moon. The month begins at the new moon. Passover is always at full moon. As you observe the Biblical Calendar, you'll find Passover falls on different days of the week each year (it may fall on Wednesday, Friday, etc.). The year the Messiah was crucified, Passover was in the middle of the week, on Wednesday.