

## The Passover Seder Part One – Audio Transcript

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**DIANE SHIRLAW-FERREIRA** [00:00:00] Hi, everyone, and welcome to the broadcast. This is part two in the new series that I'm gonna be doing called The Jewish Roots of the Faith. And in the last broadcast, we talked about what is the Passover and why does that concern you as a Christian? And today we're gonna be talking a little bit about the Passover Seder and some of the elements in the Seder. Now, this is probably going to be part one of part of two parts because there's so much to go over. And I want to make sure that I don't run too long. So I'm probably going to split this into two parts. So the first question is, what is a Seder some of you aren't familiar with that you've never heard the term and the Seder is basically the ritual feast that happens during the beginning of Passover. Some families, depending on where they live in the world, some families have one Seder at the beginning of Passover. Some families do, two. But the Seder is the ritual feast, and there's different elements to the Seder. There's a Seder plate that has certain items on it which we'll go over. And then there are songs that are sung, blessings, different stories that are read. The kids are heavily incorporated into the Passover Seder as well. It's a lot of fun and it's such just a way to remember how God has brought the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt.

[00:01:27] But also, if you've listened to my first broadcast, it's also a picture of Jesus in each element in the Seder is a picture of Jesus and how he has freed us from slavery to sin and death.

[00:01:41] So we're going to go over some of the different elements in the Seder. Like I said, I'm not going to be able to cover all of them in this one broadcast for the sake of time. But I will do a part two to this. So one of the things that you'll see at a Seder table is the Seder plate. And I'll put a picture of one below on this page that you can see what it looks like. And on the Seder plate and sometimes around the Seder plate, you're going to see different items and each item has a blessing or a story behind it. The first item and probably the one that everyone is most familiar with is the matzah.

[00:02:19] Now, the matzah is unleavened bread, and it commemorates how the Hebrews had to flee from Egypt very quickly and didn't have time for yeast to rise, for their bread to rise. So they baked their bread without leaven so that they could do it very quickly. And so that's what you see. It's the matzah that we have today here in the United States. Some of them, like over in Israel, may tend to look more like almost like a tortilla type of flat bread. But some of the ones that we see are also have like a cracker type appearance. Now, I've put a picture of a matzah below that you can kind of look at it as I go over the elements of the matzah.

[00:03:08] But what you'll notice about the matzah before you even get into that, the one thing I do want to touch on with regards to the matzah is, as I said, it is unleavened bread. And during the Passover in Jewish homes, they will rid all leaven from their home. Every little trace of leaven is removed from the home. And this is, again, to commemorate the first Passover.

[00:03:30] And for us, leaven is also representative of sin. So the Bible refers to the leaven of sin and some messianic families, messianic not to be confused with Masonic, messianic are Jewish believers in Jesus. And there are many non Jewish believers in Jesus who

attend messianic congregations so that they can get more in touch with the Jewish roots of their faith. So many of many of messianic believers will also rid the home of leaven in order to to be symbolic in a way of life. It's sort of a fast for them. They'll, they'll actually celebrate Passover during this week as sort of a fast to really focus on how Jesus removed sin from our lives. So leaven is also representative of sin. So, again, I have a picture of a piece of matzah below so that you can reference that if you look into and you'll notice some interesting things about the appearance. First of all, you'll see bruising, these bruises are those little brown marks that you see that are that come from the baking process.

[00:04:43] You'll also see tiny holes throughout.

[00:04:45] Those are called piercings. So, again, I believe that this helps with the baking process. I'm not an expert in matzah by any chance, by any means, but I believe it assists with the baking process.

[00:05:00] And then you'll also notice that it's striped. You'll see rows down the length vertical, rows down the length of the matzah.

[00:05:10] Now, during the Passover Seder, the matzah is broken. So right away we notice some things about the matzah that probably are already resonating with you.

[00:05:23] It's bruised. It's pierced.

[00:05:30] It's striped and it's broken.

[00:05:34] And I'm sure that this brings to mind Jesus, he said during the Last Supper, which was a Passover Seder, keep in mind, the Last Supper was, in fact, the Bible tells us it was in fact a a Seder. And he took the bread and he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, this is my body. And to do this in remembrance of him.

[00:06:04] Without actually getting a firm picture of what the matzah actually resembles,

[00:06:08] you kind of almost don't get the meaning what Jesus meant when he said, this is my body, but it's his body in that it's bruised, it's striped, it's pierced and it's broken. He was using this as a foreshadowing of himself and his and what he was about to go through. So the matzah is a beautiful picture of Jesus himself when he said do this in remembrance of me. This was, in essence, the first communion. Do this in remembrance of me. This is my body. It is broken. It is pierced. It is bruised. And it is striped. It was a foreshadowing of what he was about to experience.

[00:06:54] The next item that you'll find on a on a Seder plate is the Karpas. And these are green vegetables. It's usually parsley. And this represents new life. Now, I've also included a picture down below of of a sprig of parsley. For the Jewish people, it was new life out of the bonds of slavery in Egypt. But for Christians, it also represents new life in Christ. During the Seder, it's dipped in salt water and eaten to remind the Jewish people the bitterness of the tears the Hebrews shed during their slavery. But the Greens also represent redemption. So if you look at the picture, if you look at a sprig, a parsley. You'll notice a few things. First, each leaf has three shoots.

[00:07:40] Each leaf is on a stem of three leaves. And each stem is on another stem of three stems shooting off from it.

[00:07:49] The theme of three here is representative of the triune nature of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

[00:08:00] Next on the Seder plate, you'll often find a roasted shank bone.

[00:08:05] Now sometimes a beet is substituted for the bone in certain parts of the country, and then certain parts of the world is very difficult to find a shank bone.

[00:08:14] So beets are often substituted for that. And this represents the paschal lamb that was sacrificed during the Passover. Jesus, the Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world, became the sacrifice for our sins once and for all. So this is our reminder that we no longer need ritual sacrifices as Jesus gave himself for us.

[00:08:39] The next item I want to go over is one of my favorites. It's the charoset. Now I have a sore throat, so I'm probably not, I'm not probably not saying it right because I can't get that charoset. This is probably, like I said, my favorite part of the Seder plate.

[00:08:57] This is a mixture of apples, wine, cinnamon, honey, some sometimes pears, sometimes nuts.

[00:09:07] And this is used during the Seder to sweeten the bitter herbs.

[00:09:11] And it's representative of the mortar that was used by the Hebrew slaves and how they toiled with this mortar and the sweet taste mixed with the bitterness of the herbs symbolizes for us that while slavery was better for the Hebrews, there was a hope and a future for them in the promises of God.

[00:09:36] Psalm 30, verse five says for his anger is, but for a moment, his favor is for life. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

[00:09:47] For us, it's to represent that while one time we were also slaves to sin and death. We now have freedom in Jesus that while Jesus paid the ultimate price for us. He was then resurrected. And we now have freedom. Now, I want to kind of step away from a Seder plate for a minute, because I do want to talk about another element of the Seder that's not on the plate itself, but is at the table and that is pillows. Oftentimes during a Seder, you'll see pillows on the seats. And they will recline during the meal. And this is to represent the freedom that they now have to celebrate the Passover in a relaxed manner versus the first Passover where they had to flee. They were fleeing slavery. They were fleeing for their lives, basically. And now they get to enjoy the Passover and freedom. And during the Last Supper, John was reclining on Jesus's chest. And that's what they do during the Seder. They recline. So it's symbolic of their freedom from slavery. It's also symbolic of our freedom from sin and death. Now we can recline and rest in Jesus. So that's one of my favorite elements of the Seder, is just that it's so relaxed and it's meant to be enjoyable. Some people look at Passover like, you know, it's just a series of things that you have to do as a Jewish home.

[00:11:27] You have to remove leaven from the house and you got to clean all this stuff. And that's kind of spring cleaning. I think came in is just the family would just remove everything from the house that had any trace of leaven in it. And we do that symbolically by removing everything from our lives that has any trace of sin. But this is one of my favorite elements, because while people have this vision of Passover being this strict, you

know, festival that you have to follow and you can't eat this and you can't eat that, but it's actually meant to be enjoyed. I've celebrated Passover in our home and we've actually found it to be extremely enjoyable. We love the, you know, exploring and experimenting with different foods during during the week of Passover.

[00:12:16] And it's just it's really a great experience if you've never done it. I would suggest that you do it even just once, because it's just such a great experience.

[00:12:28] So I'm going to actually stop the broadcast there so that it doesn't get too long. And I will follow up with a part, two. If you are not already subscribed to the blog over on the right hand side of the page, you'll see a subscribe section. I go ahead and pop your email in there. I promise I won't flood you with emails. That is not my mailing list. That is just to subscribe to the blog itself. So you'll only get emails when I post a new blog post. The pop up that you see, if you're visiting the page for the first time, you've probably got a little pop up. That's for the mailing list. That's where I send you special. I'm going to be sending out newsletters once in a while. Again, I promise not to flood your inbox. I will send out newsletters once in a while and I'll also send some special items here and there for my subscribers. But again, the one on the right is only the blogs subscription. It's only to get e-mails when there's a new blog post. So if you want to know when part two comes up, go ahead and pop your email in there and you'll get a notification. So I thank you for listening and I'll see you for part two.