

BENEATH THE INK



# PASSOVER GUIDE

— for Christians —

*Seeing Jesus in the Story of Redemption*



A Simple Guide to *Understanding*  
Passover Through Christ

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# WHY PASSOVER MATTERS

## Why Should Christians Care About Passover?

Passover is not just a Jewish tradition. It is a God-ordained story of redemption that ultimately points to Jesus.

In Exodus 12, God delivers His people from slavery in Egypt through the blood of a lamb. Judgment passes over every house marked by that blood. From that moment on, Passover became a defining rhythm for God's people, a yearly reminder that their freedom came at a cost.

But Passover was never meant to stop in Exodus.

The night Jesus was betrayed was a Passover meal. That is not a small detail. That is the moment where the story comes into focus.

Jesus steps into that meal, takes the bread and the cup, and reveals what Passover had been pointing to all along. He is not just participating in the story, He is fulfilling it.

When you understand Passover, you begin to see:

- The Bible is one unified story: from Exodus to the Gospels, God tells a consistent story of rescue and redemption.
- Jesus is the fulfillment, not the interruption: He does not replace the Old Testament; He completes it. What was foreshadowed in the lamb is fulfilled in Christ.
- The cross was not random; it was planned: Jesus did not die by accident or circumstance. He died at Passover, as the true Lamb, according to the plan of God.

Passover shows us that salvation has always required substitution.

A lamb was given so the people could live. And in the same way, Jesus gives His life so we can be saved.

*“Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”* — 1 Corinthians 5:7

Passover is not just something to remember. It helps us understand what Jesus has done and why it matters.

# WHAT IS PASSOVER?

Passover (Exodus 12) marks the night God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. For generations, God's people had lived under oppression. But on this night, God acted decisively to bring them out. He gave them specific instructions:

- Sacrifice a lamb
- Apply its blood to the doorposts of their home
- Remain inside and trust His promise

God told them that judgment would pass through Egypt. But wherever the blood of the lamb was present, that house would be spared. This moment was not symbolic for them. It was immediate and real. Life or death depended on whether the blood was applied.

That night, judgment fell across the land. But in every home marked by the blood, judgment did not enter. From that point forward, God commanded His people to remember this event every year. Passover became a defining part of Israel's life, reminding them:

- God rescued us
- God made a way
- God kept His promise

And even then, this moment was pointing beyond itself. Passover is not only a record of what God did. It is a pattern that prepares us to understand what He would do through Jesus.

# JESUS IN THE PASSOVER

Jesus Is the Better Passover Lamb. When you look closely at the Passover lamb, you begin to see a pattern that leads directly to Jesus:

- The lamb was without blemish → Jesus lived a sinless life
- The lamb was sacrificed in place of the people → Jesus died as our substitute
- The blood brought protection from judgment → Jesus' blood brings salvation
- What died led to freedom for others → Jesus frees us from sin and death

This is why, when John the Baptist sees Jesus, he declares:

*“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* — John 1:29

This is not symbolic language. It is a direct connection. Jesus is the Lamb that the Passover was always pointing to.

## THE LAST SUPPER WAS A PASSOVER MEAL

The night before the cross, Jesus gathered His disciples to celebrate Passover. This was a familiar meal, filled with meaning, tradition, and remembrance. But in the middle of that meal, Jesus does something unexpected.

He takes the bread and says:

- “This is My body.”

He takes the cup and says:

- “This is My blood.”

In that moment, Jesus is not changing the story. He is revealing it. Everything they had celebrated for generations, every symbol, every element, every detail... was leading to Him. Passover was never just about being rescued from Egypt. It was about a greater rescue that was coming. And at that table, Jesus makes it clear: He is the fulfillment of the story.

# THE FOUR CUPS OF PASSOVER (Exodus 6:6-7)

During Passover, four cups of wine are shared throughout the meal. Each cup is rooted in a promise God made to His people in Exodus:

- I will bring you out...
- I will deliver you...
- I will redeem you...
- I will take you as my people.

These are not just historical promises. They form a pattern of redemption. Each cup tells part of the gospel story.

## **Cup 1 – Sanctification**

“I will bring you out.”

God’s first act is to bring His people out of Egypt. Before anything changes in them, He changes their position. They are no longer slaves in Egypt. They now belong to Him.

Jesus does the same in salvation. He calls us out of sin and into new life

This is where the journey begins.

## **Cup 2 – Deliverance (Judgment)**

“I will deliver you.”

Deliverance is not separate from judgment. It comes through it. In Exodus, God delivers His people by bringing judgment on Egypt. In the gospel, deliverance comes the same way.

Judgment still falls. But it does not fall on us. Jesus takes it in our place. At the cross, He drinks the cup we deserved. “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” (Matthew 27:46). This is the cost of deliverance.

### **Cup 3 – Redemption**

“I will redeem you.”

Redemption means to be bought back at a price. This is the cup Jesus lifts at the Last Supper, after the meal. “*This cup... is the new covenant in My blood.*” (Luke 22:20)

In that moment, Jesus makes it clear: He is the price. His blood is the payment. We are not just delivered from something. We are purchased for God.

### **Cup 4 – Consummation**

“I will take you as My people.”

This is the final promise. Not just rescue. Not just freedom. But in a relationship, God brings His people fully into His presence.

But when Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples, He does something unexpected. He does not drink this final cup. Instead, He says: “*I will not drink again... until I drink it new with you.*” (Matthew 26:29)

This means the story is not finished yet. This cup points forward. It looks to the coming Kingdom. We are still waiting for this moment.

The gospel is seen clearly in the cups:

God brings us out.  
God delivers us through judgment.  
Jesus redeems us by His blood.  
And one day, He brings us fully home.

Jesus drank the cup of judgment so we could drink the cup of redemption. And one day...we will sit at His table, and the final cup will be poured.

# DO CHRISTIANS HAVE TO CELEBRATE PASSOVER?

No.

But we get to.

Passover is not about obligation. It is about understanding the story we already believe. As Christians, we are not commanded to observe the Jewish feasts in the same way Israel was. Our salvation is not tied to a calendar or a ritual. It is secured fully in Christ.

But that does not mean these rhythms have no value. Passover is one of the clearest ways to see the gospel unfold. It allows us to slow down and step into the story, not just read about it.

Passover helps us remember:

Salvation came through the blood of a lamb. Deliverance required judgment. Redemption came at a cost. God's goal has always been relationship.

These are not new ideas. They are the foundation of what we believe. Passover simply puts them in front of us in a tangible way. Celebrating Passover as a Christian is not about going backward. It is about seeing more clearly.

It is not about becoming something you are not. It is about understanding what you already are in Christ. You do not need to do everything perfectly. You do not need to recreate every detail. The goal is not precision. The goal is remembrance.

When you gather around a table, read the story, break the bread, and lift the cup, you are doing something deeply biblical:

- You are remembering what God has done
- You are proclaiming what Jesus has accomplished
- You are anticipating what is still to come

We don't practice Passover to become God's people. We practice it because, through Jesus, we already are. Now let's step into the story together.

# SIMPLE PASSOVER PREP

What You'll Need (Keep It Simple). You do not need everything traditional. Start here:

- 🍞 Bread - Unleavened bread (matzah or plain crackers)
- 🍷 Cups - Wine or grape juice 1 cup per person (refill 4 times or just reuse)
- 🌿 Bitter Element - Horseradish, parsley, or any bitter green
- 🍖 Optional (but helpful) - Lamb (or explain it if not serving)

## 🪑 *Set the Environment*

- Sit around a table if possible
- Put everything in the center
- Keep it unhurried, not formal

This is not about perfection. This is about participation

## 🙌 *Prepare Your Group*

Before you start, simply say:

“This is not about getting everything right. This is about remembering what God has done and seeing how it points to Jesus.”

*Take a moment to slow down. This is not just a meal. It is a reminder of what Jesus has done.*

# HOW TO WALK THROUGH PASSOVER

## **START WITH THE STORY**

Read: Exodus 12 (Listen for the pattern: a lamb, blood, and rescue.)


Leader says: “God’s people were in slavery. But God made a way for them to be saved. A lamb was sacrificed. Its blood was applied. And when judgment came... it passed over them.”

## **EXPLAIN THE LAMB**

Hold up the bread or reference the lamb.

Leader says: “The people were not saved because they were better. They were saved because of the blood of a substitute. And this is what points us to Jesus.”

## **WALK THROUGH THE FOUR CUPS**

 Cup 1 — Sanctification

Leader says: “God brings His people out of slavery. In the same way, Jesus calls us out of sin.” 🍷 Drink

 Cup 2 — Deliverance (Judgment)

Leader says: “Deliverance comes through judgment. At the cross, Jesus took that judgment for us.” 🍷 Drink

 Cup 3 — Redemption

Leader says: “This is the cup Jesus lifted at the Last Supper. He said, ‘This is My blood.’ He is the price that was paid for us.” 🍷 Drink

## *TAKE THE BREAD*

Read: Luke 22:19

Break the bread.

Leader says: “This is the body of Christ, given for us.” 🙌 Eat together

## *TAKE THE CUP*

Read: Luke 22:20

Leader says: “This is the blood of the new covenant.” 🙌 Drink together

## **THE FINAL CUP (DO NOT DRINK YET)**

 Cup 4 — Consummation

Hold the cup.

Read: Matthew 26:29

Leader says: “Jesus did not drink this cup. He is waiting. And one day, we will drink it with Him in His Kingdom.”

Leader says: “We are living between cups. Jesus has redeemed us. And one day, He will bring us fully home. Until then, we remember. We trust. And we wait.” 🙌 (You can drink here OR leave it undrunk for symbolism)

# INK DRINK

MEMBERSHIP

*Go deeper than  
the surface*

