

Observing Passover

This overview version of the Passover observance has excluded the many customs instituted by the Talmudic sages.

On the fourteenth day of the first month at evening is the Passover.

Exodus 12:1-51, 34:18-26

Leviticus 23:4-8

Numbers 9:1-14, 28:16-25, 33:3

Deuteronomy 16:1-8

In Israel's Footsteps

Observe the words commanded and take heed that you are not snared into following the ways of the nations that are cut off. Whatsoever God has commanded, observe to do it: and do not add to, nor diminish from it. (Deut 12:28-32)

No ceremony of kindling a flame is allowed, so any candles or fires that are used will need to be started earlier, or lit without pompous recognition.

You will eat the unleavened meal in the place that is chosen, and return to your homes in the morning. (Deut 16:7)

At the Diner, every person should remember the nation of Israel as they were going out of Egypt.

Eat quickly while clothed, standing, with shoes on, and staff in hand.

Recall their suffering and persecution.

We recognize them as G-d sent the Ten Plagues to punish Pharaoh and his nation, while people of Israel were untouched, and preparing for their feast.

We are instructed to remember the night that tenth plague of death to the firstborn, which passed over the homes that prepared to leave Egypt.

Those that marked their doorways with blood of a lamb were spared the death of the firstborn.

There was not a single Egyptian household that was not afflicted with death, but no home with a mark was harmed.

The feast before the journey was to be eaten in haste while standing, clothed with shoes on their feet and staff in hand, prepared to leave that night.

Unleavened bread is eaten with bitter herbs to commemorate their centuries of slavery suffering which ended that night.

No leavening is to be eaten or seen with you for seven days.

You will not share this meal with strangers that do not follow the covenant of Israel.

All sacrificed flesh will be eaten or burned before morning, nothing of the sacrifice bone or flesh is to be saved, and no bone is to be broken.

You will eat the unleavened meal in the place that is chosen, and turn to your homes in the morning. (Deut 16:7)

The Initial Blessings (Traditional)

Proclaim the holiness of the holiday.

Praise to You, YHWH our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the abundance of this feast.

Praise to You, YHWH our God, Sovereign of the universe who finds favor and sanctifies those of the covenant of Israel, apart from other people.

In love and favor, You made the holy feast a heritage as a reminder of the work of the Exodus.

In love and favor You have given us Your holy Sabbath as an inheritance to honor your creation, on this day of remembrance of the Exodus.

Bless these people to your presence, for observing your Passover instructions.

Ending Passover

If defiled on the 14th Day of 1st month, then observe 14th Day of 2nd month.

Seventh Day of Passover

After seven days, another solemn feast is held to end the Passover, where no work is performed.

On the 8th day, begin to put the sickle to the corn (harvest) at the beginning of eating the leavened bread.

Start the count of seven weeks (49 days) to the Feast of Weeks.