

REMEMBERING THE PASSOVER



This document is best shared in a family/community setting. To keep everyone’s attention switch readers for each paragraph, and have the youngest person of the group asks the questions found in red and in parenthesis. In this document the holy Name of God is typed out in Hebrew = יהוה^י; also Messiah’s Hebrew name is used, i.e.: Yeshua=Jesus. Feel free to use whatever Name you feel comfortable using when you see יהוה^י in this text. Examples: Yud-Hay-Vav-Hey; Yehovah; Yahweh; the Lord; HaShem; Adonai; God. The main thing to be conscious of when coming across this Name is that it refers to the holy God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the God of our Fathers; who reveals Himself to us as Creator, Lord, Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer, the Great I Am - “I will be what I will be.”

To begin the evening honor the oldest man of the group by having him open the memorial in prayer.

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In the book of Genesis scripture teaches us about creation. We learn that יהוה' Elohim created the heavens and the earth. We learn of man's rebellion against God's instructions and His eviction from God's Presence in the Garden of Eden. The Garden was a place where man experienced the beauty of his relationship with God, which included God's perfect peace, rule and provision. When man got kicked out he came under an orphan spirit. Man no longer knew God as Father. Sin, pain and hardship came into man's life because of his separation from God. Yet in and through it all God had a plan. It was a plan to save, deliver, redeem and restore. Israel was God's example; and ultimately, man would be reunited to his Creator and Heavenly Father through the Messiah - Yeshua. Humanity would no longer be subject to an orphan spirit. Because of Messiah's sacrifice we can know God as Father!

Moving through Genesis, we read of the great flood where God destroyed all the inhabitants on the earth because of their evil sin. Only Noah and His family were saved since they heard God's voice and obeyed His instructions.

In the books of Genesis and Exodus which are the 1st two books of the Bible, we get glimpses into God's final plan to restore man's relationship with Himself through Messiah Yeshua's sacrifice thousands of years later.

We see a picture of Yeshua in the story of the war of the Kings in Genesis 14. This is an epic battle story that's a symbol of the great and final war of the nations; and of the war in the heavenly realms between the various other Elohim (gods) who are vying for power. We see a picture of our Messiah-Savior in the character of Melchizedek who meets Abram after that war and presents him with bread and wine, and blesses him.

Genesis 14:18-20: Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High. He blessed him and said: Abram is blessed by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and I give praise to God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you.

When Yeshua and his disciples celebrated the Passover they too recalled this event when utilizing bread and wine as part of their traditional meal. Yeshua gave the meal an even greater meaning, as we read in **Luke 22:14-20: ¹⁴ When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ Then He said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."**

¹⁷ Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Traditionally there are 4 cups that are raised and drunk at the Passover remembrance. The reason for four cups is based on the rabbis interpretation of Exodus 6:6-7 where four different aspects of deliverance are spoken of when God says: "I will bring you out...deliver you...redeem you...and will take you to Me for a people."

The first cup is the Cup of Sanctification. God promised that He would bring His people out from under the cruel oppression of the Egyptians. This parallels God's promise of sanctifying, or setting us apart as His holy people through faith in His Son, our Lord Messiah Yeshua. Let's take the 1st cup together and raise it in honor of our Lord and Savior.

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

“I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians”

Express your gratitude to God in your own words and praise God
who has sanctified us and brought us out of Egypt.

DRINK THE FIRST CUP – OR TAKE THE FIRST DRINK OF WINE/GRAPE JUICE

Let's look at the full Scripture in Exodus 6 because it has more great promises in it!

⁶“Therefore tell the Israelites: I am יהוה, and I will deliver you from the forced labor of the Egyptians and free you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am יהוה your God, who delivered you from the forced labor of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. I am יהוה.” Those last two promises are especially meaningful to those of us living in Israel!

(Why do we need to be thankful for God doing all these things for us?)

(Group discussion)

Now remember that Melchizedek brought bread and wine to Abram. Yeshua also gave bread to people. In the book of John, chapter 6 we read the story where Yeshua miraculously fed over 5000 people with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish; and there were leftovers. The next day the people followed Him and He had this conversation with them:

²² The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea knew there had been only one boat. They also knew that Yeshua had not boarded the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had gone off alone. ²³ Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks.

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Yeshua nor His disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Yeshua. ²⁵ When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?”

²⁶ Yeshua answered, “I assure you: You are looking for Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

²⁷ Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him.”

²⁸ “What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked.

²⁹ Yeshua replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the One He has sent.”

³⁰ “What sign then are You going to do so we may see and believe You?” they asked. “What are You going to perform? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

³² Yeshua said to them, “I assure you: Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ Then they said, “Sir, give us this bread always!”

³⁵ “I am the bread of life,” Yeshua told them. “No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again. ³⁶ But as I told you, you’ve seen Me, and yet you do not believe.

³⁷ Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

³⁹ This is the will of Him who sent Me: that I should lose none of those He has given Me but should raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

In this passage Yeshua tells us that He is the bread of life. In the context of the Passover Remembrance, matzah reminds us of Yeshua because it’s unleavened bread and in Scripture leaven is a symbol for sin. Yeshua had no sin.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast permeates the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch. You are indeed unleavened, for Messiah our Passover has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old yeast or with the yeast of malice and evil but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

God wants our lives to be without yeast, or sin. He tells us that because of Messiah's sacrifice we are unleavened.

(How do we become unleavened?)

Yeshua had no sin. When we put our hope and trust in Him, God puts His Spirit in us and gives us the ability to learn what God considers sin; and then to turn away from it. As we seek to imitate Yeshua, saying 'no' to sin, the Holy Spirit helps us become more and more unleavened.

Going back to Luke 22 let's read what Yeshua said next during His Passover memorial. **19 And He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."** Let's eat of the matzah now with gratitude in our hearts because God has given us faith and the ability to follow Yeshua, so we can become unleavened because of His sacrifice. Day by day we are being transformed into His image, and because we believe in Him, we have the promise of eternal life.

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

PARTAKE OF THE MATZAH

Express your gratitude to God in your own words and praise God
who makes us unleavened because of Messiah's sacrifice.

OK let's go back to the book of Genesis now. We saw pictures of Yeshua in the character of Melchizedek. We also see Messiah in the character of Joseph, Jacob's son. Joseph was hated and betrayed by his own brothers who tried to kill him and then sold him into slavery in Egypt. Thankfully God had a plan in all this, and because Joseph never lost hope in God and always wanted to honor God he was elevated to a position of power in the land of Egypt. God used this to save the lives of the children of Israel when a great famine fell on the entire land of Egypt, and in Israel.

Joseph being in a top rank in the Egyptian government is the reason the children of Israel lived in Egypt.

Genesis 47:27 Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the region of Goshen. They acquired property in it and became fruitful and very numerous.

Genesis 50:22 Joseph and his father's household remained in Egypt.

Exodus 1:8-15 tells us “a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power.” He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and powerful than we are. Let us deal shrewdly with them; otherwise they will multiply further, and if war breaks out, they may join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country.” So the Egyptians assigned taskmasters over the Israelites to oppress them with forced labor. They built Pithom and Rameses as supply cities for Pharaoh. But the more they oppressed them, the more they multiplied and spread so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. They worked the Israelites ruthlessly and made their lives bitter with difficult labor in brick and mortar and in all kinds of fieldwork. They ruthlessly imposed all this work on them.”

Life in Egypt was bitter and full of tears for the Israelites. It’s the same for us when we make sinful choices. Sin brings bitterness and tears into our lives. There are different types of sin that people find themselves entangled in.

1. Sins of Attitude - like pride, rebellion, unjust anger, bitter, envy, malicious hatred, and that sort of thing.
2. Sins of Action - things we might do to displease God
3. Sins of Neglect - failure to do things we know God has commanded us to do
4. Sins of Intent - a sin committed in our minds or hearts, but not in reality

(Why does life become bitter if we sin?)

(Group discussion)

The good news is that Yeshua came to take away our sin. **1 John 3:4-6 Everyone who commits sin also breaks the law; sin is the breaking of law. You know that He was revealed so that He might take away sins, and there is no sin in Him. Everyone who remains in Him does not sin; everyone who sins has not seen Him or known Him.**

John 1:29 The next day John saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, “Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

In Exodus 12 God instructed the children of Israel to eat bitter herbs with the lamb they had slaughtered to protect them from the death of the first born. In verse 8 we read: **They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

This was a reminder of the sacrifice that was made to set the Israelites free from the bitterness of their slavery in Egypt.

When Yeshua celebrated the Passover his betrayal by Judas followed the memorial of eating the bitter herbs. That too was a bitter event that we remember as we eat the bitter herbs during our Passover remembrance.

John 13:21-26 When Yeshua had said this, He was troubled in His spirit and testified, “I assure you: One of you will betray Me!” The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one He was speaking about. One of His disciples, the one Yeshua loved, was reclining close beside Yeshua. Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was He was talking about. So he leaned back against Yeshua and asked Him, “Lord, who is it?” Yeshua

replied, “He’s the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it.” When He had dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son. After Judas ate the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Therefore Yeshua told him, “What you’re doing, do quickly.”

To remember the bitterness Israel endured in slavery, the bitterness we experience when we sin, and the bitterness of Yeshua’s betrayal let’s eat liberally of the bitter herbs (maror) and refrain from drinking, if possible.

EAT THE BITTER HERBS

God’s plan to come to earth in the form of a man and lay down His own life for the payment of our sins is seen throughout the Old Testament. Another one of the places we see it is in the story of the Israelites being set free from slavery in Egypt – the story of Exodus.

(What does the word Exodus mean?)

Exodus means a mass departure of people, especially settlers. Other words that help us understand the meaning are: evacuation or leaving. Exodus is also the word used to specifically describe the Israelites being set free from slavery; and from their worship of Egypt’s foreign gods. This story isn’t just about the ancient Israelites though; it’s a story about us too. That’s why God instructs us to remember it each year as a permanent statute, as we read in Exodus 12:1-14.

Exodus 12 ¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²“This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to their fathers’ households, one animal per household. ⁴If the household is too small for a whole animal, that person and the neighbor nearest his house are to select one based on the combined number of people; you should apportion the animal according to what each person will eat. ⁵You must have an unblemished animal, a year-old male; you may take it from either the sheep or the goats.

⁶You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight. ⁷They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat them. ⁸They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or cooked in boiling water, but only roasted over fire—its head as well as its legs and inner organs. ¹⁰Do not let any of it remain until morning; you must burn up any part of it that does remain before morning.

¹¹Here is how you must eat it: you must be dressed for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in a hurry; it is the LORD’s Passover. ¹²“I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. I am יהוה; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. ¹³The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day is to be a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to יהוה. You are to celebrate it throughout your generations as a permanent statute.

(Why is the story of the Passover so important to God that He wants us to remember it forever?)

First of all God wants us to remember how bitter and painful sin and slavery is. Slavery is the result of sin. When we go our own way we will sin because that’s the nature of our flesh. God gave us the Bible as an instruction book to teach us what sin is in His eyes. That’s really important. We all need to know what God calls sin and avoid it at all costs, because the results of sin are bitterness, and ultimately death.

(Why did God judge the Egyptians by killing all the firstborn throughout the land of Egypt?)

Remember that the killing of the first born was the 10th plague that God inflicted on the Egyptians. He brought the ten plagues in order to demonstrate His power over all the ‘gods’ of Egypt. God wanted to free the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt and from false worship to the pagan gods of the Egyptians.

God gave Israel and the nations a powerful and unforgettable demonstration of His power. He wanted to teach them that He was the strongest God and they were to never go after lesser gods. Each of the 10 plagues related to a foreign god worshiped in Egypt.

Let's remember those 10 plagues now. The main thing we want to remember is how God proved to the Egyptians that He was more powerful than all their gods. He is the only God deserving of our worship.

Exodus 7:1-5 The LORD answered Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet. You must say whatever I command you; then Aaron your brother must declare it to Pharaoh so that he will let the Israelites go from his land. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh will not listen to you, but I will put My hand on Egypt and bring the divisions of My people the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. The Egyptians will know that I am יהוה when I stretch out My hand against Egypt, and bring out the Israelites from among them."

THE TEN PLAGUES

This is something the Jewish People do all over the world at Passover. They remember the ten plagues that God inflicted on the Egyptians. God performed these miracles to say to the Egyptians "I am greater than your gods." He also wanted to teach the Israelites not to bow down to foreign gods. As we do this let's declare in our hearts that we won't bow down to any of the world's foreign gods!

(Everyone repeat the 10 plagues after the facilitator – while taking a drop of wine out of their glasses and dropping it on their plate.)

The Plague of Blood

The Plague of Frogs

The Plague of Gnats

The Plague of Swarms

The Plague of Cattle Disease

The Plague of Boils

The Plague of Hail

The Plague of Locusts

The Plague of Darkness

Death of the Firstborn

Each of these plagues represented a god that was worshiped in Egypt. Sadly, things aren't much different in our day. There are many foreign gods that people worship in our society. God tells us in His Word that to worship other gods brings judgment and punishment. What we worship can be identified by what we think and talk about the most; what we spend most of our time doing, and where we spend most of our money.

(What are some foreign gods that people worship in today's society?)

(Group discussion to answer that question)

THE CUP OF JUDGMENT OR DELIVERANCE

based on God's statement, "I will deliver you from slavery to them"

Express your gratitude to God in your own words and praise God who has judged our enemies and delivered us from slavery.

DRINK THE SECOND CUP – OR TAKE THE SECOND DRINK OF WINE/GRAPE JUICE

Have the oldest man pray a blessing to thank God for the food we're about to share together.

THE PASSOVER MEAL

Understanding the events of Passover helps us understand Yeshua's atoning work. As we hear about the first-born sons of Israel being saved from death by the lamb's blood placed on the doorposts of their homes, our eyes are opened to see how we are saved by placing the blood of the Lamb of God – Yeshua - on the doorposts of our hearts.

The fact that blood was shed for us thousands of years ago has become an abstract concept that might not evoke an emotional response. To cement the reality in our minds let's remind ourselves of the gory details of blood and death that surrounds the Passover story. A severe price has been paid for our deliverance through the Passover sacrifice.

CHILDREN'S CRAFT - OPTIONAL

<http://passover.perfect-word.org>

The next part of our celebration is the Third Cup: The Cup of Redemption. It's a celebration of God's promise that He will redeem us. Redeem means to buy back. This cup symbolizes the blood of the Passover Lamb. Our lives were paid for by Yeshua's blood when He sacrificed His life on the cross. The words Yeshua spoke to His disciples during their Passover memorial at this time are very significant.

Luke 22:20 In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood; it is shed for you.

We must never forget that our salvation was purchased by our Lord's sacrifice on the cross. God redeemed His elect with His outstretched arm. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6)

In Yeshua's death, God didn't just cover sin. He took it away! Anyone who places their trust in Yeshua and His finished work of redemption accomplished on the cross, is passed from death due to sin, into eternal life.

Let us remember Yeshua's shed blood and the redemption He purchased for us. Let's again raise our cups and drink and remember the awesome cost salvation of our Messiah!

THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

based on God's statement, "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm"

Express your gratitude to God in your own words and praise God who has stretched out His arms on the cross to redeem you.

THE CUP OF PRAISE OR RESTORATION

based on God's statement,

"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God"

(Facilitator reads the statements found in Psalm 136, and everyone declares "His love is eternal" after each statement - before drinking the 4th cup.)

PSALM 136

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. *His love is eternal.*
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love is eternal.*
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords. *His love is eternal.*
- ⁴ He alone does great wonders. *His love is eternal.*
- ⁵ He made the heavens skillfully. *His love is eternal.*
- ⁶ He spread the land on the waters. *His love is eternal.*
- ⁷ He made the great lights: *His love is eternal.*
- ⁸ the sun to rule by day, *His love is eternal.*
- ⁹ the moon and stars to rule by night. *His love is eternal.*

- 10 He struck the firstborn of the Egyptians *His love is eternal.*
11 and brought Israel out from among them *His love is eternal.*
12 with a strong hand and outstretched arm. *His love is eternal.*
13 He divided the Red Sea *His love is eternal.*
14 and led Israel through, *His love is eternal.*
15 but hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. *His love is eternal.*
16 He led His people in the wilderness. *His love is eternal.*
17 He struck down great kings *His love is eternal.*
18 and slaughtered famous kings— *His love is eternal.*
19 Sihon king of the Amorites *His love is eternal.*
20 and Og king of Bashan— *His love is eternal.*
21 and gave their land as an inheritance, *His love is eternal.*
22 an inheritance to Israel His servant. *His love is eternal.*
23 He remembered us in our humiliation *His love is eternal.*
24 and rescued us from our foes. *His love is eternal.*
25 He gives food to every creature. *His love is eternal.*
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven! *His love is eternal.*

Drink the 4th cup.

Express your gratitude to God in your own words and praise God
who has revealed His Love to you in innumerable ways.

IN CONCLUSION

Leviticus 23:4-8 "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work."

The first two Spring feasts are the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Passover is the 14th day of Nisan (the 1st month) at twilight. As we've seen, the Passover looks back to the story found in Exodus 12:1-14. The Passover memorializes Israel's protection from the death angel in Egypt, when they put the blood of the spotless lambs on the doorposts of their homes.

Prophetically the Passover looks forward to the crucifixion of Messiah and the shedding of His blood, as atonement for sin. Yeshua is the Lamb of God who delivered us from the slavery of sin. When we spiritually apply His blood to the doorposts of our hearts we're protected from eternal death. We're set free from slavery and redeemed back to God.

What an amazing thing God has done through the shed blood of our Messiah! Each year at Passover, at the Lord's command we remember the sorrow of Messiah's suffering, and the beauty of His redemption. By remembering the Passover we're obedient to God's Word. All throughout scripture God commands us to remember.

He knows there's power in remembering. Remembering has caused the children of Israel to survive when other people groups from biblical history have perished. Remembering is powerful in our lives as believers too.

There's a tremendous blessing when we remember what God has done for us during His appointed Feasts. Imagine our Creator and Deliverer saying *"I want you to remember what I've done for you on this particular date. I'm going to meet with you then and by the power of My Spirit I'm going to make My Word come even more alive to you."* That's what celebrating the Feasts of the Lord is all about.

Passover reminds us to have thankful hearts because we've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God. In our gratitude we need to share about the blood of Messiah with others so their lives can be redeemed, and they can be set free from sin.

The 2nd of the Spring Feasts intertwined with Passover is the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It starts on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan and continues for seven days. During that time God instructs us to eat nothing with leaven in it. As we read about, in the Bible leaven, or yeast, is a symbol of sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread memorializes God's deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt to be a people set apart, and holy to Him.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread prophesies that Messiah would be sinless when he died and was buried. God's Spirit helps us live holy lives. We're to examine our lives daily to see if there is any sin we're in bondage to. When God shows us things, we need to ask for His help to be free from the sin. We can be confident that His Holy Spirit can and will bring total deliverance to our lives, if we're humble and repentant.

As we close this Passover Memorial let's enter the Feast of Unleavened Bread with the words of the Psalm 136 on our hearts. God's love is eternal. Let's make a fresh dedication in our lives as His children to reflect the Love of our wondrous God, and Heavenly Father.

1 John 4:7-12 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is perfected in us.

Let us proclaim these words from the book of Revelation 5 together with a loud voice:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slaughtered, and You redeemed people for God by Your blood, from every tribe and language, and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth. The Lamb who was slaughtered is worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing! Blessing and honor and glory and dominion to the One seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

AMEN!