

ARAD COMMUNITY PASSOVER 2023

HOST - Welcome Greeting...

Life is about learning and growing. As I've gone through life I've grown in wisdom and understanding. My life has been, and continues to be a journey of transformation. It's like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. The struggle in the cocoon is real.

In the process of transformation I've been given beauty in exchange for ashes; and joy for sorrow.

My prayer for us tonight is that we'd all leave with the understanding that God wants to do the same thing in all our lives.

I pray that what we experience tonight will impact us in amazing ways that reveal more about God's heart, and plans to us all.

Let's pray...

READER 1

The story of Passover is about God rescuing the children of Israel from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. Seder in Hebrew means order. Jews all over the world celebrate Passover with a Passover Seder, which is the retelling of Passover story. It's orderly and methodical and teaches the younger generations the truth about God and the story of the Israelites Exodus from Egypt. Tonight will be a little bit different. We won't tell the whole story. I encourage you to read this amazing story. It's found in the book of Exodus. Just so you're aware of this, biblically speaking, the Feast of Passover is only from twilight tonight until tomorrow morning. According to the Bible, the following week is the Feast of Unleavened Bread – not Passover.

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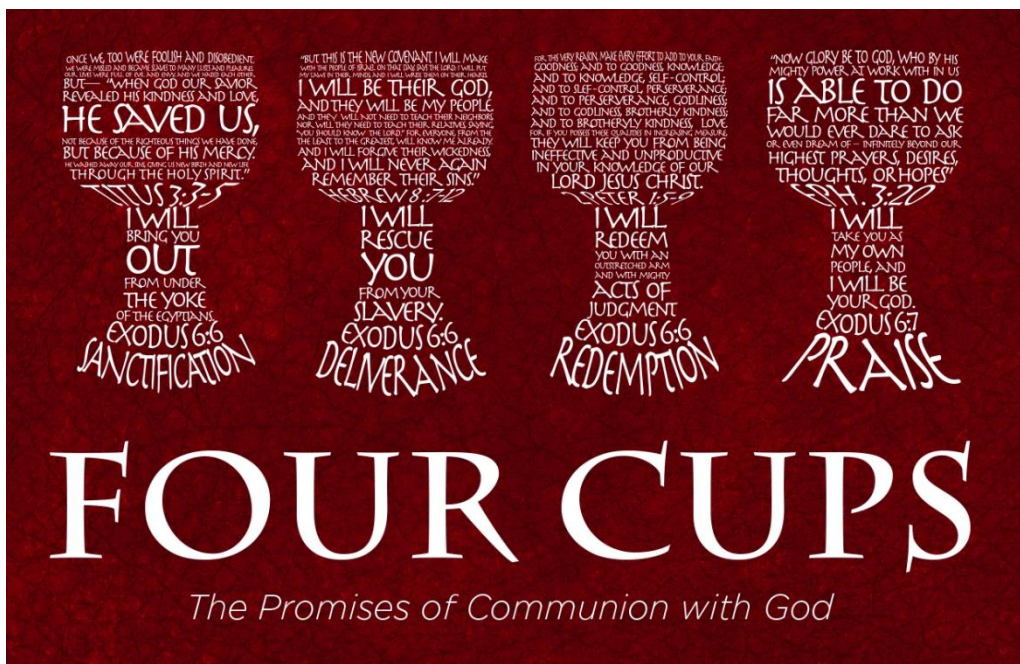
READER 2

Traditionally there are 4 cups of wine that outline the Passover Seder. The reason for four cups is based on the rabbis' interpretation of Exodus 6, verses 6 through 8, where four 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.”**

READER 3

The word deliverance isn't something bad. We all need deliverance. Being delivered from negative things is part of experiencing the transformed life, and experiencing the transformed life is the result of being in real relationship with God.

God loves us and wants us to experience total fulfillment and joy in our lives. That's where deliverance comes in.



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READER 4

Let's read Exodus 6:6-8: **6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians,**

READER 5

I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

READER 6

7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

READER 7

8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.'

READER 1

God makes so many promises here. Not only will He bring us out of slavery and take us to Himself, He also promises to bring us to, and give us the Land of Israel. This is really powerful, especially for those of us who have been called to make Aliyah. We're called out of slavery and we're supposed to live in freedom and have this Land as our heritage.

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THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION



MAN 1

The first cup during the Passover Seder is the Cup of Sanctification. God promised that He would bring His people out from under the cruel oppression of the Egyptians.

Let's take the 1st cup together and raise it in honor of our God, who brings us out of slavery to sanctify us, set us apart and make us holy.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam borey p'ri hagafen.

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

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

HOST

Let's take a minute to talk about what it means to have been brought out of slavery by God, and to be sanctified and set apart to be holy.

What does that mean to you?

For Jews who believe that Jesus, Yeshua, is the Messiah of Israel, we see the sacrificed Lamb of Passover as a foreshadow of His life. Every detail of His story miraculously lines up with the story found in the book of Exodus.

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READER 1

What was the purpose of sacrificing the Passover Lamb? The blood of those lambs were put on the doorposts of the people's houses in Egypt so the Angel of Death would pass over those homes. God struck down the first born in every Egyptian family as final judgment against Pharaoh, for not letting the children of Israel go free. The blood of the Passover Lamb protected the Israelites from death.

READER 2

We believe that the blood of the Lamb of God, Yeshua, protects us from eternal death. We spiritually place Yeshua's blood on the doorposts of our hearts when we ask and trust God for forgiveness through Yeshua's sacrifice.

READER 3

In the spring of the year 33 AD, at the third hour (9:00 AM), Israel's high priest tied the Passover lamb to the altar for sacrifice. At that exact moment outside the city walls of Jerusalem, Yeshua, the Lamb of God, was nailed to the cross.

READER 4

For six hours both the Passover lamb and Yeshua the Lamb of God, awaited death. Finally, at the ninth hour (3:00 PM), the high priest ascended the altar in the temple and sacrificed the Passover lamb.

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READER 5

At that exact moment from the Cross Messiah's words thundered out over the city of Jerusalem, "It is finished!" Both Biblical and Historic books tell us that many miracles took place when Yeshua died.

Matthew 27:50-54 And Yeshua cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. Also the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now as for the centurion and those who were with him keeping guard over Yeshua, when they saw the earthquake and the *other* things that were happening, they became extremely frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

READER 6

Let's go back in time and read about what Yeshua was doing during His last Passover Seder on earth.

Luke 22:14-20: When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

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READER 7

Everything Yeshua did and said was focused on the coming Kingdom of God. He taught principles of the Kingdom through His teachings. He did many supernatural miracles that proved that God sent Him to demonstrate that the Kingdom of God overrides the natural principles of this earthly realm.

HOST

Yeshua died and was miraculously resurrected and transformed when He was brought back to life. Over 500 people saw this. Remember that in a court of law it only takes 2 or 3 witnesses to confirm something as true. Both secular historical records, and the Bible confirm the story of Yeshua's death and resurrection.

I believe that just like Yeshua's transformation was from death to life, our lives on earth are to be lives of transformation and deliverance that prepare us to enter the Kingdom of God.

What are some of the things you think about when you think about the Kingdom of God?

Just like the children of Israel had to leave their slavery in Egypt to begin their relationship with God, we also have to leave our own slavery to things in this world that keep us from truly knowing God and entering into the blessings of His Kingdom.

During our time together I want to encourage you to be honest with yourself.

God might reveal something to you that He wants to set you free, or deliver you from.

Be open. God can do things that may seem impossible to you.

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READER 1

The Background of Passover – let's start at the very beginning... In the book of Genesis we read about creation. We learn that Elohim-God created the heavens and the earth. We learn that God created man and gave him total freedom with one instruction, not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man disobeyed God.

READER 2

This rebellion caused man to be sent away from God's Presence, and away from the Garden of Eden.

The Garden was a place where man experienced the beauty of a perfect relationship with God.

In the Garden man experienced God's perfect peace and provision. When man got kicked out he came under an orphan spirit. Man no longer knew God as Father. He felt like an orphan.

HOST

What does it feel like to be an orphan?

In what ways do people disobey God today?

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READER 3

Sin, pain and hardship came into man's life because of his separation from God. Yet God had a plan. His plan was to save, deliver, redeem and restore.

Remember the 4 cups? I will bring you out; I will deliver you; I will redeem you; I will take you to Me for a people?

God is the same yesterday, today and forever!

READER 4

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 because they heard God's voice and obeyed His instructions. This is important for us to really understand. They heard and obeyed God's voice and were delivered and saved.



THE MATZAH & THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

READER 5

Exodus chapter 12 verses 14 and 15: 'This day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—you will celebrate it perpetually as a lasting ordinance. For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. Surely on the first day you must put away yeast from your houses because anyone who eats bread made with yeast from the first day to the seventh day will be cut off from Israel.'

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READER 6

Yeast, or leaven symbolizes sin. In the instructions for the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened bread God is telling Israel that they were to have no sin in their lives. Sin separates us from God, His Kingdom and from eternal life.

READER 7

During His time on earth, after doing a miracle that involved supernaturally multiplying bread to feed 5000 people, Yeshua said this: **Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that has come down from heaven so that a person may eat from it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world, is my flesh.” (John 6:49-51)**

READER 1

Bread has been a staple and a food provision for all people. It feeds us naturally and it's so interesting that Yeshua did these miracles with bread and then compared the sacrifice of His body as something that would feed and provide for people, spiritually.

When Yeshua celebrated the Passover: **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.” (Luke 22:19)**

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READER 2

Let's eat the matzah now with gratitude in our hearts. God provides everything we need for life, physically and spiritually. As we eat the Matzah we remember all that Yeshua said and did for us. It's truly miraculous that He gave His body for us so that we could become spiritually unleavened, and physically delivered from sin.

As we focus our attention on Yeshua, day by day we're being transformed into His image, and we have the promise of eternal life.

MAN#2

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam hamotzi lekhem 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 hearts and praise God who makes us unleavened because of Messiah's sacrifice.



MAROR

READER 3

Let's now go back to the Israelites in Egypt. As slaves, their lives were bitter and full of tears. It's the same for us. Sin brings bitterness and tears into our lives. Many people have no real concept of what sin really is. There are different kinds of sins that people are entangled in.

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READER 4

Sins of Attitude - like pride, rebellion, unjust anger, bitterness, envy, malicious hatred, and that sort of thing.

READER 5

Sins of Action - things we do that displease God

READER 6

Sins of Neglect - failure to do things we that we know God has commanded us to do

READER 7

Sins of Intent - a sin committed in our minds or hearts, but not in reality

There are even generational sins that are passed down from parents to children. God talks about these in the 10 Commandments, found in the Book of Exodus, chapter 20 verse 5.

HOST (Tell a deliverance story from your own life)

I want to share a story about recent bitterness and deliverance that recently experienced...anger and unforgiveness story.

Going back to the bitter herbs, traditionally we think of the bitter herbs representing our slavery in Egypt. Both slavery and sin are bitter. I was enslaved to anger and unforgiveness.

Why do you think life is bitter if we sin?

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READER 1

In 1 John 1, verses 7-10 we learn about how to get rid of sin in our lives. Here's what we learn through the Scriptures:

If we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yeshua his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins, and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

HOST

Let's take a moment in silence and ask the Lord to reveal anything in our lives that He considers sin.

If there's anything you'd like to confess, so you can experience deliverance and the healing of your soul, feel free to speak softly to God, or if you want, you can share it with the group.

As we eat the bitter herbs let's remember three things:

- The bitterness Israel endured in slavery
- The bitterness we experience when we sin
- The bitterness of Yeshua's suffering as payment for our sin

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MAN #3

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר

'a-sher ha'o-lam me-lekh e-lo-hey-nu 'Adonai 'at-tah ba-ruk
who the universe king (of) our God Lord are you Blessed

קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מָרוֹר.



ma-ror a-chi-lat 'al v'tsivanu be-mits-votav kid-de-sha-nu
maror to eat and commanded us with his sanctified us
commandments

**Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheynu Melekh Ha'Olam, Asher Kidshanu
B'mitzvotav, V'zivanu Ul Akhilat Maror.**

**Blessed are you oh Lord, our God King of the universe who sanctified us
with His commandments and commanded us to eat the bitter herbs.**

Let's eat liberally of the bitter herbs (maror) and refrain from drinking, if possible.

EAT THE BITTER HERBS – THE GOAL BEING TO EXPERIENCE TEARS

THE CUP OF DELIVERANCE



READER 5

Traditionally at this point during the Passover Seder we remember the 10 plagues that God sent against Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt to deliver the Israelites from their slavery. We typically fill our cups and recite each of the 10 plagues, while dipping a finger in the wine and shaking off the wine, while declaring each of the 10 plagues that came against the Egyptians.

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READER 6

This year let's do things a little bit differently. Let's use the cup of deliverance to declare the deliverance that God has done in our own lives. Let's go around the table and declare things that God has delivered us from.

HOST

If you're a believer and follower of the Messiah and nothing specific comes to mind, you can always declare your deliverance from sin and death.

If you've got nothing to share, just be encouraged by the things others share. God wants to do the same for everyone.

Let's go around the table – fill your glass and dip your pinky in your wine and shake it off, as you declare some things God has delivered you from.

GO AROUND TABLE AND DECLARE DELIVERANCES

READER 7

Through all the stories we read in the Tanakh we see that Israel was God's example. Passover was no exception. God delivered His people so they could go into the wilderness and worship Him. God wanted to be back in relationship with His people. Worshiping God is an important part of being in relationship with Him. Worship means ascribing worth to something or someone.

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HOST

People value and worship many things other than God; and that makes them disobedient to the first of the 10 commandments.

I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus chapter 20, verses 2-3)

What are some things you see people worship other than God?

Worship first begins in the heart. Let's listen to this song and worship God in our hearts, remember that He leads us out of slavery into real life.

(SONG: TAIZE - BLESS THE LORD)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

**“Bless the Lord, my soul; and bless God’s Holy Name
Bless the Lord, my soul; Who leads me into life”**

READER 1

The story of the Passover shows us that it was God's will to deliver people. Deliverance brings us back into relationship with God and rescues us from slavery. The Israelites got a new life. This happens to us today too.

God's ultimate plan is that humanity would no longer be subject to the orphan spirit.

Because of Messiah's sacrifice we can know God as Father, and know each other as His children!

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READER 2

What an amazing reason to rejoice! God loves us so much that He gives us feasts that remind us of what He's done for us. We can feast on His provision, His love, yummy food, and the wonderful relationships that we're all in together as His children.

Now let's enjoy a wonderful meal together.

MAN– PRAYER THANKING GOD FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

THE PASSOVER MEAL

READER 2

In traditional Passover Seders something exciting happens after dinner. It's called searching for the Afikomen, meaning "that which comes later." Jewish families all over the world do this and it has a beautiful significance in our Passover celebration tonight.

READER 3

During a traditional Passover Seder the father of the house will take a stack of three matzah's and break the middle matzah in half. Why 3 matzahs? Some Rabbis say that they represent Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, our forefathers. Others say they represent the Priests, the Levites and the Israelites. But why break the middle one in half?

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READER 4

If you look at the three matzahs as a representation of Father God, the Son of God and God the Holy Spirit, then it makes obvious sense why the middle matzah is broken. The Hebrew Prophet Isaiah prophesied about Yeshua in Isaiah 53: **“He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; he endured punishment that made us well; because of his wounds we have been healed.”**

READER 5

The father in the Jewish family will take that middle matzah, break it in half, wrap it in a linen cloth and before the meal hide it for the children to search for after the meal is finished. **After the crucifixion they took Yeshua’s body and wrapped it, with the aromatic spices in strips of linen cloth according to Jewish burial customs. (John chapter 19 verse 40)**

READER 6

Most of the Jewish traditions surrounding the Passover are from the Talmud which are collection of books that contain the Rabbinical commentaries of the Torah. In the Talmud it says that the *afikoman* is a substitute for the Passover sacrifice, which was the last thing eaten at the Passover meal during the eras of the First and Second Temples, and during the period of the Tabernacle. So in essence the afikomen represents the Passover Lamb. Remember that there have been no Passover sacrifices after 70 AD when the Romans destroyed the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

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READER 7

After the meal the children search for the Afikomen and whoever finds it brings it to the Father, who then pays a ransom price for it. Yeshua, as the Passover Lamb was also paid for with a ransom price of 30 pieces of Silver, which would roughly be comparable to four months' (120 days) wages. Back let's get back to the children....

At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child, had him stand among them, and said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn around and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven! Whoever then humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:1-4)

We can only enter the Kingdom of God like little children. That's what makes the searching for the Afikomen so significant. Who wants to participate?

SEARCH FOR THE AFIKOMEN

HOST

The Talmud states that it is forbidden to have any other food after the *afikoman*, so that the taste of the *matzah* that was eaten after the meal remains in the participants' mouths. Remember the Scripture that we read earlier. Yeshua told us that we're to think of His Body when we eat the Matzah. What a beautiful reminder to let that be the last thing on our minds after the Passover Seder. Let's share the afikomen now with Yeshua in mind. He came once and He is coming later!

Psalm 34:8 says: **Taste and see that the LORD is good. How blessed is the one who takes shelter in him.**

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DISTRIBUTION OF THE AFIKOMEN (Father)

(SONG – Taste and See – Israel Houghton/New Breed)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYtTajAPMLA>



THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

READER 1

The Cup of wine after dinner is based on God's statement from Exodus 6, **“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”** Redeem is a

biblical word that means to purchase, or buy back, in exchange for a payment. What was the payment?

READER 2

If we think of Yeshua, we see that the payment was clearly His life. He gave His life so we could be bought back from slavery to sin, which separated us from God. This restored us back into relationship with God as Father. We're no longer orphans!

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READER 3

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Messiah Yeshua, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Messiah. For he chose us in Messiah before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. He did this by predestining us to adoption as his legal heirs through Messiah Yeshua, according to the pleasure of his will to the praise of the glory of his grace that he has freely bestowed on us in his dearly loved Son. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our offenses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight.

MAN

_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.

DRINK THE 3RD CUP

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THE CUP OF PRAISE OR RESTORATION



READER 4

The 4th cup is based on God's statement, "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God." Imagine the Creator of the entire universe restoring your broken relationship with Him as Son or Daughter. This is our awesome privilege as believers in the Messiah.

In John 14:6 Yeshua said this: **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

Through Yeshua, our Messiah our relationship with God, as Father is restored and we're no longer orphans. HalleluYah!

HOST

Now we'll do something very traditional in closing our Passover Seder. Let's read Psalm 136 together. I'll read the first part of each verse and you answer with "His Love is eternal." Really think about the words as we hear them and worship God in your hearts. He wants to bring us out, deliver us, redeem us and take us to Himself for a people. He did it for Israel when He brought them out of Egyptian slavery. He does it for all people in this day and age, when He brings us out of slavery to sin, death and this world through their faith in Messiah's sacrifice.

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- 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.***

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MAN

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.

DRINK THE 4TH CUP

(SONG – No Longer Slaves)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>