

GATHER THE FAMILY AND REMEMBER THIS DAY!

(Instructions for celebrating Passover-2009, which begins at sundown, Wednesday, April 8)

***“Remember this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery,
because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand.”*** Exodus 13:3

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” Deuteronomy 5:6

***“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.
Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road,
when you lie down and when you get up.”*** Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Before you begin the meal you may want to go outside and look for the full moon. This is the 14th day of the biblical lunar month of Nisan (also called “Abib,” Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7), always a full moon, always a light in the sky. There was no need for artificial torches or other lights on the night of Israel’s deliverance. The Lord lighted the way. The Passover (Pesach) remembrance is always on 14th of Nisan during a full moon.

Have the “mother of the house” recite the following prayer as candles are lighted.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe,

Who has delivered us from slavery and brought us into freedom through the Lamb of God,

Who is the Light of the world. We honor You, O God, in the lighting of these festive candles. Amen

Read aloud the story of Passover night from Exodus 12. Consider using a more contemporary translation and abbreviating the reading, especially if children are present. (A suggested abbreviation is Ex. 12:1-14, 21-42.)

Then read together of that other eventful night when Jesus sat with His disciples before He, our Passover Lamb, became the Eternal Deliverer from all of our Egypts, from Matthew 26: 17-29.

Now take the bread! Take the wine! Eat together! Remember! Rejoice!

During the meal talk about...

- your own deliverance from slavery, the joy of freedom in Christ
- what it means to be “saved by the blood” of the Lamb, passed over by the angel of death
- anything else the Holy Spirit stirs in you as you share this evening together

Close your evening by reading *Passover...On This Night...On This Day...Today* (on back)

This order has been prepared so you may have a simple way of following the Lord’s instruction to “remember the day,” even if you are not familiar with all the traditions of our Jewish family as they celebrate Passover.

We suggest sharing the readings among all who want to participate.

We also encourage you to attend a more traditional Passover Seder (order) led by a believer who will help you see the rich symbolism, especially of the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world and is the Redeemer of all.

Passover...On This Night...On This Day...Today

On this day, 3500 years ago, lambs were slaughtered throughout Goshen in Egypt.

Hyssop brushes stroked Jewish doorposts with lamb's blood.

The children of Israel met quietly,

sequestered behind their bloodstained doors,

waiting to be delivered from 400 years of slavery.

On this night, 3500 years ago, the Lord went through the land looking for blood on doorposts.

There was a great deliverance, a pass-over.

Firstborn sons were slain in houses where there was no blood.

Wailing and mourning was heard when judgment came in Egypt.

On this night, 3500 years ago, freedom was proclaimed in Israel.

Firstborn sons of believing Israel were spared through the blood of the lamb.

The lamb's blood painted on doorposts brought freedom.

The wealth of Egypt became the wealth of Israel.

Shouts of joy were heard as Moses led Israel out of Egypt.

On this night 3500 years ago, the exodus from Egypt came suddenly.

For 3500 years faithful servants of God have remembered this night.

On this day, 2000 years ago, another Lamb was slain.

Human hearts were stroked with Lamb's blood and freed from centuries of slavery.

On this day, 2000 years ago, the Lord began to look for Lamb's blood on doorposts of hearts.

There was a great deliverance—a passing over.

On this day, 2000 years ago, wealth was restored to the sons of Adam,

Another Moses led another Israel out of another Egypt.

On this day, 2000 years ago, Lamb's blood on the doorposts of hearts brought freedom.

Today...Lamb's blood is still found on human hearts.

Deliverance is found behind a blood-stained door.

If the doorpost of your heart is stained with Lamb's blood, have a glorious Passover season.

If not, grab quickly the hyssop and look for the Lamb's blood.

The exodus will come suddenly!

The slain Lamb is risen and will return as King of kings and Lord of lords!