

A few of the interesting links...

Symbol	In The Passover Story	In The Jesus Story
Passover Lamb	Innocent lamb was sacrificed to bring freedom	Jesus is repeatedly referred to as the "Lamb of God"
Lamb's Blood	Blood daubed on doorposts meant escape from the Angel of Death	Jesus' blood was shed so we could escape death and experience true freedom.
Matzah	Unleavened bread with no yeast, (a symbol of no sin).	Jesus had no sin in him – a perfect and blameless life.
Broken Matzah	Known as the afikomen, is broken, wrapped in white linen and hidden from sight.	Jesus was crucified, wrapped in white linen, and hidden from sight in a burial chamber for three days.
Broken Matzah	The afikomen is found, but has to be bought back by the father at great cost before we can conclude the Passover.	Jesus came back to life, was bought back at great cost by his Father in Heaven, and as a result has bought for us the most precious freedom available!
Third Cup	The Cup taken after Supper, which sees the Cup of Wrath with wine added, thus turning it into the Cup of Redemption.	Jesus "added himself" by his blood to the Cup of Wrath for us, so that we could taste the Cup of Redemption.
Various Foods	To remember the bitterness, tears and suffering of our days in slavery, before we tasted freedom.	A reminder that God comes to us even in the difficulties of life and promises ultimate freedom.
A Lavish Feast	It's no accident that we celebrate freedom with a fantastic meal!	Jesus often talked about how being with God is like a great banquet, and loved eating with people.



community church northampton presents:

Passover 2007

The first Easter took place at the Jewish festival of Passover. Read further for a fun, cultural leaflet exploring the Passover festival.

An evening of fun, eating, & maybe even a little bit of singing!!



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What is Passover?

Passover is about the story of the Israelites when they were held as slaves in Egypt. It remembers the night when the “Angel of Death” literally “passed over” all the houses (Egyptian and Hebrew) that were marked with the blood of a slaughtered lamb.

It was nearly 400 years after Joseph and his “techni-colour dreamcoat”. The Israelites were now oppressed by the Egyptians, who put slave masters over them, made their lives bitter, and dealt with them ruthlessly as they put them into hard labour. In the midst of all this the Israelites believed that God would one day save them from this slavery.

Then, along came Moses, on a mission from God to set his people free. Each time the Pharaoh said “No” to the request, God sent a plague on the Egyptians to show he was serious - there were ten in all. Eventually Pharaoh got the message, and decided to let the slaves go free. The first Passover was their last night in Egypt and their amazing, dramatic exit from Egypt is known as “the Exodus”.

Why have a feast?

This event was so important that God told the Israelites to remember and celebrate the importance of their freedom every year since that time. This feast is designed to be enjoyed by all ages as the event is re-enacted through symbolic foods and actions – everyone takes part, as if they were there themselves.

Also, more than that, it became a time to look forward to the future. They recognised that the Exodus from Egypt also looked forward to a complete freedom – not just from oppression in the form of slavery, but also spiritually, emotionally and physically. As such, the celebration of Passover continues to remember what God has done in the past, what God is doing now, and looks forward to when he will set them free again.



What does it have to do with Easter?

Easter is very closely related to Passover, and not just because it happens at a similar time of year. Easter remembers Jesus’ death on a cross and his resurrection 3 days later. The so-called “last supper” that Jesus ate with his disciples before his arrest, trial and execution was one of these Passover meals.

The symbols used in Passover every year are closely linked to what was about to happen to Jesus. The meaning of the Passover story, and its future hope was not lost on Jesus’ disciples and remains as a powerful legacy for all Christians throughout history. All that Passover celebrated and all that it was looking forward to suddenly made perfect sense and was perfectly completed in Jesus.

What has it got to do with us?

The Passover that we are celebrating is closely related to that which is traditionally celebrated in Jewish homes today, but is designed to illustrate how perfectly and easily Jesus can be seen running throughout each element of the proceedings.

Passover explores how God wants us to experience the fullness of freedom that has been made available through Jesus. Freedom is the central theme in Passover and we can better understand the Easter story when we understand the links between the two stories.

