

# THE PASSOVER STORY



COVENANT  
 *Life*  
MINISTRIES

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This year is *different*  
from all other years.

SECTION 1  
THE PASS-OVER STORY



This is the purpose of this guide—to help you gain a deeper understanding of your spiritual heritage and this ancient celebration.

*“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”—Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)*

### ***The Backdrop / A Brief History Leading to the First***

Joseph, the son of Jacob was sold to Egyptians by his envious brothers at the age of seventeen. Although, a slave Joseph thrived in Egypt and became well known and respected by Pharaoh (A King) and his officials. (Read Genesis Chapters 37-41)

A famine broke out in the land of Canaan, and Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt for food. It was not until their second visit to Egypt that Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and the entire family ended up moving to Egypt. (Read Genesis Chapters 45:1-25)

### ***The Hebrew Nation Grew, and the Pharaohs Were Threatened***

For generations, the Israelites multiplied and flourished in the land. They did so well, in fact, that their numbers increased during that time. But as time went on, long after Joseph passed, the Egyptians found their presence and numbers to be a threat. Hostility grew, and Joseph’s favor in the land seemed to have been forgotten.

Many pharaohs came to power and reigned over the years. As one died, another took his place. Eventually, one arose that took it upon himself to enslave the Israelites in a bondage that would last for 400 years.

### ***One Pharaoh Tried to End the Hebrew Nation***

In time, one Pharaoh arose that ordered an edict to throw all firstborn sons into the Nile River. Moses was one of those firstborn sons doomed to destruction, but he was rescued by Pharaoh’s daughter and adopted into the royal family. (Exodus Chapter 1-2)

### ***Then Came Moses***

As Moses grew, he became aware of his true identity—a Hebrew. Even though the Egyptians horribly mistreated the Hebrew people – the very people who were part of Moses’ heritage and family – he was torn between the people of his adoptive family and the people of his ancestry.

*In time, Moses broke...* He could no longer stand to see his people brutally beaten and enslaved. As a result, he killed an Egyptian for the horrific treatment of a fellow Hebrew. When he realized that his actions were known, he fled Egypt in fear of his life.

### *The Burning Bush*

Exodus chapters 3 and 4 explain how God spoke to Moses—through a burning bush. It tells about how God saw the pain and suffering of the Israelites and His plan to free them.

He told Moses that He would deliver the people out of the hand of the Egyptians and bring them to the land of promise.

### *The Plagues*

The Lord told Moses he would be the one to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses, reluctant at first, finally approached Pharaoh. He commanded him to let the Israelites go, but Pharaoh refused. As a result, God sent the following 10 plagues... (Exodus chapters 7 to 12)

**1. Water turned to Blood**

**2. Frogs**

**3. Gnats**

**4. Flies**

**5. Diseased Livestock**

**6. Boils**

**7. Hail**

**8. Locusts**

**9. 3 Days of Darkness**

**10. Death of the Firstborn**

**It was this last plague, the death of the firstborn, from which the Passover was birthed.** The Hebrew people followed God’s instructions to kill a lamb and smear its blood over the doorposts of their home – thus protecting those inside from the angel of death.

Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, means to “pass over.” Passover is a reminder of how God “passed over” each home that had the blood of the Passover lamb smeared upon its doorposts—sparing the firstborn inside.

### *Instruction Came after the Passover*

The Passover led to the events of receiving instruction from the Lord. Israel had to smear the blood on their doorposts to be spared from death. They had to eat the Passover lamb as the death Angel passed over their homes and then flee Egypt in

haste, at the end of the event. Their journey of exodus led them through the miracle of the Red Sea and brought them to Mt. Sinai to receive the Mosaic Covenant—the Law of God.

### ***The Covenant Relationship, the Blood of Jesus and Passover***

Throughout the Bible, you will find the concept of covenants. Covenants are what holds God’s eternal redemptive story together. When you understand how the covenant relationship works according to God, then you are positioned to receive all that He has for you. The Passover started with the Mosaic Covenant and led us to the new covenant established through Jesus’ Crucifixion.

When Jesus was crucified, it happened at the time that the Passover was observed (Mark 14:12). This was no coincidence. Jesus was the Lamb of God, offering himself for the sins of the world. He was the “lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19) because His life was completely free from sin (Hebrews 4:15). As the first Passover marked the Hebrews’ release from Egyptian slavery, so the death of Christ marks our release from the slavery of sin (Romans 8:2).

### ***Allow the Holy Spirit to Transform Your Thinking About Covenant Relationship***

God wants a covenant relationship with you to release power and purpose into your life. This enables you to walk in the fullness of your salvation in Jesus.

#### ***Walking in the fullness of your salvation...***

- ◆ Deepens and strengthens your covenant relationship with the Lord.
- ◆ Increases your faith and trust in God.
- ◆ Magnifies the spiritual inheritance you have through Jesus.
- ◆ Equips you to receive your God-given purpose.

***Ultimately, all these points lead to this: They bring glory and honor to God and further His Kingdom.***

It is impossible to please God without faith. It is impossible to understand God without understanding the covenant relationship.

We are restored to the Father when we repent and accept Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew) as the Messiah (Mashiach in Hebrew, meaning Anointed One). The

fullness of the covenant is something that is revealed to us over time through the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

As you seek to deepen your covenant relationship with the Lord, the Holy Spirit transforms your mind to come into agreement with God's heart.

### **Covenant Relationship | Its Hebraic Meaning**

When you hear the word covenant, what comes to mind? Is it a list of dos and don'ts that you must follow in order to get something? Unfortunately, in the Western mindset, we are programmed to think of covenants as a set of rules, not as a relationship.

#### **In Hebraic culture, a covenant relationship has a deeper meaning:**

- ◆ It means to select the best for each other.
- ◆ It means a dedicated bond between each other.
- ◆ It means a shared inheritance.
- ◆ It means an agreement.

In Westernized culture, covenants are thought of as more contractual.

#### **Limited Thinking Leads to Limited Relationship...**

If you think of a covenant relationship as merely "I'll scratch your back and you scratch mine," it limits the free-flowing love of the Father.

There are others that have little or no response to God's instruction or love. They are hearers but not doers of the Word.

Either way, the promises and blessings are compromised.

As a result, many are robbed of what it means to be in the faithful covenant relationship designed by God. Sadly, over time, the enemy has warped covenant culture and traditions that God established with His people.

#### **Satan's Lies about Covenant Relationship...**

Satan has used generations of people to pervert God's covenant message into one that says:



**Lie #1** God's traditions and appointed times have nothing to do with His covenant or your relationship with Him.

**Lie #2** Partaking in God's covenant holidays is legalistic and unnecessary, not relational.

**Lie #3** There is no use for Believers today to understand their spiritual heritage.

**Lie #4** Believers and the Church have no ties to Israel.

But hear this: The Church today needs understanding and revelation about God's covenant relationship with His people—Jew and Gentile—because it creates a place for God's Spirit to be activated in their lives.

Think of it this way: A marriage is designed to grow stronger as husband and wife honor and submit to one another. Your covenant relationship with the Lord is also designed in the same way. It is honor and submission that strengthens the covenant relationship.

How do you do this?

-- Understand the power and significance of the atoning blood.

-- Accept God's invitation to meet with Him at His appointed times.

### *Covenant Relationship and the Blood of Jesus*

In Hebraic culture, the blood of an animal contained its life. In other words, when observing a bleeding animal, they knew that as the blood left its body so did its life.

God explained to Moses...

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”—Leviticus 17:11 (emphasis added)

You read of this same covenant act manifested at Passover when Jesus said...

“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.’”—Matthew 26:27-28 (emphasis added)

When we accept that Messiah's blood covers our sin and gives us a new life, it also guarantees a covenant relationship with God.

## **Blood in God's covenants...**

Three Examples:

1. God's covenant with Abraham—God passed through blood (Genesis 15:17).
2. God's covenant with Abraham—God established the covenant between Abraham and his descendants through the circumcision of the flesh (Genesis 17:7, 10-11).
3. God's covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai—Moses sprinkled blood on the altar and on the people (Exodus 24:6-8).

Therefore, we can see the theme of this covenant relationship throughout the Bible. For God's covenant relationship in the blood of Christ extends from Abraham and his seed—his heirs...

“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”—Galatians 3:29 (NIV)

...this is speaking of YOU! God had you in mind from the beginning.

Understanding God's covenant relationship brings depth, wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and honor to the power of Jesus' blood.

### **Covenant Relationship and Passover**

Now that we understand the covenant importance of Jesus' blood, this brings us to the Passover.

- ◆ Passover was the day God protected and freed His people from Egyptian slavery by the blood of the Passover lamb.
- ◆ Passover was the day that Jesus' blood was shed on the cross, therefore fulfilling the prophecy of the Passover Lamb.
- ◆ Passover was a day God established as an everlasting ordinance.

These three points are powerful when it comes to understanding the covenant relationship. Your relationship with God is not intended to be transactional or one-sided, but one more like marriage.

The blood that was shed in Egypt and at Calvary was intended to merge your life with God's. Both events relied on the blood of the Passover Lamb. It symbolized a sacrifice of the self for the other. It symbolized, just as in biblical marriage, the concept that 'what is mine is also yours.'

Many in the Church today have forgotten the significance of the Passover Lamb. They have been robbed of the great spiritual inheritance of their faith. They have been deceived in thinking that the roots only go back 2000 years, when in fact God established His plans from the beginning through Jesus (see John 1:1, 14).

### **So then...**

When you partake in the Passover, remind yourself that you have been brought into a covenant relationship with God because of the blood of the Messiah.

Ask the Spirit to reveal more to you about your purpose for His Kingdom.

Pray that God releases the power within you to share the deeper meaning and message of Passover.

# SECTION 2

## THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED



## *A Feast Intended to be Kept / The Feast of Unleavened Bread*

**The first Passover took place the night before Israel's exodus from Egypt.**

*“Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying... ‘Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: “On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household... **Your lamb shall be without blemish...** Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they **shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.** Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with **unleavened bread** and with bitter herbs they shall eat it... **So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.**”*

*“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the **firstborn** in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

“So this day shall be to you a memorial; and **you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.**”—Exodus 12:1, 3, 5, 6-8, 11, 12-14 (emphasis added)

This monumental event was intended to be commemorated year after year. **The Passover meal became known as the Seder**, which holds ancient symbolism that points to Yeshua and the promises we can declare today.

## *Passover—A Feast of the Lord and Jesus Christ is the Center*

In Leviticus 23, you will find the Lord speaking to Moses about the Feasts of the Lord. These feasts are all illustrations of God's redemptive power. From the beginning, Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus Christ) has been the center of all the Feasts — in particular, the Passover feast.

These feasts not only commemorate past events, but also serve as annual reminders, like object lessons that teach us about God's sovereignty, grace, and mercy. They are opportunities for us to experience more of His love and grace with every sense: sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. It is for this reason we are invited to pull up a seat to God's table and feast!

God poured out His love and grace during the first Passover described in Exodus and instructed the Israelites to celebrate this feast at its appointed time **each year.**

Many Believers misunderstand the relevance of the Passover feast today and therefore miss out on the great blessings that the Passover feast can unlock in their lives.

We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ because of His work on the cross. The blood that was shed thousands of years ago, and spread across the doorposts of the Israelites' homes, was a picture of Christ's redemptive blood that would cover the cross at Calvary on Passover nearly 1,500 years later—on the same date.

This ancient feast foretold of an ultimate victory when God's only begotten son's blood would be shed for our blessing of freedom. Christ's work didn't stop at the cross. He is alive and active in our lives today and desires us to experience more of Him as we come into alignment with the blood that was shed.

### *The Passover Feast isn't Limited to Israel or the Old Testament Time Period*

God gave the instructions for the feast at the foot of Mount Sinai, but He didn't limit the feast to just the Israelites or only to the Old Testament time period. The Feasts of the Lord are God's feasts, not Jewish feasts. This means that any who are in the family of God can celebrate Passover and receive the great blessings that are released during the appointed time.

Passover is described as a lasting ordinance and holy convocation. In Hebrew, the latter phrase is translated as mikra kodesh, which means "holy rehearsal."

*"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: "The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts."'*

*"These are the feasts of the Lord, **holy convocations** which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first 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; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a **holy convocation**; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a **holy convocation**; you shall do no customary work on it."*

—Leviticus 23:1-2, 4-8 (emphasis added) - NKJV

God intended Passover, along with the other feasts, to be a sort of road map and rehearsal for specific events in the future. As Believers, we know that the Passover feast was a rehearsal of God’s deliverance for both Jew and Gentile through the ultimate Passover Lamb, Yeshua.

- *“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”*  
—1 Corinthians 5:7

- “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”—John 1:29

On this side of the cross, we can celebrate and commemorate it with the deeper revelation that God had planned all along.

### *The Symbolism in the Seder / An Explanation and Breakdown of the Ingredients*

The Haggadah is used as a guide to tell the story of Passover. It is a guidebook, if you will, to instruct how to progress through the Passover Seder through the meal. It reveals the purpose and place for each ingredient used (all listed below). Reading the Haggadah is a fulfillment of Exodus 13:8 to tell the son, or the younger generation, about the purpose of Passover’s observance...

*“And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘This is done because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’”(Exodus 13:8)*

#### *Before the Meal Begins*

Traditionally, there are 3 matzot (plural for matzah, see below) covered and then placed in the middle of the Passover table. Before the meal begins, the middle matzah is broken in half. The smaller piece is placed on the plate, and the larger piece (referred to as afikomen) is hidden. This is a game in which the children try to find the hidden piece of matzah. Traditionally, it is found after the third cup of wine.

Below, you will find a list of every ingredient in the Seder meal and an explanation of what each symbolizes...

- **Roasted lamb shank bone:** A well-known symbol of Passover is the roasted lamb shank bone—called the zeroah in Hebrew. The bone commemorates the lamb sacrifice made the evening that the ancient Hebrews fled Egypt. Zeroah, meaning

“arm,” refers to the outstretched arm of the Lord, as He saved the Jewish people from slavery.

- **Roasted egg:** The roasted egg, or the baytsah in Hebrew, stands in place of one of the traditional sacrificial offerings, which would have been performed in the days of the Second Temple. Many believe this also represents that, in the heat of the fire, God’s people remain unscathed.
- **Karpas:** **Karpas** is a green vegetable and is typically replaced with parsley at the contemporary table. A small vial of salt water sits nearby, and the karpas is dipped into it several times throughout the meal. Dipping food was considered a luxury in ancient times. This act symbolizes new life as we walk out of slavery into the Promised Land.
- **Salt Water:** Although the salt water symbolizes the sweat and tears experienced during slavery in Egypt, it also signifies purification and healing.
- **Maror:** This is also referred to as the “bitter herb.” Maror is a spicy root that, when eaten, brings tears to the eyes. This act refers to the bitterness the ancient Hebrews experienced while living in Egypt. It is also a time for modern-day Believers to reflect on bitter enslavements within themselves.
- **Charoset:** In contrast to the maror, charoset is a sweet applesauce filled with chunks of apples, nuts, wine, and cinnamon. Charoset not only signifies the mortar placed between the bricks created by the Hebrews while in slavery, but also reflects the goodness (the sweetness) of God, who is faithful to remove the bitter roots from our lives.
- **Chazeret:** The chazeret is a second bitter herb and has the same meaning as the maror.
- **Matzah:** Three pieces of matzah are placed upon the Seder plate. This is a bread, made without leaven that does not rise like traditional bread. This bread would have been made hastily, allowing the Hebrew children to escape quickly. Leaven in bread allows dough to rise and puff up. The removal of leaven represents the removal of personal pride from our souls.
- **Wine:** Each individual attending the Seder is given a cup, or glass, from which they drink four cups of wine, or yayin. Traditionally these represent the four



promises of God: “I will bring you out,” “I will rescue you,” “I will redeem you,” and “I will take you as My people.”

### *The 4 Passover Cups of Wine / A Deeper Dive into God’s Deliverance*

The Lord used these four expressions of deliverance for the Hebrew people, describing their exodus out of Egypt.

- I will bring you out...
- I will rescue you...
- I will redeem you...
- I will take you as My people...

At the Passover Seder meal, each person is given a cup a wine to be sipped at specific times throughout the Seder meal. The reading of scripture verses are recited and followed by questions and answers regarding the significance of the night and the reason behind the traditional foods that are eaten.

### *The First Cup of Wine — The Cup of Sanctification.*

- The Seder begins with a blessing recited over the first of four cups of wine: *“Blessed are You, LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.”* Jesus himself blessed the first cup of wine in Luke 22:17-18.

Sipping the first cup is then followed by questions and answers regarding the significance of the night and the reason behind the traditional foods that are eaten. For Believers of Yeshua, the symbolism of the night and foods have prophetic meaning.

### **A few of the questions asked and answers declared at the Passover table...**

- **Q: Why is this night different from all other nights?**

**A:** On all other nights, we eat either leavened bread or unleavened matzah.

- **Q: On this night, why do we only eat matzah?**

**A:** Don’t you know that a little yeast works throughout the whole dough? Get rid of the old yeast so that you may be as new, fresh dough—as you really are. For Messiah, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.

- **Q: All other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night, why do we only eat bitter herbs?**

**A:** As we partake in the matzah and the bitter herbs, let us allow the bitter taste to cause us to shed tears of compassion for the sorrow that our ancestors knew thousands of years ago.

### *What is tasted with the first cup?*

- The bitter herbs and salt water are tasted at this time. They represent the pain, suffering, and tears that the Israelites endured during their time in Egypt. The herbs are immersed in the salt water, representing that life will bring tears, but through Yeshua we have new life as we pass over from death to life.

### *The Second Cup of Wine —The Cup of the Plagues.*

- The second cup is to remind us of the Ten Plagues and the suffering of the Egyptians when they hardened their heart to the Lord. In order not to rejoice over the suffering of our enemies (Prov. 24:17), we spill a drop of wine (which is a symbol of joy) as we recite each of the Ten Plagues, thus remembering that our joy is diminished at the suffering of others. This cup symbolizes the freedom we have from fear of sickness, disease, and disaster.

### *What is tasted with the second cup?*

- The lamb shank and egg are eaten at this time. The lamb shank reminds us of the Lord's strength, and the egg reminds us of the sovereignty of the Almighty God.

### *The Third Cup of Wine— The Cup of Redemption and Healing Released.*

- The third cup of wine is taken after the meal. It is the cup of redemption, which reminds us of the shed blood of the innocent Lamb which brought our redemption from Egypt. We see in the following scripture verses where Jesus took the third cup in Luke 22:20 and 1 Corinthians 11.25; *"In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."*
- This was not just any cup, it was the cup of redemption from slavery into freedom. This is our communion cup.

When Yeshua Messiah went to the cross that day after the Passover, He willingly gave His life for us. His blood was shed to purchase our pardon and restore our covenant relationship with the Father. Remembering this as you taste the third cup opens your eyes and heart to how magnificent the sacrifice was at the cross. As a result, your faith in the Lord grows.

### *What is tasted with the third cup?*

- There is a blessing given over the wine and the bread, and the matzah is tasted at this time.

“Blessed are You, LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Blessed are You, LORD our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.”

### *The Fourth Cup of Wine — The Cup of Praise.*

- The fourth cup is the Cup of Hallel. Hallel in Hebrew means "praise," and we see in the beautiful High Priestly Prayer of John 17, that Jesus took time to praise and thank the Lord at the end of the Passover Seder, his last supper. The spotless Passover Lamb had praise on his lips as he went to his death.

This cup symbolizes the freedom we have from fear of sickness, disease, and disaster.

### *The cup of praise is a declaration of what is to come as you taste the fourth cup...*

- At this point in the Seder, there is a declaration of God’s promises written in Exodus 23. We, as Believers, can proclaim these promises too, as God brought us out of the slavery of sin and into freedom through a covenant relationship made possible by Yeshua’s death and resurrection!

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|--|---|
| ➤ <b>Divine Guidance</b>                   | ➤ <b>Divine Abundance</b>               |
| ➤ <b>Divine Protection</b>                 | ➤ <b>Divine Life</b>                    |
| ➤ <b>Commissioning of Divine Authority</b> | ➤ <b>Respect from your enemies</b>      |
| ➤ <b>Divine Provision</b>                  | ➤ <b>Divine Birthright</b>              |
| ➤ <b>Divine Health</b>                     | ➤ <b>Freedom from corrupt covenants</b> |

### *The 9 Blessings of Passover*

Above, we read about the declarations made with the fourth cup. According to Exodus 23 Passover has 9 blessings, each with unique importance for our transition into the next season and deeper levels of intimacy with Christ. These blessings are:

**1. Divine Guidance:** God will assign an angel to prepare the way for you. *“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.”— Exodus 23:20 (NIV)*

When we choose to set our feet under our Father’s Passover table 9 blessings become available to us! The first of which is God sending an angel before us to

bring us into the place He has prepared—aligning us for His purposes for the year, every year—AND to protect us as we journey there...

This is vital because as we go higher into our calling the enemy tries harder to block our path... but with this yearly renewing of God's promise of divine guidance, we need not fear!

We are able to answer our call without distraction.

**2. Divine Protection from Enemies through Positioning and Alignment:** God will be an enemy to your enemies. This may appear nearly identical to the blessing of "divine guidance," however, this blessing is uniquely important. It allows all the lessons and teaching of Passover to transform us; bringing our hearts and minds into alignment with our perfect God. It positions us for the season ahead and protects us from the enemy—from any legal right to say to our Father, "Look at their sin... their disobedience."

*Through God's mercy and grace we are aligned with Him, which in turn causes Exodus 23:22 to come to pass, "... if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries." —Exodus 23:22*

**3. Commissioning of Divine Authority:** To go higher in our call we need greater protection, positioning, and alignment, but we also require greater levels of authority!

*"You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars." —Exodus 23:24*

When God not only commissions us but allows us to utilize His authority, we are able to break down the sacred pillars of false gods! In the workplace, in our homes, and on to the highways and hedges.

Without God given authority which breaks the yoke we would be held back from doing all we are meant to do... but God, in His mercy and grace, desires us to be more than conquerors!

**4. Divine Provision and Divine Health:** God will give you all that you need and take sickness away from you. When God tells us to do something or go

somewhere, we need to be able to answer that call! However, when we habitually experience sickness and lack it becomes almost impossible to walk in obedience...

How can we be a light to the world if people cannot see a difference between us and them because of our sickness and lack? How can we expect to be movers and shakers when we cannot move or shake those things that weigh us down?

We are meant to live abundantly so that abundance can flow to those around us, bringing God's light and love wherever we go... so that we can bring people to jealousy for our God (see Romans 11:11). We are meant to know health and not lack so we can answer our call!

*“So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.” —Exodus 23:25*

**5. Divine Abundance and Divine Life:** God will bless your fruitfulness and will give you a long life. *“No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.” —Exodus 23:26*

If we are suffering from barrenness of heart or body, it is easy to become distracted from what we were created for. We can become depressed and fail to leave a legacy. An inheritance.

No matter if barrenness is physical or of the heart, both can lead to sorrow and desperation. This is why God provides multiplication—removing physical and mental barrenness. This is why He brings the blessing of full days... so we can answer our call in joy!

This ability to multiply—resources, offspring, inheritance, etc.—and the time to do so in are key to an increased call! And both serve as one of the 9 blessings of Passover!

**6. A Godly Release of Fear and Respect from Enemies:** To thrive in the midst of enemies we have to have the right tools...

While many of the 9 blessings of Passover protect us from our enemies—even providing health and long life—if our enemies do not fear/respect our relationship with God, then we can be attacked **needlessly**. Yes, attacks will come, but Godly fear and respect from enemies lessens the frequency and force of time wasting attacks.

*“I will send my fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.” — Exodus 23:27*

When the enemy learns that we have a true and deep relationship with God that comes with authority... when the enemy sees that we sit at the Passover table as King’s kids... then the enemy will understand that messing with us comes with consequences. Even the enemy knows better than to mess with God’s children when they align themselves to God!

**7. Relief from the Threat of Enemies:** When we spend too much time wondering and worrying about where the next attack of the enemy might come from... we cannot fully answer our call. We can hardly maintain the level of dominion and authority we are already at, let alone go higher if we are busy jumping at every noise and “what if.”

Things like fear, worry, and anxiety wear us out, but God desires for us to rise above—thriving as we answer our call! This is why we need God to do what He did in Exodus 23:28,

*“And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.” —Exodus 23:28*

**Driving out our enemies—sending His warring angels ahead of us to do spiritual warfare on our behalf—so we know not the threat of enemies.**

By placing our feet under our Father’s Passover table and accepting all 9 blessings of Passover—including this one—we cannot be held hostage by fear, worry, or anxiety!

**8. Divine Birthright** God will bring increase and inheritance. Exodus 23:30 promises **that when we accept the 9 blessings of Passover that, “Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.” —Exodus 23:30**

*And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand” —Exodus 23:31*

Many of the 9 blessings of Passover take away the enemy’s power and provide us with relief, but God does not stop there! He turns what was meant for evil to

good...He drives our enemies out before us so that we can increase AND inherit the land!

This addition of dominion and increased inheritance not only positions us for the future, but it also takes into account the past... putting a demand on the enemy to restore what was previously stolen! And in this new blessing and restitution, we are given access to the physical and financial tools required to succeed at the higher call of the season!

**9. Freedom from Corrupt Covenants:** *“They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”—Exodus 23:33*

Making connections, creating relationships, and entering into covenants with people, places, and things is a part of life. Yet, we often make poor choices... accidentally or not. And even when a connection, relationship, or covenant is excellent for one season that does not always mean that it will continue to be so in the future...

While change can feel intimidating, at our Father’s Passover table He prepares our hearts and minds for whatever is to come. So, while it may feel unsettling, perhaps even daunting or scary, by fixing our eyes on God as we receive the 9 blessings of Passover we become more than conquerors!

We need God to put the right connections, relationships, and covenants in place for our new season. We need Him to lead us in altering our habits and patterns so we can be set in place for the new season. And by sliding our feet under His table we not only accept the truth that we need our Father’s help, but we accept everything that that entails... we accept the 9 blessings of Passover so that we can answer our higher call!

### ***Celebrating the Feast of Passover as a Believer***

The heritage of the Christian faith is deeply rooted in Jewish customs, traditions, and observances. Our Savior was Jewish. The first followers of Christ were Jewish. We were once excluded from citizenship among Israel. *But by the blood of Christ, we have been brought near (Ephesians 2:12-13).*

It is unfortunate that a number of Believers are uninformed as to the abundant blessings that are held deep within the knowledge of their rich heritage.

All too often, there is hesitation in celebrating the Passover feast because it seems “legalistic.” This was not the Lord’s intent. Many are misinformed that the Feasts of the Lord are only for Jews or were only relevant during the Old Testament period.

But this simply isn’t the case. In fact, Jesus Himself observed Passover... This was the “Last Supper” that many now refer to.

The Father wants nothing more than to be in a covenant relationship with us. He wants us to remember the promises of the covenant He made. This is what the feasts are about—a literal, pictorial reminder of God’s covenant with His people. They are times of restoration and alignment. This is not about observing or following rules to get God’s approval. It is a time when we can draw close to our Father, and He can draw closer to us. We get to experience more of Him, just as we mentioned earlier, with every sense that He gave us.

**If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are part of God’s Family — and His invitation to feast at His table is always open.**

And what is the supernatural result of feasting with the Lord? Awaited blessings are released.

*“And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’ So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.”*  
—Exodus 12:24-28

*Exodus 12:24 says, “And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons **forever**” (emphasis added). What does forever mean? It means for all future time and without end. God’s Word does not say, “until” ... it says **FOREVER!** He wants us to remember His everlasting promises—forever.*

Several words are used to express the Hebrew meaning of the word forever — permanently, continually, eternally, and always, to name a few. It’s apparent that



God's intent for the Church today is to continue to remember and observe these appointed times.

### *Why Passover Isn't Celebrated by Believers*

**The enemy has tried to erase the memory of these appointed times and has stolen these divine appointments, or moeds, from our inheritance.**

In the fourth century, during the councils of Elvira and Nicaea, church elders established many rules and regulations to separate the Church from the Jewish roots of its faith.

Subsequently, many religious leaders tried to erase the memory of any connection between a Jewish Jesus and the faith of Christianity. These decisions were not God's highest and best for either Israel or the Church—they simply resulted in separating us from the blessings of our heritage.

As a result, many Believers are not experiencing the great depth of their faith, and are left with feelings of doubt, fear, and unbelief. This is not from God. He asks us to draw near to Him with our hearts during these appointed times, and we are abundantly blessed.

Another important command, which tends to be overlooked, is God's instruction to pass this significant feast to the next generation...

- *“And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord...’”*  
—Exodus 12:26-27

He desires for us to pass down the Passover! As you draw near to Him, it is an opportunity to share your testimony with your children, so they too can be encouraged and blessed.

## **SECTION 3**

***A Time to Sow Seeds for a Future Harvest***

# **First Fruits**

***The standing ripe harvest of barley and of wheat would soon be reaped. A person would go to the standing harvest and take one sheaf and bring it to the priest. The lone sheaf was called the "sheaf of First Fruits". The priest would take the sheaf and wave it before the Lord in his house (temple). This was done on the "morrow after the Sabbath". No one could eat of the bread or roasted grain of the corn harvest until the sheaf had been presented to the Lord and accepted for Israel.***



## *First Fruits*

There are plenty of terms and phrases in the Bible you frequently hear in church but may not understand. One such term is first fruits.

First fruits may be mentioned when pastors talk about giving or about generosity. But what exactly does it mean? And why is it good to know for the average church-goer?

### What is first fruit?

“When you come into the land which I give you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.” — Leviticus 23:10

First Fruits is a religious offering of the first agricultural produce of the harvest. In classical Greek, Roman, Hebrew and Christian religions, the first fruits were given to priests to offer a deity. First Fruits were often a primary source of income to maintain the religious leaders and the religious facilities.

The concept of first fruits is rooted in biblical times when people lived in an agrarian-based economic society. Harvest time was significant because that was when the hard work the farmers had poured into their crops all year began to pay off. They were literally reaping what they sowed.

God called his people to bring the first yield—the first fruits—from their harvest to him as an offering. This was to demonstrate the Israelites’ obedience and reverence for God. It also showed that they trusted God to provide enough crops to feed their family. Back then, there were plenty of rules associated with making first fruit sacrifices: they had to be brought to the temple priests; **no one was to eat any of the grain of the harvest until the first sheaf of the harvest was waved to God by the priest; and no other crops could be harvested until after the first fruits were presented.** It was a complex process.

The Hebrew word for first fruit is bikkurim—literally translated “promise to come.” The Israelites saw these first fruits as an investment into their future. **God told them that if they brought their first fruits to him, he would bless all that came afterward.** (Exodus. 23:19; 34:26. Number 15:17-21; 18:12-13; Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

As we’ve discovered, God is a God of abundant blessings, not one of “just getting by.” He wants what is best for you. And He invites us to experience the best of His presence on this side of Heaven. Observing the feast offering is not a matter of

salvation; it is a matter of living to the fullness of the salvation you've been given through Yeshua.

If we want abundance, then we must sow abundantly according to God's will. When you sow seeds during these appointed times, there is a return. God asks that we not show up empty-handed, not because He wants to take, but because He wants to give! He will multiply your seed. You can't out-give God.

### The Seed and the Increase Come from the Lord

As any farmer would tell you, there is a direct link between the time of planting and the yield of harvest. When you sow during these celebrated and set-apart times, you will reap abundantly. Sowing into nutrient-rich, Godly soil during these specific times appointed by God will hold a return of thirty, sixty, or even a hundredfold.

- *“But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”— Matthew 13:8*
- *“Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”  
2 Corinthians 9:10*

Your seed comes from the heavenly Father who has deposited the Word of Life in you. The seed and the increase come from Him. Truthfully, you don't own anything. You are a vessel—a steward—intended to partner with God to further His Kingdom.

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)*

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

The feast offerings made during **Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles** are all about developing a deeper understanding of who God is—the one you are in covenant with.

When you are in continued communion with the Lord, during these special times of the year, prayerfully ask the Lord to lay on your heart what to sow. There is no

set amount. However, you can expect to reap over and above what you sow, so step out in faith and choose to give generously!

### **Reap a Future Harvest**

To reap a future harvest, a farmer knows that he must plant a seed. This is also true of our financial offerings. In ancient times, the providers of each household were expected to give a sacrificial offering during these three pilgrim feasts, as a testament of their faith in a God who desired to bless every aspect of their homes, families, and businesses.

You can sow a symbolic seed each year during these three significant pilgrim feasts. It's not a requirement, but we can tell you from personal experience that the blessings we have received are far greater than any financial offering that we gave.

We reap in the fruit of the Spirit: we reap in Shalom—peace, protection, and provision; we reap in health and wellness; and we reap in joy!

## **INCLUSION of the WHOLE MATTER**

### **Let Us Never Forget Our Heritage. / Let Us Never Forget Our Freedom.**

Let us remember what God's plan has been for us and His chosen people of Israel from the beginning.

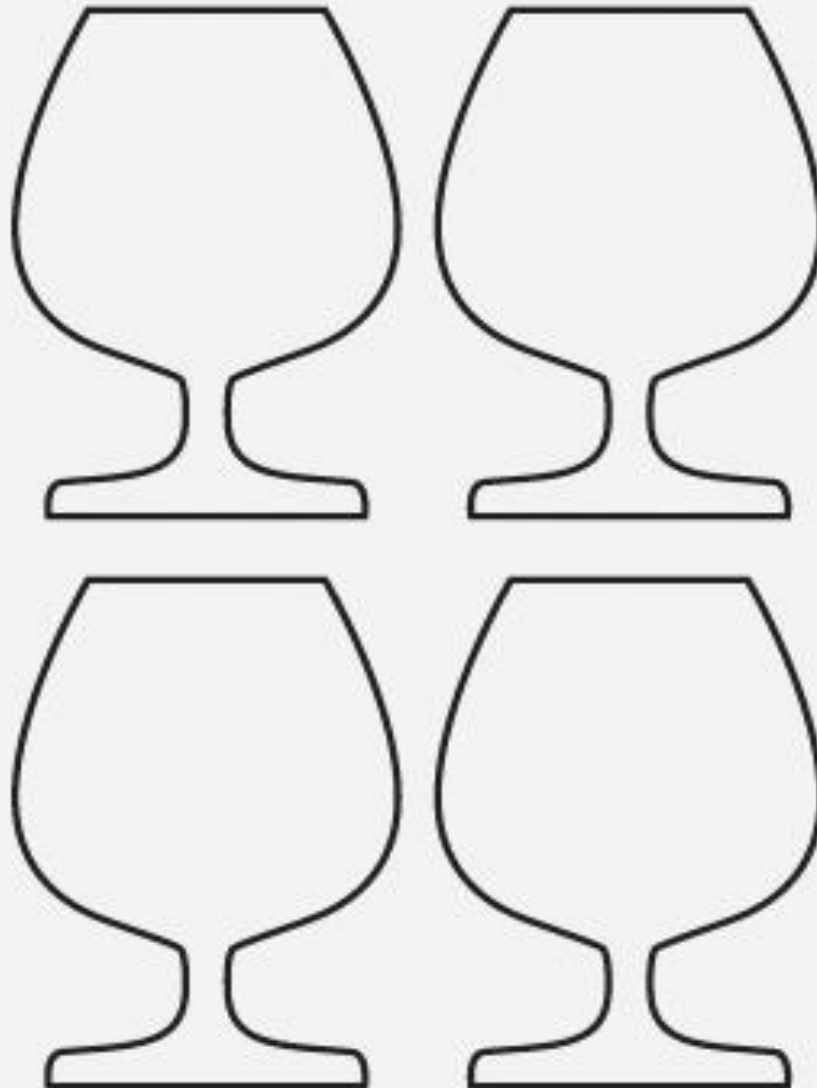
Let us remember the people from whom our Savior was born and the richness of our heritage.

Let us remember the freedom from the bondage of sin we now have. Sin no longer entangles us. We are victorious! We have passed over from death to life because of Yeshua Hamashiach!

And finally, let us remember the promise of what lies ahead: the crown of life and the robe of righteousness that is ours.

*“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”—Isaiah 61:10*

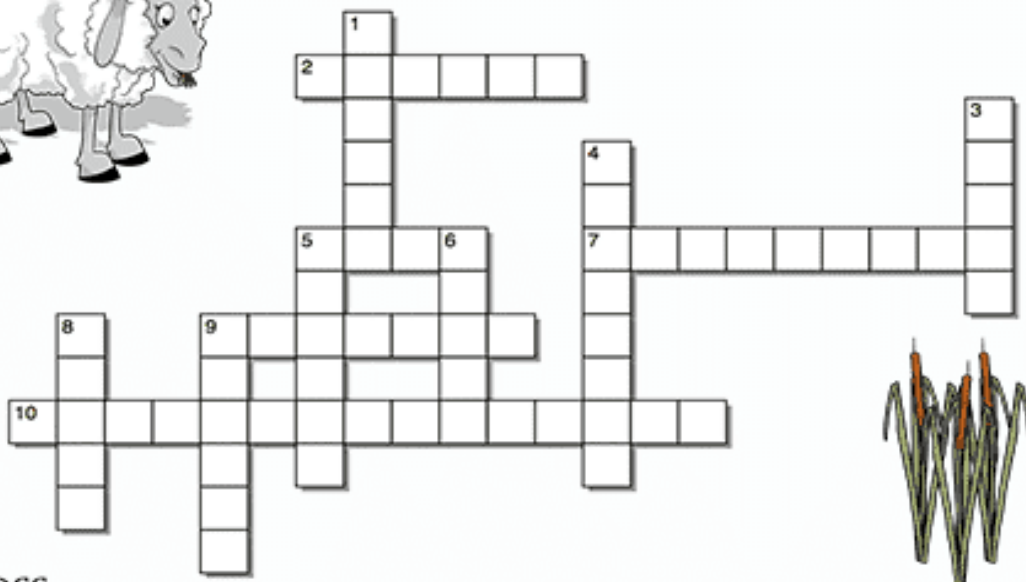
# **Name the Four Cups of Redemption Observe During the Passover Seder**



# Bible Pathway Adventures

CROSSWORD

## The Passover



### ACROSS

- 2) Hebrew name for Passover.
- 5) A young sheep.
- 7) "These things happened so that the \_\_\_\_\_ would be fulfilled: "Not one of Yeshua's bones will be broken.." (John 19:36)
- 9) Ancient Egyptian king.
- 10) "Observe the Feast of \_\_\_\_\_, for on this day I brought you out of Egypt." (Ex 12:17)

### DOWN

- 1) "...for \_\_\_\_\_, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Cor 5:7)
- 3) The man who led the Hebrews out of Egypt.
- 4) On the 14th day of the first month at twilight, is Yahweh's \_\_\_\_\_. (Lev 23:5)
- 5) For seven days no \_\_\_\_\_ is to be found in your houses. (Ex 12:19)
- 6) "...when I see the \_\_\_\_\_, I will pass over you.." (Ex 12:13)
- 8) "They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its \_\_\_\_\_, according to all the instructions for the Passover." (Num 9:12)
- 9) Serious disease or disaster.

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# Passover Word Search

Find the hidden words in the matzah from the list at the right. Match 8 words to their appropriate pictures.



- matzah
- Passover
- afikoman \_
- Moses
- seder \_
- wine \_
- fish \_
- slaves \_
- plagues
- Nile
- freedom
- haggadah \_
- soup \_
- Pharoh \_

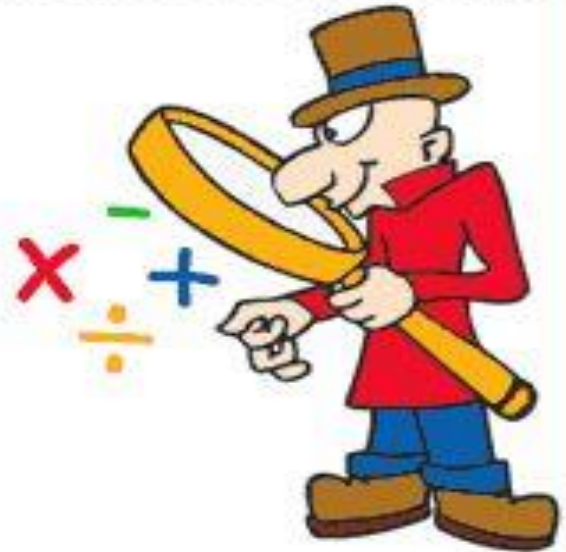
P	H	A	R	O	H	B	Q	P	M
L	A	F	I	K	O	M	A	N	A
A	G	S	O	U	P	C	D	I	T
G	G	F	S	W	I	N	E	L	Z
U	A	I	M	O	S	E	S	E	A
E	D	S	L	A	V	E	S	W	H
S	A	H	F	R	E	E	D	O	M
Z	H	X	S	E	D	E	R	K	B





## Break the Code

Complete the math problems next to each letter to break the code and find out what God said to Moses.



**A**  $24 + 15 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$

**B**  $41 + 9 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$

**C**  $33 + 14 - 8 = \underline{\quad}$

**D**  $29 + 11 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$

**E**  $18 + 21 - 4 = \underline{\quad}$

**F**  $78 + 6 - 9 = \underline{\quad}$

**G**  $36 + 18 - 1 = \underline{\quad}$

**H**  $27 + 42 - 6 = \underline{\quad}$

**I**  $13 + 58 - 9 = \underline{\quad}$

**J**  $81 + 11 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$

**K**  $63 + 16 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$

**L**  $26 + 37 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$

**M**  $46 + 23 - 8 = \underline{\quad}$

**N**  $84 + 13 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$

**O**  $57 + 28 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$

**P**  $34 + 52 - 6 = \underline{\quad}$

**Q**  $72 + 13 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$

**R**  $61 + 38 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$

**S**  $54 + 20 - 4 = \underline{\quad}$

**T**  $86 + 10 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$

**U**  $39 + 35 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$

**V**  $44 + 28 - 7 = \underline{\quad}$

**W**  $39 + 51 - 1 = \underline{\quad}$

**X**  $71 + 25 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$

**Y**  $50 + 29 - 2 = \underline{\quad}$

**Z**  $31 + 46 - 9 = \underline{\quad}$

62

36

61

91

63

36

91

62

36

61

## Plagues for Pharaoh

Here are a few of the plagues God sent to encourage Pharaoh to let his children go. Color all the spaces with 1 green and all the spaces with 2 blue.



# Joseph

Use the key to complete the phrase below.



## KEY

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	K	L	M	N	O
4	P	Q	R	S	T
5	U	V	W	X	Y
6	Z	.	,	'	

## EXAMPLE:

H A V E  
 23 11 52 15  
F U N  
 21 51 34

Joseph's                                    and

23 35 34 15 44 45 55

32 35 52 15 35 21 22 35 14

never failed to keep him                    

44 11 21 15

and                                                  

41 43 35 44 41 15 43 35 51 44

# Forgiven

Genesis 42, 45, 47

Despite their history, Joseph decides to forgive his brothers.

Draw lines to connect the questions with the correct answer and learn more about Joseph's story.

Why did Jacob send his sons to Egypt?



No! Joseph looked Egyptian now and had an Egyptian name. When they saw Joseph, they greeted him with a bow.

What was Joseph's job in Egypt?



The Governor's cup was found in his sack.

Did the brothers recognize Joseph?



Joseph brings them to live in Egypt and gives them the best land and cattle.

What does Joseph ask his brothers to bring back to him in Egypt?



He can see how his brothers love Benjamin and know that their hearts have changed.

How does Benjamin get in trouble?



Second in command in Egypt. He met his brothers again while distributing food rations.

Why does Joseph forgive his brothers?



To buy grain and bring his son Simeon home.

What happens to Joseph's family?



Their brother Benjamin. Joseph would not release Simeon unless Benjamin was brought to Egypt.