

The Merritt Family

Haggadah

2005

from

Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Rochester, Minnesota

Tampa, Florida

Welcome to Passover 2005 celebration with the Merritt family.

Passover is the first of the 7 Feasts of the Lord. Passover is the beginning of the annual Hebrew liturgical calendar, which begins in the spring and culminates in the grand autumn festivals. Each of the Feasts of the Lord helps us focus on specific lessons in God's grand plan of salvation and the destiny of man in the wonderful plan of God. Additionally and with complement, each festival teaches us magnificent facets of the life, the death and the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah. The traditional Passover celebration centers on **a formal worshipful meal**, called a **Seder**, which means a Set Order. The liturgy itself is called **Haggadah** (plural Haggadot).

The Passover Seder is a Set Order of 15 steps of ascension, ascending like the ladder of Jacob's dream, ascending to the throne of God. This is likened to the 15 steps which ascended to the Holy Place in the Temple in Jerusalem. Our family Haggadah is one of a very many Passover Haggadot, all variations of the 15-step Seder meals, celebrated for thousands of years. There is a large variety in Haggadot from different cultures, times and traditions. And all reflect the aspirations of believers and celebrants from many times and lands, celebrating this first of the Feasts of the Lord, the Passover.

The Merritt Family Haggadah presented here is built on the long traditions of the Merritt family in their search for a most "fitting" and meaningful Passover celebration. It is built on our personal family experiences and studies with other Jewish and Messianic Haggadot, but reflects our own continuing growth and understanding of the ties to, and parallels of the Torah record, Hebrew tradition, recorded history, and, of course, the clear New Covenant record covering the last Passover celebration of Yeshua with his disciples. This "Set Order" reflects our current understanding. Although decades in development, we first published a formal Haggadah for Passover in 1999. We have often updated it, and again do so as we approach Passover 2005 CE. There will likely be additional revisions and updates as we learn and grow. We welcome input and insight to further understanding. We, like all believers, continually seek for our worship to be growing in spirit and in truth. In the meanwhile we hope to share where we are with others, to assist each in personal growth and faith in our Messiah, Whom we annually honor as we celebrate the Passover.

This Haggadah is built on the work of many others, but has a unique feature we have not before encountered and to which we have personally contributed. The Seder is built on **15 steps**, a tradition for thousands of years. The 15 steps up to the Holy Place in the Temple, where the Levitical choir stood and sang during the festivals, and the 15 degrees of Hezekiah, and others, are parallels of this **15 step ascension**. We link the traditional 15-step Seder with the 15 Psalms of Degrees (the Psalms of Ascent, the Psalms of Hezekiah, Psalms 120-134). We include all 15 Psalms of Ascent, either in readings or set to music, in order, as well as the Hallel Psalms and some traditional songs.

Haggadah vary somewhat with different compilers, and ours has here been slightly re-ordered to reflect the order of the messages in the Psalms of Ascent. We thank the **Wheelocks, of Hebrew Roots**, for pointing out the naturalness of moving the meal portion earlier in the 15 steps than with the Orthodox orders. We have also included most of the major Haggadah steps into the meal, allowing most of the celebration to be set within the meal, instead of before it. We interpret the Exodus 12 commandment to **focus on the meal and its constituents**, i.e. including discussions, explanations and celebrations while eating. This, by the way, allows a full and natural parallel with the Gospel accounts.

The Passover Seder has powerful historical and spiritual meaning, and there is comfort in the tradition. Yet as new covenant believers growth in understanding of the beauty and power of the Holy Spirit help us to worship our Father. We continually seek to approach His Holy Throne in spirit and truth, and at this commanded feast. We wish to understand, to trust, and to do, as He has willed.

We feel justified in modifying the Haggadah to fit our growing understanding, as the historical record of the Seder is one of modification as time, events and understandings grow. We have deliberately deleted the lengthy and tiring exegeses of famous Rabbi which are present in most Orthodox Seders. We have instead included a multitude of linked scripture references and readings. We make it a night of scriptural contemplation, rather than rabbinical loquacity. We feel New Covenant believers especially have access to the inspiration of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and certainly have a precedence and a responsibility for developing and emphasizing the themes important to individual believers, as we all seek a closer walk with YeShua and God the Father.

For those new at the Seder, understand that the full celebration is long evening, lasting 4-5 hours, well into the night. However, due to its rapidly changing cadence, and full lively interaction, questioning and discussions, it is **exciting and not tedious**. It shifts emotions from inquiry, to happy singing, to quiet and personal reflections. It builds to a wonderful, spirited conclusion. In the whole experience, one concludes with a feeling of having experienced the presence of God. This is **a celebration for the whole family of God**, for every individual, not a time of focus on leaders, but on the Messiah, the center of the celebration. We recommend that all participate in the scripture and other readings, each in turn, as well as in the music, both group and special. The leader should prompt, assist, never dominate, lecture or bore others. Let all fully contribute to the questions and answers. **Celebrate leisurely there is no hurry tonight.**

A bit should be said about the **Seder Cups**, which make up the backbone of the Celebration. We have been continually researching the Cups of the Passover. Traditional, more orthodox, Jewish Seders today have 4 cups, plus a 5th cup for Elijah. But some Messianic Seders today, for historical consistency include only 2 or 3 cups. This is historically true. It is well recognized by most scholars that, at the time of YeShua's last Passover, there were only 2 cups: the **Cup of Sanctification**, beginning the meal, and the **Cup of Redemption**, after the meal. (Luke 22:20). Although more wine was drunk during the meal, only 2 ceremonial cups were extant in the Seder meal during Yeshua's time.

Two other cups were added at the great rabbinic conference at Yavnah, in 90 CE. These have continued as 4 traditional cups over the last 1900 years. The 2 additional cups reflect on historical and factual yearnings, and toward the typological truths about the history of Israel, as well as on a marvelous expectation of a Return, a restoration of all things. The Yavnah conferences added a third cup, which was placed after the first cup, the cup of Sanctification. The new cup, now the 2nd Cup, the **Cup of Affliction**, is associated with the telling of the Exodus narrative. The original 2nd cup, the "Cup after Supper" in the gospel of Luke, now becomes the 3rd cup. Another added cup, the **Cup of the Return**, is now the 4th cup, added after the Hallel Psalms. These were added to amplify the history and expectations of the nation of Israel thousands of years ago, and they do so. But they also have powerful typological and parallel significance in the life, death, resurrection and return of YeShua, our Messiah. If they were deleted, we would miss their story, their typology, their lessons, and their excitement, even

the traditional lively music associated with them. We have been blessed by their addition and choose to keep them intact, according to tradition.

Each must however observe or modify his or her Haggadah according to his or her conscience.

Our family has thus chosen to include these traditional 2nd and the 4th Cups, even though we well know they were added to the Haggadah in Yavneh in 90 CE, after the life and times of Yeshua and the apostles. The 2nd cup focuses on the story of the Exodus, which seems appropriate to us. The 4th focuses on the promise of the Return to the land, or typologically for believers, **the Return of the MESSIAH: who is OUR FERVANT HOPE**. We have also included the traditional **Cup of Elijah**, a 5th cup, which we associate with the 4th Cup (the Cup of The Return), as it so clearly reflects an expectation of and a preparing for Messiah's Return.

The Passover Seder celebration inaugurates the yearly cycle of the Feasts of Yahweh (the Lord), which tells the Good News (Gospel) of the Father's plan of salvation, not only of Israel, but for all mankind. Even though we present these as Messianic Jewish teachings, they are not actually Jewish holidays, but are the Feasts of the Lord. It is He Who invites all, who-so-ever will, to partake, to literally dine with Him. Each of the 7 festivals is a rehearsal of a focused part of His plan of salvation, yet each contains in itself the span of entire salvation. The Passover, as understood best when actually observed, contains the fullness of salvation, in Israel's history, in our lives today, and in prophecy, into the world to come. Salvation is offered for every individual, past, present and future, all thru the sacrifice, the life, the death and the resurrection of The Messiah, Yeshua, God's only begotten Son.

We, the Merritt family, now present this updated New Covenant Passover Haggadah that retains the older major Hebrew traditions as known from history, Mishnah, Talmud, writings and tradition. These traditions have been further tuned to reflect the order and messages of the Psalms of Ascent. These, in turn, we find amplify the recorded New Covenant Passover celebration by YeShua.

“Let us therefore, keep this Feast.”

Reflect.

Participate.

Enjoy!

The Merritts

Lighting of Candles

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Asher Kid’shanu B’mitzvotai V’tzivanu, L’hadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has set us apart by His Commandments, and has commanded us to light the light of the Holy Day.”

Solo: **Psalm 119** “O’ How Love I Thy Law”
Mark 14: 1-17 New Testament Background
Also: Luke 22: 1-16

1. **Kaddesh Cup of Sanctification Pour Cup 1**

Luke 22: 17-18 Cup of Sanctification
Exodus 29: 40-41 Drink Offering to YHVH
Leviticus 23:13 Drink Offering of Wine

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has chosen us from all peoples and lifted us from all tongues and set us apart by His Commandments. And You have given us, O Lord God, appointed times to rejoice, feasts and seasons to joy, and this feast of Matzot, the season of our freedom, a holy assembly, recalling the departure from Egypt. For You have chosen us set apart from all peoples. And Your set apart appointed times in rejoicing and joy are our inheritance. Blessed are You, O Lord, Who sets apart Yisrael and the festival season.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has kept us alive and preserved us, and brought us to this appointed season.”

Read **Psalm 120** “Plea for Deliverance from False Ways”

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Borei P’ri Ha gafen.

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.

Drink Cup 1 Cup of Sanctification

2. **UrHatz Washing Hands**

Exodus 30: 19-20 Washing to Enter into Temple
Exodus 40: 31-32 Moses & Priests Washing
John 3:5 Born of Water & Spirit
Also: John 4: 10-15 Give Thee Living Water
John 7:38 Shall Flow Living Water
Rev 22:1-2 River of Life

Solo **Psalm 121** Hebrew Melody

3. Karpas Bitter Herb 1

Ex 12:8 Bitter Herbs
Heb 5: 5-10 Tears of Messiah

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Borei P’ri Ha’adamah.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the earth.”

Dip Karpas in salt water and eat.

“Life contains tears and affliction”

“But Israel arose out of the Red Sea”

“Out of affliction comes prosperity”

Read **Psalm 122** “Confidence of Future Peace”

4. YaHatz Division of the Matzah

Num 28:20-21 Passover Meal Offerings

This is the bread of affliction, which our forefathers ate in the land of Egypt. If any man is hungry, let him come and eat! If any man is in need, let him come and join in celebrating the Pasach festival – this year here, next year in the land of Yisrael. This year slaves to --- next year free man.

Read **Psalm 123** “Our Eyes Wait upon the Lord”

5. Maggid The Telling Pour Cup 2, Cup of Affliction

Questions

Ex 12:24-27 Observe this thing, keep this service

Deut 6:5-7 “What do these testimonies, statutes, and judgments mean?”

The Four Questions

Child

Why is this night different from all other nights...

On all other nights we eat leavened and unleavened bread. On this night why do we eat only unleavened bread?

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night why do we eat only bitter herbs?

On all other nights we do not dip our vegetables even once. On this night why do we dip them twice?

Answer

These questions will be answered in the Story of Passover, which follows:

Bread of Affliction

“Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who redeemed us and redeemed our fathers from Egypt and brought to this night to eat Matzah and Maror. So, Lord our God and God of our fathers, bring us in peace to future festivals and days of feasting that will come, rejoicing in the rebuilding of Your city and being joyful in Your service. We shall compose new songs of thanks to You for our redemption and the deliverance of our souls. Blessed are You, O Lord, Who will redeem Yisrael.”

Deut 16:18-25

Bread of Affliction

Luke 22: 39-53

YeShua’s Cup of Affliction

Also: Matt 26:30-56

YeShua’s Captivity

Summarize & Discuss Exodus 1-11

10 Plagues

Instruction

“Say, therefore to the Israelite people: I am the LORD. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements.” Exodus 6:6

“... I know that the king of Egypt will let you go only because of greater might. So I will stretch out My hand and smite Egypt with various wonders which I will work upon them; after that, He shall let you go.” Exodus 3:19-20

Instruction

As we recite the name of each plague, we will dip our little finger into the Cup of Affliction, allowing a drop of liquid to fall on our plates.

All

Repeat each plague after the leader, and then let a drop of the wine fall on your plate.

English

Blood

Frogs

Lice

Flies

Pestilence

Boils

Hail

Locust

Darkness

Slaying of the Firstborn

Hebrew

Dam

Tzefardeiya

Kinim

Arov

Dever

Sh’Chin

Barad

Arbeh

Choshech

Makat B’Chorot

Dayeinu

Sing the Chorus after each recitation.

If He had brought us out of Egypt, and had not executed judgments upon the Egyptians, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had executed judgments upon them, but not upon their gods, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had destroyed their gods, and had not killed their firstborn, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had killed their firstborn and had not given us their wealth, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had divided the sea without taking us through it on dry ground, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had led us through it on dry ground but not drowned our adversaries in it, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had drowned our adversaries in it, but had not provided for our needs for forty years in the wilderness, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had provided for our needs in the wilderness for forty years but had not fed us with Manna, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He fed us with Manna, but had not also given us the Sabbath, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had given us the Sabbath, but had not led us to Mount Sinai, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had brought us before the Mount Sinai, but not given us the Torah, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had given us the Torah, but had not led us into the land of Israel, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had led us into the land of Israel and had not built a Temple for us, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

If He had only sent us a Messiah, the son of Joseph, to suffer and die for our sins, it would have been enough. **Dayeinu**

And He did, and soon will also send us the Messiah our King, the son of David, it will surely then be enough. **Dayeinu**

Read **Psalm 124** “The Lord is in Our Side”

6. **Sulkan Orech** Festival Meal **Serve Meal**

Ex 12: 8-11 Eat Lamb, Matzah & Bitter Herbs
Luke 22: 29-30 YeShua will eat this meal again in the Kingdom of God

7. **Rachtzah** **Hand Washing** **Foot Washing**

Ex 40: 31-21 Moses & Priests wash hands and feet
John 13: 1-7 YeShua washes disciples' feet

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotai V'tzivanu, Al N'tilat Yada'yim.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has set us apart by your commandments, and has commanded us concerning the washing of the hands.

Wash Feet

Luke 22: 24-30 Competitive spirit at Passover
Also: Ezekiel 47: 1-12 Living Waters from Temple
Zechariah 13:1 A Fountain from the House of David
John 3: 5 Born of Water & the Spirit
John 4: 10-15 Give Thee Living Waters
John 7:38 Living Waters

Read **Psalm 113** "He Humbles Himself & Serves the Needy"

Solo: Psalm 114 "When Israel Out of Egypt Went"

Cup of Affliction Hold up Cup 2

Read Psalm 125 Against the Wicked

"Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Borei P'ri Ha gafen."

"Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine."

Began Drinking Cup 2, the Cup of Affliction, drink during meal

Barech Read **Psalm 126** "Freedom from Captivity"

Seder Plate Presentation Based on Passover & Offerings

Ex 23: 15-17 3 Times a Year to Appear Before YHVH
Lev 23: 8 Offer an Offering 7 Days
Deut 16: 16 Appear Before YHVH 3 Times Each Year

Karpas
Maror
Zeroar
Beitzah
Haroset

Continuing to Eat Meal

All Sing Psalm 127 “Unless the Lord Build the House”

HaMotzi Blessing over the Bread

Hold up Matzah plate

“I am ready and prepared to keep the commandment to eat the Matzah, for the sake of the one God and His presence, may it be counted as done in the name of all Yisrael.”

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Ha Motzi Lechem Min Ha’aretz.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.”

All Sing Psalm 128 “Blest and Happy is He”

8. Matzah Unleavened Bread

Break and distribute top 1 & 1/2 Matzah for the main meal. (Hide Afikomen)

Ex 12: 8, 18 Eat Unleavened Bread

Also: Deut 16: 3-6 Eat Unleavened Bread

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Asher Kid’shanu B’mitzvotai V’tzivanu, Al Achilat Matzah.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has set us apart by your commandments, and has commanded us concerning the eating of Matzah.”

9. Maror Bitter Herbs

“I am ready and prepared to keep the commandment to eat the Maror, for the sake of the one God and His presence, may it be counted in the name of all Yisrael.”

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Asher Kid’shanu B’mitzvotai V’tzivanu, Al Achilat Maror.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has set us apart by your commandments, and has commanded us concerning the eating of Maror.”

Ex 12: 8 Eat Bitter Herbs

Dip Maror (lettuce) into Haroset, each person does this.

Mark 14: 18-21 Judas dips with YeShua

Also: John 13: 18-30 Judas so dips

10. Korech Hillel Sandwich

Make Hillel Sandwich with bottom matzah

“So did Hillel at the time that the Temple was still standing. He made a sandwich of Matzah and Maror and ate both together in order to fulfill what is written:

Ex 12:8 “They shall eat it with Matzah and Maror.”

Eph 4: 14-31 Bitterness replaced with fruits of spirit

Read **Psalm 129** Confound the Oppressors

Continue the Meal

11. Tzafun Afikomen

Find Afikomen

Redeem Afikomen

Matt 26: 26 This is My Body

Also: Mark 14: 22 This is My Body

Luke 22: 19 This is My Body

I Cor 11: 23-24 This is My Body

Unwrap, Reveal the Afikomen

Solo: Psalm 130 Redemption from Iniquities

Zechariah 12:10 They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced

Isa 53: 5-8 He was wounded for our transgressions

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Ha Motzi Lechem Min Ha’aretz.”
“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.”

Break & Distribute the Afikomen. **Eat the Afikomen.**

All Sing Psalm 51 In Thy Loving Kindness

Heb 10: 12-23 He offered one sacrifice for sins forever

Solo Baruch HaShem Adonai

John 14 – 16 YeShua’s Passover Message

Solo: “Lord’s Prayer” as Pour Cup 3, Cup of Redemption

12. **Barech Birkat HaMazon Thanks after the Meal**

Deut 6: 10-12 When you have eaten & are full, forget not YHVH
Deut 8: 10 When you have eaten & are full, then you shall bless YHVH

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who feeds the entire world with His goodness, in grace, loving kindness, and mercy. He gives bread to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever. In His great goodness we have never lacked food, and may we never lack His sustenance for ever and ever, for the sake of His great Name, for He feeds and sustains all, and does good to all, and prepares food for all His creatures which He has created. Blessed are You, O Lord, Who gives food for all. Blessed be Your name through the mouth of all that are alive, continually and forevermore. As it is written: “When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.”
Blessed are You, O Lord, for the land and for the food.

Read **Psalm 131** My Heart is Not Haughty

Read Psalm 132 David’s son to Rule Forever in Zion

13. **Pidyon & B’rit HaDaShah Cup of Redemption and of the Covenant**

Matt 26: 27-29 This is My Blood of the New Covenant
 Also: Mark 14: 23-25 This is My Blood of the New Covenant
Luke 22: 20-38 This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood
 Also: I Cor 11: 25-31 This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood
Heb 9: 11-22 Blood of the testament

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Borei P’ri Ha gafen.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who sent Messiah, your beloved Son, to die for us, in our stead, so that we might be redeemed from death, and live forever in your Kingdom.”

Drink the Cup of Redemption and of the Covenant

Sing Psalm 133 Brethren Dwelling Together in Unity

John 17 YeShua’s Prayer

All Sing: Hinei Ma Tov

(Verse 1)

Hinei ma tov uma-naim.
Shevet ahim gam ya-had.
Hinei ma tov uma-naim.
Shevet ahim gam ya-had.

(Refrain)

Hinei ma tov.
Shevet ahim gam ya-had.
Hinei ma tov.
Shevet ahim gam ya-had.

Translation *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to gather in unity! (Psalm 133:1)*

Read Psalm 134 By Night in the House of YHVH

Pour Cup 4, Cup of Return

Luke 1:17 In spirit and power of Elijah, preparing way of God.
Mal 4: 4-5 Turn hearts of fathers and children.

14. Hallel Psalms of Praise

Rev 15: 2-3 Song of Moses & Song of the Lamb
Also: Exodus 15: 1-21 Song of Moses
Matt 26: 30 Sang a Hymn

Sing Psalm 115 Praise Belongs to God
Read Psalm 116 Take the Cup of Salvation (YeShua)
Read Psalm 117 All Nations Praise God
Read Psalm 118 **Responsive Reading:** His Mercy Endures Forever

Pour Elijah's Cup

Mark 9:4 Transfiguration: Yeshua, Moses, Elijah

Mal 4: 4-5 Send Elijah before the coming of the Day of YHVH.

Open door for Elijah

Solo "Eliyahu"

Cup of Return

Luke 22: 18, 29-30 Will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom
Also: Mark 14:25 Until I drink it new in the Kingdom

I Cor 15: 51-52 Last Trump, Put of Immortality
Rev 19:7-9 Marriage Supper of the Lamb

“Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha Olam, Borei P’ri Ha gafen.”

“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.”

Drink Cup of the Return “To The Kingdom”

Solo: I Thes 4: 16-17 Blessed Hope

15. Nirtzah Acceptance & Completion

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, for the vine, and for the fruit of the vine, and for the produce of the field. And for the desirable, good, spacious land that You were pleased to give to our forefathers, to eat its fruit and be satisfied from its goodness. Have mercy O Lord our God, on Your people Yisrael, on Your city Yerushalayim, on Zion the dwelling place of Your glory, and on Your alter and on Your Temple. And build Yerushalayim, a holy city, soon, in our days, and bring us thereto and let us rejoice when it is rebuilt, so we may eat of its fruit and be satisfied with its goodness, and fulfill our calling as a kingdom of priests, and we will bless You for it, in sanctity and purity.

All Sing: “L’Shana Ha Ba’ah”

“Next Year in Jerusalem”