



*Meaning of the*

## **PASSOVER ELEMENTS**

This document explains the symbolic elements of Passover, their historical and spiritual significance, and their connection to Messianic faith and trust in God.

### **Passover Elements and Their Meanings**

- Bitter herbs (Maror) symbolize the bitterness of slavery in Egypt, reminding us to remember our ancestors' suffering.
- A roasted lamb shank bone (Pesach) represents the lamb sacrifice commanded at the first Passover; today, a chicken bone often substitutes it. The lamb was perfect and without blemish, foreshadowing Jesus as the ultimate Passover lamb, silent and sacrificed for humanity.
- Charoset, a sweet fruit sauce, depicts the mortar used by Hebrew slaves, symbolizing God's relief from burdens as He heard their cries.
- A vegetable (Karpas), typically lettuce, signifies prosperity in the Promised Land and the return of the Jewish people to Israel.
- A roasted egg (Betzah) symbolizes mourning over the destroyed Temple and foreshadows Jesus' teachings on worship in spirit and truth.
- Unleavened bread (Matzah) recalls hurried departure from Egypt; its appearance with stripes and piercings alludes to Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus' suffering and healing.
- The afikomen, a broken piece of matzah hidden and later found, symbolizes Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, as He was broken, wrapped, hidden, and then alive again.
- Four cups of wine or juice represent different aspects of the new covenant, with Jesus establishing a new meaning during the Passover meal.

### **Additional Traditions and Spiritual Lessons**

- Praise (Hallel) involves singing Psalms or hymns to honor God at the meal's end.
- The story of Abraham and Isaac highlights God's provision of a sacrifice, symbolizing peace and completeness (shalom), foreshadowing God's ultimate sacrifice through Jesus.
- The final element emphasizes trust in God, symbolized by setting an empty chair for Yeshua (Jesus), and the importance of active trust to achieve lasting peace beyond the Passover feast.