

## **THE FEAST OF PESACH**

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*Date in Hebrew Calendar: 14th of Nisan (March-April)*

*Scriptural references: Exodus 12:1-14; Leviticus 23:5; Deut 16:1; Luke 22:1; Heb 11:28.*

The first of 7 Biblical-mandated feasts, Passover celebrates God's deliverance of His people, Israel, from the 10<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt-the killing of the firstborn. Each family of Israel applied the blood of the lamb to the doorposts of their home, and the angel of death "passed over" their homes, sparing them from the plague. This last plague was so terrible, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go from Egypt.

The Passover has been celebrated for thousand of years on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of the Jewish calendar. Yeshua (Jesus) was celebrating the Passover with his disciples on the night of the Last Supper.

Today the Passover is celebrated in Jewish homes with a family ceremony-the "Seder"-on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, presided over by the head of the household.

The story of the original Passover is recounted and certain symbolic foods are eaten to remind the family members of the suffering of their people in Egypt, and of their miraculous deliverance from bondage.

The Passover was a type, or picture, of the final deliverance God had promised for the people of Israel, and indeed for the whole world, when He would offer His Son as the ultimate sacrifice-Messiah the Passover Lamb, who would take away the sin of the world. Each person need only apply the Blood of this Lamb to the doorposts of his heart, and he/she will be delivered from bondage to sin and from spiritual death.