

The Ultimate Guide to Understanding Passover

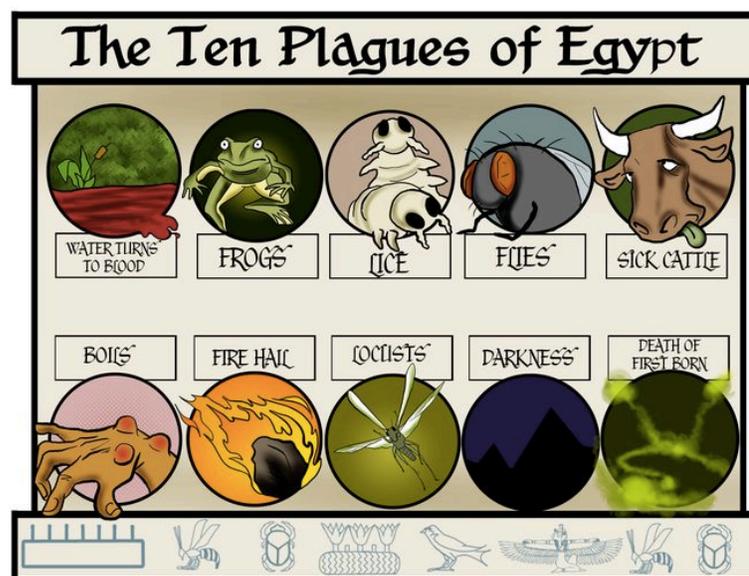
What is Passover and why do we celebrate it?

Passover is the Jewish festival which celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt in 1200s BC. Israelites marked their doorposts with lamb's blood to protect their children from the tenth plague, which was slaughter of the first born. Due to the protective mark, the destruction would "pass over" the house.



What do Jewish people do for Passover?

Jews celebrate Passover with a meal that is ceremonial called a Seder. At a Seder symbolic foods are eaten and prayers and traditions are read aloud/performed. The story of the journey of the Israelites from Egypt is read at the Seder from a book known as the Haggadah. As well, a Passover tradition includes the youngest child presenting questions about why the Seder night is different from other nights. They are known as the "four questions," and the answers tell the story of Passover.





BITTER HERB

(Maror)

This bitter herb, which is often horseradish, allows us to taste the bitterness of slavery experienced in Egypt.

GREEN VEGETABLE

(Karpas)

The green vegetable represents the first flourishing of the Israelites that were in Egypt for their first years.

LETTUCE

(Hazaret)

The lettuce is another form of the bitter herbs that represents the bitter times the Israelites went through as slaves.

SHANKBONE

(Zeroa)

This is a bone with some meat on it. It commemorates the sacrifice that the Israelites offered before leaving Egypt and until continued until the destruction of the temple.

EGG

(Beitzah)

The roasted or hard-boiled egg represents the cycle of life with its circular shape. As, even during the hardest times, there is always hope for a fresh start.

HAROSET

(Charoset)

This is a mix of fruits, wine or honey, and nuts. It symbolizes the mortar that the Israelite slaves used to build buildings for Pharaoh.

All of the food on the seder plates represent the common theme of passover which is, the Israelites and their shift to being free from slavery.

<https://www.cnn.com/2013/09/12/world/passover-fast-facts/index.html>

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<https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/what-is-a-seder-plate-1.5244183>

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