

# What Is a "Seder Service"? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### **QUESTION:** What is a "seder service"?

**ANSWER:** The "Seder Service" is a re-creation and observance of the Jewish "Passover" from the Law of Moses.

# 1. It was an annual feast to remind the Israelites of their deliverance from Egypt and beginning of them as a national people (Exodus 12:1-31).

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. (Exodus 12:26-27)

It was for no one who did not practice the Law of Moses: "Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did" (**Exodus 12:50**). Any non-Israelite ("stranger") who observed it must:

Let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. (**Exodus 12:48**)

It was "a feast of the Jews" (John 6:4).

#### 2. Jesus ate the last Passover under Moses' Law:

When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:14-20)

The Apostles left this meeting with endorsement for the Lord's Supper, NOT the Jewish Passover.

## 3. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES ON THE SUBJECT:

- 1) Jesus Christ said the Passover was "fulfilled in the kingdom of God," thus the Israelite/ Jewish kingdom was superceded by Jesus' Kingdom. THEREFORE no Christian in Christ's kingdom could, or should observe the Jewish Passover.
- 2) No "stranger" (or uncircumcised person) was allowed to observe the Jewish Passover, but "in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6). THEREFORE, no Christian could, or should, observe Moses' Passover properly.
- 3) The elements of the Passover represented a sacrificed lamb whose blood saved the Israelites from Death. Jesus changed the meaning of those Passover elements to represent His death.

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**)

THEREFORE, no Christian could, or should, observe Moses' Passover, but keep the Lord's Supper, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).
4) After the last Passover under Moses,

[Jesus Christ] wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14)

There is NO Divine authorization for or recognition in observing the Jewish Passover!

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths. (**Colossians 2:16**)

THEREFORE no Christian could, or should, observe a "Seder Service."

—— jtpll, April 11, 2021