



Expanding the Christian Passover Meal: Connecting Passover to Christ



Many early Christians understood Christ as **the fulfillment of the Passover**, making His Last Supper a deeply symbolic event. Below are key **scriptures that connect Passover to Christ** and an expanded explanation of the **Afikomen and its significance** in relation to Jesus' words at the Last Supper.

Scriptures Connecting Passover to Christ



1. The Passover Lamb and Jesus as the Lamb of God

-  **Exodus 12:3-6** – *Each family must take a lamb without blemish and set it apart for sacrifice.*
-  **John 1:29** – *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*
 - ◆ *Just as the Passover lamb had to be without blemish, Christ was sinless and became our perfect sacrifice.*



2. The Blood of the Lamb and Christ's Atoning Blood

-  **Exodus 12:7, 13** – *The Israelites placed the blood of the lamb on their doorposts, and death passed over them.*
-  **Matthew 26:28** – *“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*
 - ◆ *Just as the blood of the lamb saved Israel from physical death, Christ's blood saves us from spiritual death.*


3. The Unleavened Bread and Christ, the Bread of Life


-  **Exodus 12:15-20** – *Unleavened bread was eaten to symbolize purity and haste in leaving Egypt.*
-  **John 6:35** – *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger.”*
 - ◆ *Leaven (yeast) in scripture often represents sin; Christ, like unleavened bread, was pure and without sin.*

4. The Sacrament as the New Passover

-  **Luke 22:19-20** – *At the Last Supper, Jesus took the bread and wine, gave thanks, and instituted the Sacrament.*
-  **1 Corinthians 5:7-8** – *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”*
 - ◆ *Jesus transformed the Passover meal into the Sacrament, making it a remembrance of His atoning sacrifice.*

5. The Deliverance from Egypt and Our Deliverance from Sin

 **Exodus 6:6-7** – God promised to redeem Israel from bondage in Egypt.

 **Luke 4:18** – Jesus proclaimed, “He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives.”

◆ *Just as God delivered Israel from physical slavery, Christ delivers us from spiritual slavery to sin.*

The Afikomen: A Powerful Parallel to Christ at the Last Supper

In the **Jewish Passover meal (Seder)**, one of the most striking connections to Christ is found in the ritual of the **Afikomen** (Greek for “that which comes after” or “dessert”).

◆ What is the Afikomen?


1. At the beginning of the Seder, three pieces of **matzo (unleavened bread)** are placed together.
2. The middle piece is **taken, broken in half, and wrapped in a linen cloth**.
3. It is **hidden away** until the end of the meal, when it is brought back and eaten as the final taste.


◆ How Does This Symbolize Christ?

- The **three pieces of matzo** are interpreted by Christians as a representation of the **Godhead** (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- The **middle matzo (the Son) is broken**, just as Jesus was broken for us.
- It is **wrapped in linen and hidden away**, just as Christ’s body was wrapped in linen and laid in the tomb.
- Later, it is **brought back** and shared among those at the meal—symbolizing Christ’s resurrection and the Sacrament.
- Jewish tradition states that **the Afikomen is necessary for the Passover meal to be complete**, just as Christ’s Atonement is necessary for our salvation.

◆ Connection to the Last Supper

When Jesus took bread at the Last Supper and said, “**This is my body, which is given for you**” (**Luke 22:19**), He was likely referring to the **Afikomen**—the piece of bread that had been broken, hidden, and then brought back.






 **Luke 24:30-31** – After the resurrection, Jesus broke bread with two disciples, and their eyes were opened to recognize Him.


 **Key Takeaway:** The **Afikomen** perfectly foreshadows Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and the Sacrament continues this sacred symbolism today.

How to Incorporate These Meanings into a Christian Passover Meal

Simple Christian Passover Outline

Opening Prayer & Explanation

- *Introduce the Passover as a celebration of deliverance and how Christ fulfills it.*
 -  **Unleavened Bread (Matzo)** – *Representing Christ's sinless life*
- Read **Exodus 12:15** and **John 6:35**
- Break a piece of matzo in half and wrap part of it in a napkin (Afikomen)
- Hide it and bring it back at the end of the meal
 -  **Lamb (or Substitute)** – *Representing Christ, the Lamb of God*
- Read **Exodus 12:3-6** and **John 1:29**
- Discuss how Christ's sacrifice delivers us from sin
 -  **Bitter Herbs & Saltwater** – *Representing suffering and tears*
- Read **Exodus 12:8** and **Luke 22:44** (Christ's agony in Gethsemane)
- Dip lettuce or parsley into saltwater and eat
 -  **Grape Juice/Wine** – *Symbolizing Christ's blood and new covenant*
- Read **Matthew 26:27-28**
- Drink in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice
 -  **Afikomen (Hidden Bread) & Resurrection**
- Bring back the hidden bread and share it, explaining how it represents Christ's resurrection
- Read **Luke 24:30-31**

 **Key Takeaway:** A Christian Passover meal can deepen our understanding of how Jesus fulfilled the ancient symbols of deliverance through His Atonement and Resurrection.

The Sacrament as the Fulfillment of the Passover

As we reflect on the Christian Passover meal, we see that Jesus did not merely participate in Passover—He **transformed it** into something new. At the Last Supper, He took two familiar

elements—**bread and wine**—and gave them **new meaning**, instituting what we now call the **Sacrament (Holy Communion)**.

1. A New Covenant Through Christ's Blood

📖 **Luke 22:19-20** – *“This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*

- The **original Passover meal** commemorated Israel's **deliverance from Egyptian bondage** through the blood of the lamb.
- Jesus declared that **His blood** was now the sign of a **new covenant**, bringing **spiritual deliverance from sin and death**.

📖 **Jeremiah 31:31** – *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel.”*

- This **new covenant** is one of **grace, redemption, and eternal life** through Jesus Christ.

2. The Hidden and Revealed Afikomen – A Symbol of Christ's Resurrection

The **Afikomen** (the hidden and later revealed unleavened bread) serves as a **powerful foreshadowing** of Christ's burial and resurrection.

- Just as **the Afikomen is broken, wrapped, hidden, and later revealed**, so too was Jesus:
 - **Broken** on the cross
 - **Wrapped in linen and buried**
 - **Hidden in the tomb for three days**
 - **Revealed again through His resurrection**

📖 **Luke 24:30-31** – *“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him.”*

- After His resurrection, Christ was recognized **in the breaking of bread**—further cementing the connection between the Sacrament and His victory over death.

3. The Sacramental Prayers: A Covenant Echoing Passover

The **sacramental prayers** used today in **Latter-day Saint worship** are **directly tied** to the themes of Passover and the New Covenant established by Christ.

📖 **Sacramental Bread Prayer (D&C 20:77)**

“O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to

take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen."

Sacramental Water Prayer (D&C 20:79)

"O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine [water] to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them; that they may witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen."


These prayers reflect **three key principles** also present in the Passover meal:

Passover Meaning	Sacrament Connection
Remembering the deliverance from Egypt	Remembering the Atonement and Resurrection of Christ
Partaking of the lamb and unleavened bread as a sacred sign	Partaking of Christ's body and blood in sacred remembrance
Entering a covenant relationship with God	Renewing our covenant to follow Christ


4. Why the Sacrament Replaces Passover

With the establishment of the Sacrament, the **Passover meal was fulfilled and transformed** into something greater:

- Instead of **remembering Egypt**, we remember **Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the Empty Tomb**.
- Instead of **a sacrificed lamb**, we partake in the emblems of **the true Lamb of God**.
- Instead of being **saved from slavery**, we are **redeemed from sin and death**.

 **1 Corinthians 5:7-8** – "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast."

By **partaking of the Sacrament each week**, we are **renewing the very covenant Christ instituted at the Last Supper**.

 **Key Takeaway: The Sacrament is the fulfillment of Passover.** Just as the Israelites needed to continually remember their deliverance, we **must continually remember Christ's atonement, resurrection, and our commitment to Him**.

◆ **Final Thoughts: Living in the Light of Easter Every Week**

When we **partake of the Sacrament each Sunday**, we are not just performing a ritual—we are engaging in a deeply **symbolic and sacred ordinance that fulfills the ancient Passover meal**.

- ✓ **We remember Christ, the Lamb of God.**
- ✓ **We renew our covenants in His name.**
- ✓ **We rejoice in His resurrection.**

📖 **“This do in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)**

💡 **How can we make the Sacrament more meaningful in our own lives?**

- Approach the Sacrament each week as a **renewal of our personal Easter**.
- Reflect on the **connections between Passover and Christ** as you partake.
- Use it as a time to **commit anew to follow the Savior**.

✅ **Easter is not just a yearly event—it is a sacred truth we live every week.**

◆ **Final Thoughts**

The Passover meal, given by God to the Israelites, was always meant to **point toward Christ**. When we understand these connections, we see that:

- ✓ **Jesus is the true Passover Lamb**—without blemish, sacrificed for us.
- ✓ **His blood saves us from spiritual death**, just as the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites.
- ✓ **The Afikomen is a powerful foreshadowing of His resurrection**—hidden, then revealed.
- ✓ **The Sacrament is the new Passover meal**, instituted by Christ Himself.

📖 **“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28:6)**