What is the meaning of Passover according to the Bible? And should Christians celebrate it today, as the Jewish people have for generations?

1. Understanding Passover Biblically

The term *Passover* originates from the Old Testament event in which God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. On the eve of their deliverance, God gave Moses specific instructions:

> *“Each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household” (Exodus 12:3, NIV).*

The lamb was to be without blemish (Exodus 12:5), symbolizing purity. After slaughtering the lamb, the Israelites were told to apply its blood on the doorposts and lintel of their homes. That night, the Lord passed through Egypt to strike down every firstborn human and animal but when He saw the blood, He would

pass over the home, sparing its inhabitants.

> *“The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you” (Exodus 12:13, ESV).*

This event became the basis for the annual Jewish festival of Passover (*Pesach*), commemorating their divine rescue.

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2. Christ as the Fulfillment of Passover

In the New Testament, Jesus is revealed as the ultimate fulfillment of the Passover lamb. The Apostle Paul clearly states:

> *“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7, ESV).*

Just as the blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from death, the blood of Jesus protects believers from eternal judgment. His sacrifice on the cross is our deliverance from sin, death, and God’s righteous wrath.

> *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace” (Ephesians 1:7, NIV).*
>
> *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1, ESV).*

When God’s judgment comeseither now or on the Last Daythose who are “covered by the blood” of Jesus will be spared.

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3. Should Christians Celebrate Passover?

The answer depends on how it is celebrated.

A. Biblical vs. Worldly Celebration

The modern, worldly view of celebration often involves parties, drinking, sensual entertainment, and indulgence in fleshly desires. This contradicts the spirit of true worship and remembrance. True biblical celebration, however, is marked by reverence, gratitude, humility, and a desire to draw closer to God.

> *“Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28–29, ESV).*

Even under the Old Covenant, Passover was observed with seriousness. It involved cleansing, sacrifice, and reflection—not revelry.

B. Christ-Centered Commemoration

Christians are not required to observe the Jewish Passover as a religious obligation (Colossians 2:16–17), because Jesus fulfilled its purpose. However, we are encouraged to remember and honor what God has done for us through Christ especially through practices like the Lord's Supper.

> *"Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19, NIV).*

We can reflect on the meaning of Passover with a focus on Jesus as our sacrificial Lamb. It's a time for:

- Self-examination and repentance (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Participating in the Lord's Supper worthily (1 Corinthians 11:27–29)
- Renewing our commitment to holiness (1 Peter 1:15–16)
- Forgiveness and reconciliation (Matthew 6:14–15)

Celebrating in this spirit brings blessing, inner peace, and spiritual renewal.

4. The Danger of Worldly Misuse

If a believer uses this sacred occasion for worldly pleasure drunkenness, immorality, or mockery of spiritual truths they dishonor Christ and His sacrifice. They identify more with the world than with the cross.

> *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15, ESV).*
>
> *“Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 11:27, ESV).*

Instead of drawing closer to God, they invite judgment upon themselves.

Conclusion

While Christians are not bound to observe Passover as Jews do, we are invited to honor its fulfilled meaning in Christ. If we celebrate with reverence, reflection, and gratitude, it becomes a spiritually enriching experience. But if we celebrate in a worldly way, we miss the purpose entirely and risk bringing harm to ourselves.

May the Lord bless you as you seek to honor Him in all things.



Mada Nyinginezo

Je! kuna sikukuu za pasaka mbili? (Hesabu 9:11)

Easter ni nini?..Na je tunaruhusiwa kuisheherekea?

Ijumaa kuu ni nini? Na kwanini iitwe kuu?

KWA MIOYO YAO WAKAREJEA MISRI.

Je! Karamu za ‘Idi’ ndio zipo hizo tunazozisoma katika Hosea (12:9)

Ni muda gani Bwana Yesu alisulibiwa. Je! Ni saa 3 au saa 6?

HAPANA MFUPA WAKE UTAKAOVUNJWA.

JE! UTATOA HESABU YA NINI KATIKA SIKU ILE?

Rudi Nyumbani:

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