

TRADITIONS

MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS



**MATZO**

**ORIGINAL PASSEOVER**

Bread was unleavened because the Israelites had to leave Egypt quickly and didn't have time for the bread to rise. Leaven represents sin.

**FULFILLMENT IN JESUS**

Bread represents Jesus' body given for us. The holes and stripes in the matzo remind us that Jesus was "pierced for our transgressions ... and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).



**GRAPE JUICE**  
or wine

Represents joy.

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20).



**BITTER HERBS**  
such as horseradish  
or onions

Reminder of the bitterness of slavery.

Reminder of the high cost to Jesus for our redemption.



**PARSLEY**  
dipped in salt water

Life without redemption is full of tears.

Parsley is green all year, representing eternal life in Christ. We look forward to the day when God will "wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21:4).



**HAROSETH**  
a mixture of chopped apples,  
nuts, cinnamon, and wine

Reminds us of the bricks and mortar used to build Pharaoh's cities.

Redemption brings sweetness from bitterness.



**ROASTED EGG**  
or hard-boiled egg

Represents the burnt offerings in the temple.

Jesus gives us new life when we trust in Him. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because Jesus was the final sacrifice.



**LAMB**

The blood of a lamb was placed on the doorpost so the final plague of the exodus, the death of firstborn sons, would "pass over" Israelite families.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb. God's judgement passes over us when we place our faith in Christ.

by Sarah Willis

Sarah and her husband, Scott, have been married for 33 years and have four grown children, two children-in-law, and one grandson. She just finished her doctorate in physical therapy, building on her specialty in pediatrics. Sarah has a heart for those going through life challenges and loves to see God honored and trusted in day-to-day life. She likes to knit funny kids' hats and IV covers, take walks on beautiful days, and read Spanish stories.