

In a little over a week many Jews and Christians will celebrate passover in homes throughout the world



Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. [Exodus 12:3](#)

## Passover in the Homes

I've been observing the passover for thirty years now and have a number of notable memories of these times.

- I recall at the first passover I led instructing an older woman to bring some dinner rolls and then after realizing my mistake trying to clandestinely get rid of them (unsuccessfully) during the meal;
- I have a vivid picture of a family who was living in their car cleaning up and wearing their best clothes as they attended the passover I was leading;
- I also remember as a single man the "sauna seder" at my home with no air-conditioning as we sweated while packed into the dining room; after that, for the next year we more wisely met in the basement;
- there are also sadly a growing number of memories of people who've taken part who are no longer alive.

While over these years I've attended a couple of large passover seders with

well over a hundred people in attendance, the vast majority of these passover meals that I have been a part of have been in the homes. And, while it certainly is a lot of work to prepare as a host family, I much prefer meeting in the home. This also seemed to be the divine intent from the beginning when YHWH declared that there would be a lamb for each household. This prefigures the role of household salvations in the Scriptures as well the prominent biblical role of the house as the place for many of the "church meetings" in the Apostolic Scriptures.

I remember being drawn to the philosophy of the home "cell groups" as a wide-eyed young 20-something who was new to Colorado. It made sense to me that so much of the heart of what transpired as Believers occurred as we all did life together in the homes. Initially I was honestly drawn to the multi-level marketing type of rapid growth scenarios that were discussed at the cell church conferences where I was pushed up the pyramid by numerous other multiplying groups/leaders. Alas, that was never my lot as I seemed to be stuck with only stubborn and dysfunctional people over the years who didn't seem to appreciate or respond well to my leadership acumen. I've since discovered that every Believer (especially me!) is stubborn and dysfunctional. Over the years I have come to appreciate the "messy life" and real relationships that happens when we meet in the homes. When we took a break from home groups in the Lighthouse for a time, it was actually the ache for these real-life relationships that was the impetus to again start the house churches a couple of years before Covid hit.

I believe the home meetings will grow in greater importance for the Western church in the days ahead. Many will return to these simple structures for greater safety and blessing...and hopefully some of us who are a half-step ahead will be able to provide encouragement and help for those on the journey. As we gather around the passover tables as a community this year with our fellow brothers and sisters, I pray that Yah will allow us to enjoy our time together and to encounter more of Him as we share our stories and are reminded once again of Yeshua as the perfect Lamb slain for us.