

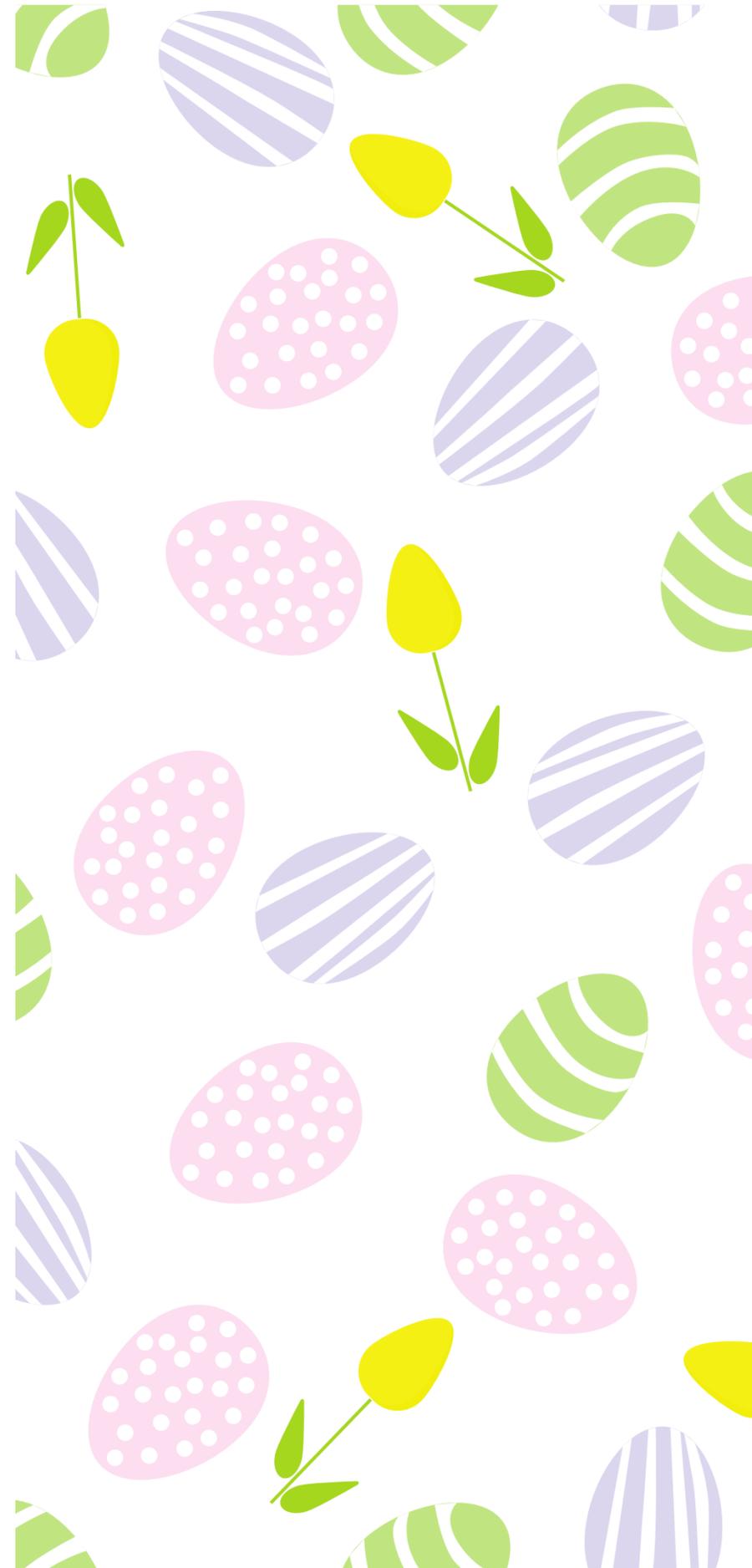


honeymoon : israel

Passover & Easter Two Holidays, Shared Vibes

On the surface, Passover and Easter are very different holidays. But if you dig a little deeper, it's clear that these two important Holy Days share some pretty awesome connections. Honoring each other, we uplift these many commonalities, while also recommending that they be celebrated as two distinct holidays rather than blended.

(But let's face it, Easter does have the best candy.)



Calendar for March/April 2021 (Could there be more holidays?!)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23	24	25	26	 Passover starts/ Chag Seder night 1
 Palm Sunday & Chag Seder night 2	Passover (Chol HaMoed)	Holy Week		 Maundy Thursday	 Good Friday	 Holy Saturday
 Easter & Passover ends	5	6	7	8	9	10

Timing is everything

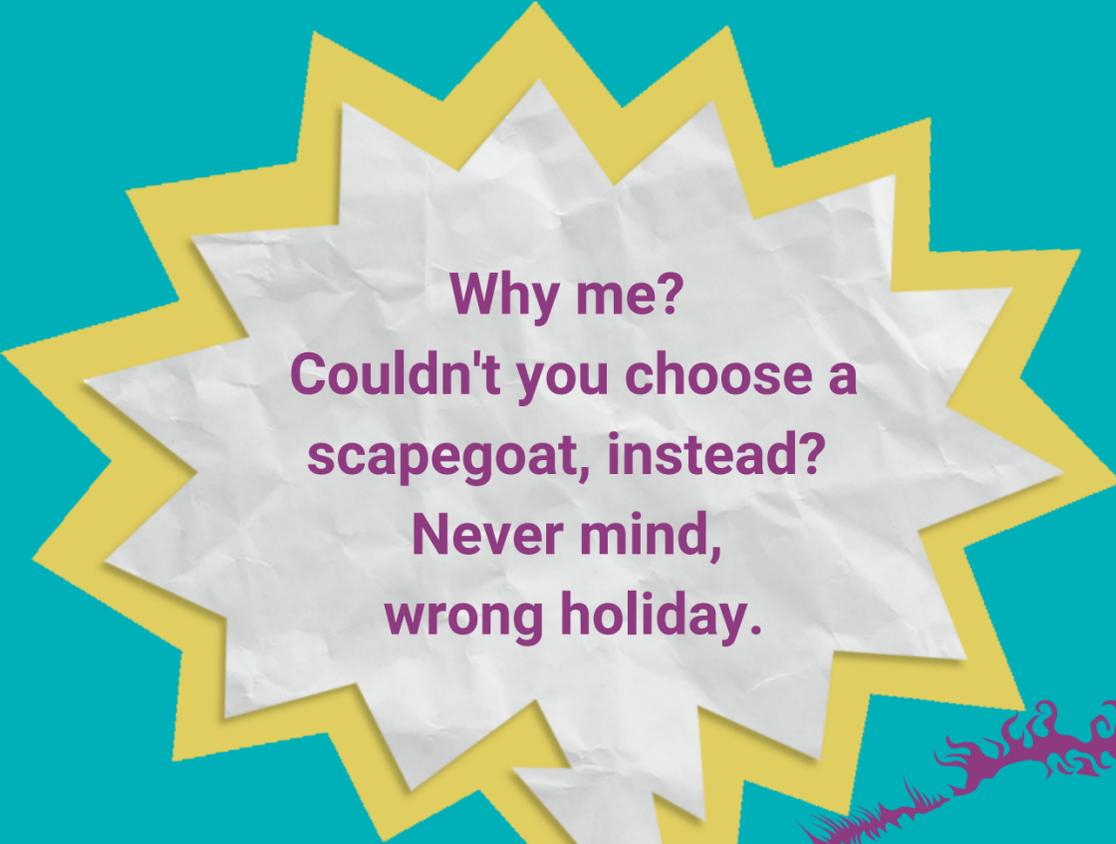
Passover and Easter are both holy days that are set by the moon. Passover falls on the full moon of the Hebrew month of Nissan. Easter is observed on the first Sunday following the full moon that falls on or immediately after the spring equinox. Thus, they often overlap.

Passover is a Jewish 8-day festival that commemorates the Exodus from slavery and the Israelites' journey to becoming a free people. In Christianity, Holy Week is an 8-day period that begins with Palm Sunday and commemorates Jesus's final days. The week ends with Easter, a celebration of resurrection and hope.

What's in a name?

In Hebrew, Passover is called *Pesach* (Pay-sakh / פֶּסַח). "Pesach" comes from the word "paschal," as in "sacrificial lamb." Pesach can either mean "to have compassion" or "to protect." This makes sense if one understands how, in the Passover story, the Israelites were protected by the act of marking the doorposts of their homes with the lambs' blood, or how God had compassion for them and passed over (aka, Passover!) their homes.

The word Easter also has ancient roots. Some connect it to the word "east," which evolved from the word "dawn" which could be a synonym for Jesus's resurrection. Another customary name for Easter is "Pascha" (or a variation of it). This word is taken directly from the Hebrew "Pesach" described above. In fact, in some countries, both Easter and Passover are called by the same name!



**Why me?
Couldn't you choose a
scapegoat, instead?
Never mind,
wrong holiday.**



Two tales, one vibe

While these two holy days observe two fundamentally different sacred stories, Passover and Easter both commemorate the origins of each faith tradition. While they may seem like radically different stories, they each trace the spiritual arc of humanity, moving from despair to redemption.

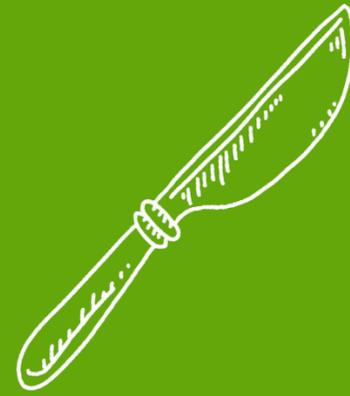
Lookin' good,
Hebrews! It's
gonna get better
from here!

This schlepping
better be worth it.



Hope springs eternal

Both Easter and Passover are spring holidays that have rituals and elements that celebrate the renewal we find in the season. Each holiday uplifts hope as an essential spiritual quality and connects the season of spring with hopefulness. Also, both holidays feature eggs as a symbol of life, rebirth, and renewal.



Let's eat!

Both holidays are celebrated with a festive meal with special foods, often with friends and family gathered together in-person (or virtually!).

In Hebrew, the Passover meal is called "*Seder*," which means "*order*," because it is an experience with many rituals that have a particular choreography.

As discussed, lamb and eggs are foods rich in symbolism for both Passover and Easter. In addition, you can find vibrant green vegetables and tender root vegetables at both celebrations because they signify re-birth and springtime growth. And don't forget about dessert! Sweet foods are also a shared joy in both traditions.

Hide + seek = joy

One of the main purposes of Passover is the commandment to retell the Passover story and explain the rituals to children. Similarly, there are ways that Easter is observed to communicate the joy of the day.

On Easter, children participate in a ritualized “hide and seek” where they find hidden Easter eggs that are symbolic of resurrection and hope.

After the Passover meal is finished, children are dispatched to seek out a hidden piece of matzah called the “*afikomen*.” Once found, they either bargain for a prize or are given a special reward.



What special Easter
and Passover
traditions are you
proud of in your
interfaith family?



This resource was lovingly written and designed by:



Joshua Lesser, beloved HMI Atlanta Rabbi, has proudly served as the Senior Rabbi at a progressive and creative synagogue Congregation Bet Haverim for over 20 years. He currently serves on the board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and is the Chair of the City of Atlanta's Human Relations Commission. He has been a committed advocate for racial justice working on issues of mass incarceration, bail reform, and challenging systems of white supremacy. He is the rabbinic editor of Torah Queeries, a Weekly Bible Commentary and the founder of the Southern Jewish Resources Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity.



Stephanie Goldfarb is a veteran Jewish community professional specializing in experiential Jewish education. She is the Director of Community Engagement for Honeymoon Israel in Chicago. Goldfarb holds Masters degrees in both Gender Studies and Clinical Social Work, as well as a Jewish education certificate from Yeshivah University. She is dedicated to facilitating immersive, radically-accessible, high-quality learning experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds, and emphasizes humor, meaning-making and practical applications in all her content. Goldfarb lives in Chicago with her partner and their perfect dog, Marvin.

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