



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.)*



# 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?





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