

THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER | RABBI JASON SOBEL: Bringing Shrewd Understanding, Sharpening “The Chosen” Team

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The Last Supper stands as one of the most profound moments in the Gospels, serving as a bridge between the Jewish tradition of Passover and the establishment of Holy Communion. In Season 5 of *The Chosen*, this connection is brought to life with a level of depth and authenticity that allows audiences to grasp the full significance of the moment. Through the insights of Rabbi Jason Sobel and the creative storytelling of Dallas Jenkins, the show powerfully illustrates how Jesus, as the fulfillment of the Passover, transformed a historical Jewish observance into a divine ordinance for all believers.

Understanding Passover in *The Chosen*

Rabbi Jason Sobel, a Messianic Jewish scholar and key consultant for *The Chosen*, explains that the Last Supper was actually a Passover Seder—the traditional Jewish meal commemorating the Exodus. This meal, filled with rich symbolism, pointed directly to the coming Messiah. The cast of *The Chosen*, many of whom were unfamiliar with Jewish traditions, participated in a Passover Seder led by Rabbi Sobel to fully understand its significance. This firsthand experience deepened their portrayal of Jesus and the disciples, lending an authenticity to Season 5’s depiction of the Last Supper.

“It was a fun opportunity, I actually went to Texas and with the majority of the cast we did a Passover Seder and actually walked through the Passover and showed how all of the different elements, ultimately pointed to Jesus as the Messiah,” Sobel says.

One humorous yet profound anecdote from this experience was when Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus, attended the Passover meal at Rabbi Sobel’s house. Sobel’s young son turned to him and remarked, “Dad, it’s really weird that Jesus is sitting at the table and you’re leading the Passover.” This moment of levity captured the deeply personal and transformative nature of this tradition with the unique blessing of sharing it with the cast.

The Symbolism of the Third Cup and Communion

A crucial element of the Passover Seder is the four cups of wine, each representing a different stage of Israel’s redemption from Egypt. The third cup, known as the cup of redemption, is the very cup Jesus raised when He instituted Communion. This cup, tied to the threefold application of the Passover lamb’s blood on the doorposts of Israelite homes in Egypt, directly correlates to Jesus’ sacrifice. As Rabbi Sobel highlights, “The third cup is known as the Ula, the cup of redemption. And the reason it’s the third cup, the cup of redemption, is that there were three sprinklings of the blood on the doorposts of the homes in Egypt. And so, the three sprinklings of blood connected to the third cup which then ties into the fact that Jesus was raising the third cup and saying, as the blood of the Passover lamb, this is a reminder it’s me (Jesus), who is the Passover lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” The number three often is linked to redemption: Jesus was crucified at the third hour, there were three crosses on Calvary and He rose on the third day.

