



21 - 27 April,
2019

16 - 22 Nissan,
5779

**Sunday (Torah
reading)**

FIRST TORAH:
Pesach Day 2:
Leviticus 22:26 -
23:44

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Pesach Day 2:
Numbers 28:19-
25

HAFTARAH:
Kings II 23:1-9;
Kings II 23:21-
25

Monday

FIRST TORAH:
Chol Hamoed
Day 1: Exodus
13:1-16

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Chol Hamoed
Day 1: Numbers
28:19-25

Tuesday

FIRST TORAH:
Chol Hamoed
Day 2: Exodus
22:24 - 23:19

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Chol Hamoed
Day 2: Numbers
28:19-25

Wednesday

FIRST TORAH:
Chol Hamoed
Day 3: Exodus
34:1-26

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Chol Hamoed

Day 3: Numbers
28:19-25

Thursday

FIRST TORAH:
Chol Hamoed
Day 4: Numbers
9:1-14

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Chol Hamoed
Day 4: Numbers
28:19-25

Friday

FIRST TORAH:
Shviee Shel
Pesach: Exodus
13:17 - 15:26

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Shviee Shel Pe-
sach: Numbers
28:19-25
HAFTARAH:
Samuel II 22:1-
51

Shabbat

FIRST TORAH:
Achron Shel Pe-
sach: Deuterono-
my 14:22 - 16:17

SECOND TO-
RAH:

Achron Shel Pe-
sach: Numbers
28:19-25
HAFTARAH:
Isaiah 10:32 -
12:6

* Although the
weekly Torah
portion is Acharei
Mot, the reading
for Passover is
read.

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Parshat Acharei Mot - Passover 2

MOSHIACH'S MEAL

WHAT AND WHY.

What Is the Moshiach's
Meal?

Following a
tradition instituted by the
Baal Shem Tov, Jews all
over the world celebra-
te the waning hours of
Passover with Moshiach's
Meal (Moshiach's Seu-
dah in Yiddish), a feast
celebrating the Divine
revelation yet to come.

Why Do We Celebrate
This Meal?

On the last day of
Passover, we read verses
from the book of Isaiah
as the haftarah (Isaiah
10:32-126). This reading
includes many wondrous
prophecies about the era
of Moshiach.

The prophecy
foretells of a leader upon
whom "the spirit of the
L-rd shall rest, a spirit of
wisdom and understand-
ing, a spirit of counsel
and heroism, a spirit of
knowledge and fear of the
L-rd."

In addition to
bringing peace to man-
kind ("he will judge the
poor justly, and he shall
chastise with equity the
humble of the earth"), the
new peace and G-dly un-
derstanding will extend
to all of G-d's creatures:
"And a wolf shall live
with a lamb, and a leop-
ard shall lie with a kid .
. . and a small child shall
lead them."

The Baal Shem
Tov, the founder of the
chassidic movement, was
the first one to celebrate

this meal, with an open
door, allowing anyone
who wished to partake.

The sixth Luba-
vitcher Rebbe explained
that on the last day of
Passover the radiance
of Moshiach is already
shining.

When Is the Moshiach's
Meal

Moshiach's Meal
is held following Min-
chah (the afternoon ser-
vice) on the eighth day of
Passover. In Israel, where
Passover is seven days
long, Moshiach's Meal is
held on the seventh day.

The celebration
customarily extends
past nightfall, ushering
out Passover amid song,
words of Torah and inspi-
ration.

How Is the Moshiach's
Meal Celebrated?

In 1906 Rabbi
Shalom Dov Ber of Lu-
bavitch incorporated four
cups of wine and matzah
into Moshiach's Meal,
mirroring the Seder held
the week before. You can
also serve fruit and other
Passover goodies.

If you will be
celebrating with a group
(this is often done in the
synagogue) you can have
people prepare stories or
Torah thoughts related
to Moshiach. The actual
program is flexible, but
you want to pace your
four cups throughout the
singing and speaking.
Customarily, the leader
of the group announces
which cup you are up
to. Note that you do not
need to drink these cups
in their entirety. A sip
suffices.

CHOL HAMOED

Of the eight days
of Passover, the first two
and the last two are "yom
tov" (festival days). The
middle four days are cal-
led chol hamoed--"week-
days of the festival," also
called "the intermediate
days." (In Israel, where
Passover is observed for
seven days, the first and
last days are yom tov, and
the middle five days are
chol hamoed).

The yom tov days
are days of rest, during
which all creative work
is forbidden, as it is on
the Shabbat, with the
exception of certain types
of work associated with
food preparation (e.g.,
cooking and "carrying").
On chol hamoed the
prohibition of work is less
stringent--work whose
avoidance would result in
"significant loss" is per-
mitted (except when chol
hamoed is also Shabbat,
when all work is forbid-
den).

The "Yaale V'ya-
vo" prayer is included
in all prayers and Grace
After Meals. Hallel (par-
tial) and Musaf are reci-
ted following the Shacha-
rit (morning) prayers. It is
the Chabad custom not to
put on tefillin during the
"intermediate days".

Omer

Between the holi-
days of Passover and Sha-
vuot, the Omer is counted
each evening, signifying
our preparation for the
receiving of the Torah on
the holiday of Shavuot.
experience.

In Jewish History

Sunday, 16 Nissan, 5779 - April 21, 2019

Sodom Overturned (1714 BCE)

The wicked cities of the Sodom valley, including Sodom, Gemorrah, Admah and Zevoim, were overtuned in punishment of their sins. Only Lot, his wife and two daughters were saved. Lot's wife, however, turned into a pillar of salt when she failed to heed the Divine warning not to look back at the burning cities.

Manna Ends (1273 BCE)

On the 16th of Nissan of the year 2488 from creation (1273 BCE), six days after the Children of Israel entered the Holy Land under the leadership of Joshua, their remaining supply of the miraculous "bread from heaven," which had sustained them since shortly after their exodus from Egypt 40 years earlier, ran out. (The manna had ceased falling on the previous Adar 7, the day of Moses' passing.) After bringing the "Omer" offering (see "Counting of the Omer" in Laws & Customs for yesterday, Nissan 15) at the Sanctuary they erected at Gilgal, the people prepared their (unleavened) bread for the first time from the produce of the land.

Esther Appears Before Achashverosh (357 BCE)

On the 3rd day of the fast proclaimed by Mordechai at her behest (see "Today in Jewish History" for Nissan 13), Queen Esther appeared unsummoned before King Achashverosh--a capital offence. The king, however, extended the royal sceptre to her, signifying his consent that she approach him. Esther requested that Achashverosh attend a private wine party with her and Haman (according to one opinion in the Talmud, her plan was to make Achashverosh jealous of her apparent friendship with Haman so that he would kill them both, thus saving the Jewish people from Haman's decree).

The Purim miracle - Haman Hanged (357 BCE)

At the 2nd wine party she made for King Achashverosh and Haman, Queen Esther revealed her identity to the king and began to plead for her people, pointing to Haman as the evil schemer plotting to destroy them. When Charvonah, a royal servant, mentioned the gallows which Haman had prepared for Mordechai, the king ordered that Haman be hanged on them, opening the door for the Jews' salvation from Haman's decree (Book of Esther, chapter 7).

Levi Born (1566 BCE)

Levi, third son of Jacob and Leah and third of the Twelve Tribes, was born in Haran on 16 Nissan in the year 2195 from Creation (1566 BCE) (Yalkut Shimoni, beginning of Shemot). Levi was the ancestor of the Levites and Priests who served in the Tabernacle and then in the Temple.

Monday, 17 Nissan, 5779 - April 22, 2019

Passing of the Maharin (1883)

Rabbi Yisrael Noach, son of the third Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch, headed the yeshivah in Lubavitch during his father's lifetime. He was known for his great humility and the many hours he would spend praying with intense emotions and concentration. Known as the "Maharin from Niezhen," he was

one of Rabbi Menachem Mendel's consultants in matters of Jewish thought, and Rabbi Menachem Mendel would delegate to him many of the questions he would receive.

Following his father's passing in 1866, he relocated to Niezhen where he served as a chassidic master.

He was interred in Niezhen next to his illustrious grandfather, the second Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi DovBer of Lubavitch.

Tuesday, 11 Nissan, 5779 - April 16, 2019

Pharaoh Becomes Aware of Escape (1313 BCE)

Following the Jewish nation's grand exodus from Egypt (see Jewish history for the 15th of Nissan), Pharaoh, who only gave official permission for the Jews to leave for three days, was informed by secret agents whom he sent together with the Jews that they had no intention of returning.

Pharaoh decided to mobilize his army and pursue the Jews, with the intention of bringing them back to Egypt. This led to the drowning of the Egyptians in the Red Sea (see Jewish history for the 21st of Nissan).

R. Levi Yitzchak Schneerson born (1878)

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak Schneerson (1878-1944), was born on the 18th of Nissan in the town of Podrovnah (near Gomel) to his parents, Rabbi Baruch Schneur and Rebbetzin Zelda Rachel Schneerson; his great-great grandfather was the 3rd Chabad Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch.

In 1900 Rabbi Levi Yitzchak married Rebbetzin Chanah Yanovski, whose father, Rabbi Meir Shlomo, was the rabbi of the Russian city of Nikolaiyev. In 1902, their eldest son, Menachem Mendel, later to be known as The Lubavitcher Rebbe, was born. Rabbi Levi Yitzchak lived in Nokolaiyev until 1909, when he was appointed to serve as the Rabbi of Yekatrinoslav (today, Dnepropetrovsk). In 1939 he was arrested by the communist regime for his fearless stance against the Party's efforts to eradicate Jewish learning and practice in the Soviet Union. After more than a year of torture and interrogations in Stalin's notorious prisons, he was sentenced to exile to the interior of Russia, where he died in 1944.

For more on Rabbi Levi Yitzchak, including the story of his valiant battle for Yiddishkeit, his arrest and exile, see Rebbetzin Chana's biography.

Lubavitcher Rebbe's Brit (1902)

On the eighth day following his birth on the 11th of Nissan, the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson of righteous memory, was entered into the covenant of our Patriarch Abraham.

He was named after his great-great-great grandfather, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch, the third Chabad Rebbe.

Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveichik (1993)

On the 18th of Nissan, 5753 (April 9, 1993), Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveichik, a scion of the illustrious Volozhin-Brisk rabbinic dynasty, passed away at the age of 90.