

Torah Weekly

April 17- 23, 2022
16-22 Nissan, 5782

Readings for Passover Seventh Day:

First Torah: Exodus 13:17-15:26

Second Torah: Numbers 28:19-25

Haftarah: Samuel II 22:1-51

Eighth Day:

First Torah: Deuteronomy 14:22 - 16:17

Second Torah: Numbers 28:19-25

Haftarah: Isaiah 10:32-12:6

PASSOVER 2

Calendars

We have Jewish Calendars. If you would like one, please send us a letter and we will send you one, or ask the Rabbi/Chaplain to contact us.

Family Programs

Do you have family on the outside struggling? Please contact or have them contact our office to learn more about our family programs. You and they are not alone, we are here to help.

Grape Juice & Matzah

We offer free Grape Juice and Matzoh for you to be able to make the blessings every Shabbos. Please have your chaplain / Rabbi contact us to enroll (available to all prisons).

Remembering the Future

"In every generation," say our sages, "a person is obligated to see himself as if he himself has come out of Egypt."

Mitzrayim, the Hebrew word for "Egypt," means "boundaries" and "constrictions"; *yetziat mitzrayim*, "going out of Egypt," is the endeavor to rise above all that inhibits the soul of man, be it limitations imposed by an outside force, or the physical, psychological or spiritual limitations imposed by habit and nature.

One of the most constricting elements of the human condition is the phenomenon of time. Time carries off the past and holds off the future, confining our lives to a temporal sliver of "present." But on the first night of Passover we break the bonds of time, having received a mandate to experience the Exodus "as if he himself has come out of Egypt." We recall the Exodus in our minds, verbalize it in the telling of the Haggadah, digest it in the form of matzah and wine. As we passover the centuries, memory — those faded visages of past that generally constitute our only answer to the tyranny of time — becomes experience, and history is made current and real.

Passover is an eight-day festival, with two opening and two closing days of heightened observance and commemoration (Yom Tov). While the theme of redemption runs as a current

through the entire festival, the first days of Passover focus primarily on our first redemption — our liberation from Egypt thirty-three centuries ago—while the closing days highlight the final redemption — the future era of divine goodness and perfection heralded by Moshiach.

On the first two nights of Passover we conduct the Seder, reliving our redemption from Egypt in the telling of the Haggadah, the eating of the matzah and the bitter herbs, and the drinking of the four cups of wine. On the seventh day of Passover, we read the "Song at the Sea," which contains an important allusion to the Messianic era; on the eighth day, the haftarah (reading from the Prophets) is from Isaiah 10:32-12:6--one of the primary prophecies on the future Redemption. Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Chassidic movement, instituted the custom of partaking of "Moshiach's Feast"--a mirror seder of sorts that includes matzah and four cups of wine—on the afternoon of the eighth day of Passover.

Thus on the latter days of Passover, our transcendence of time enters a new, heightened phase: it is one thing to vitalize memory to the point of actual re-experience, but quite another to make real an event that lies in the future, especially an event that has no parallel in the history of man. Yet in the closing hours of Passover, we enter into the world of Moshiach. Having vaulted over millennia of past on the seder nights, we now

surmount the blank wall of future, to taste the matzah and wine of the ultimate redemption.

What Is the Moshiach's Meal? Following a tradition instituted by the Baal Shem Tov, Jews all over the world celebrate the waning hours of Passover with Moshiach's Meal (Moshiach's Seudah in Yiddish), a feast celebrating the Divine revelation yet to come.

By Rabbi Yanki Tauber

Moshiach's Meal: What, Why and How

Why Do We Celebrate This Meal?

On the last day of Passover, we read verses from the book of Isaiah as the haftarah. 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 understanding, a spirit of counsel and heroism, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the L-rd."

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

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No One Alone,
No One Forgotten.

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 Lubavitcher 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 Minchah (the afternoon service) 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 inspiration.

How Is the Moshiach's Meal Celebrated?

In 1906 Rabbi Shalom Dov Ber of Lubavitch 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 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.

Splitting the Sea Along the path to Torah is the splitting of the sea.

What is the sea? It is the thick blanket of materialism that smothers the fire of your divine soul.

A miracle comes, splits the sea, and the truth is revealed beneath your feet. Now you can receive Torah.

But don't imagine you can keep your belief in a materialist world and append to it a Torah consciousness.

An entire sea of delusion must part and the world must be seen for what it truly is:

A divine place ever awaiting miracles.

Acharon Shel Pesach 5734. Sefer Hasichot 5751 vol. 2, pg. 857.

Sunday, April 17, 2022 --- 16 Nissan, 5782

Sodom Overturned (1714 BCE)

The wicked cities of the Sodom valley, including Sodom, Gemorrah, Admah and Zevoim, were overturned 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.

Monday, April 18, 2022 --- 17 Nissan, 5782

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](#).

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). Note that according to many this took place on Nisan 16, yesterday.

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 --- 18 Nissan, 5782

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 Nikolaiyev until 1909, when he was appointed to serve as the Rabbi of Yekaterinoslav (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.

Lubavitcher Rebbe's Brit (1902)

On the eighth day following his birth on the 11th of Nissan, [the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn](#) 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. Rabbi Soloveichik, known to many as "The Rav," was the *Rosh Yeshivah* (dean) of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University in New York City. He was a great thinker who authored many volumes on Jewish thought and law, and a great Talmudic scholar and educator.

His regular classes were attended by hundreds, and many thousands still enjoy their recordings. He inspired many students to delve into the study of the Talmud and Jewish law.