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Shabbat Hol-Hamoed Pesach,

שבת חול המועד פסח

Sat. 14 - 15 Apr. 2017 - 19th of Nisan, 5777 -

יש ניסן תשע"ז

Issue Number 789

Baal Koreh - Shabbat Chol Hmoed	Mr Malachi Oved	(Page-504).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Jacob Oved	(Page - 892) - (Page -1224).
Baal Koreh - 7 th Day Pesach	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page-366).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr David Gigi	(Page - 892) - (Page - 1225).
Baal Koreh - 8 th Day Pesach	Mr Jonathan Eida	(Page-1018).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Adel Darwish	(Page - 892) - (Page - 1226).

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	18:30
Shabbat Candles.	19:40
Arbit Motzei Shabbat followed by Havdalah.	20:52

SEE PESACH TIMETABLE

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	18:30
Shabbat Candles. P. Shemini.	19:52

Tzav (Leviticus 6-8)

Tzav 5777

GOOD MORNING! What if there was a total eclipse of the moon Monday at 3 a.m., but Wednesday at 10 a.m. was more convenient for you to view it? You'd miss the experience! Timing is everything. Well, the Jewish people has an appointment with the Almighty Monday evening April 10th to celebrate the first *Seder*. It is a special time infused with spiritual opportunity. Having your *Seder* on the weekend because it's more convenient is like showing up for a job interview or to vote on the wrong day...

Now is the time to buy your wine and *matzos* -- and to prepare the insights you wish to share at

the *Seder*! Robert Heinlein once said, "A generation which ignores history has no past and no future." Learn, share and help create a future!

Q & A: WHAT IS PESACH (PASSOVER) AND HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

There are five *mitzvot* (commandments) for the Passover *Seder*, two from the Torah and three from our Sages. The two *mitzvot* from the Torah are to eat *matza* ("In the evening you shall eat unleavened bread" -- Exodus 12:18) and to tell the story of our exodus from Egypt ("And you shall relate to your child [the story of the Exodus] on this day" -- Exodus 13:9). The rabbis added the *mitzvot* of drinking the four cups of wine,

eating *marror* (bitter herbs) and reciting *Hallel* (Psalms of praise for the Almighty). During the times of the Temple in Jerusalem, there were 16 additional *mitzvot* associated with the Pesach offering.

All of these commandments are to help us re-experience the Exodus and to feel and strengthen our sense of freedom. The *mitzvot* are to experience either the affliction or the redemption.

The *matza* is called "*lechem ani*" -- the bread of the poor man ... and "*lechem oni*" -- the bread of affliction. It has the dual symbolism of representing our affliction (we ate it while slaves) and our redemption (we hastily made *matza* to eat when we left Egypt).

The four cups of wine represent the four different terms for our redemption in the Torah (Exodus 6:6-7). Wine is the drink of free men! Bitter herbs is affliction (just look at the faces of those eating horseradish!) And *Hallel* is our thanks to the Almighty for our redemption and freedom.

Passover is the "Holiday of Freedom" -- spiritual freedom. The Almighty brought us out of Egypt to serve Him and to be free. Isn't this a contradiction? What is the essence of freedom?

Is freedom the ability to do what one desires unhampered and without consequence? That is license, not freedom. James Bond had a "license to

kill," not the freedom to kill. Freedom means having the ability to use your free will to grow and to develop.

Our leaving Egypt led us to Mt. Sinai and the acceptance upon ourselves the yoke of Torah. This is the centerpiece of our freedom. It sets the boundaries of right and wrong, it sets forth the means to perfect ourselves and the world we live in, it defines ultimate meaning and satisfaction in life. Only with boundaries does one have the ability to grow and develop. Otherwise, with unlimited license, life is out of control.

People think they are free when they throw off the yoke of the Torah. However, unless one has the revealed wisdom of the Torah, he is at risk at becoming a "slave" to the fads and fashion of his society. Slavery is non-thinking action, rote behavior, following the impulse desires of the body. Our job on Pesach is to come out of slavery into true freedom and to develop a closer relationship with the Almighty!

During all eight days of Pesach we are forbidden to own or eat *chometz* (leavened bread -- i.e., virtually any flour product not especially produced for Pesach) or have it in our possession (Exodus 13:7). Why the emphasis on being *chometz*-free? *Chometz* represents arrogance ("puffing up"). The only thing that stands between you and God ... is you. To come close to the Almighty, which

is the ultimate pleasure in life and the opportunity of every *mitzvah* and holiday, one must remove his own personal barriers. The external act brings the internal appreciation -- we remove chometz from our homes and likewise work on the character trait of humility.

To understand more about Passover and to have fascinating ideas to share at the Seder, go to: Aish.com/Pesach . Check out: "All in the Seder"; "It Ain't Over 'til it's Passover"; "The ABC's of Passover"; "Google Exodus"; "Passover Rhapsody" and ... "The Passover Primer"(a collection of essential articles).

THE TWO ANNUAL PESACH JOKES

1) A Jewish man was waiting in line to be knighted by the Queen of England. He was supposed to kneel and recite a sentence in Latin. Comes his turn, he kneels, the Queen taps him on the shoulders with the sword ... and in the panic of excitement he forgets the Latin line. Thinking quickly, he recites the only other line he knows in a foreign language which he remembers from the Passover *Seder*: "*Mah nishtana ha-lailah ha-zeh mikol ha-leilot.*" The puzzled Queen turns to her adviser and asks, "Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

2) The supply of *ch'rain* (horseradish used by many for bitter herbs at the Pesach *Seder*) being off-loaded at the

Madrid airport was stopped by a freight handlers' strike. It seems that the *ch'rain* in Spain stayed mainly on the plane...



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Tzav, Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

This week's Torah portion includes the laws of: the Burnt Offering, Meal Offering, High Priest's Offering, Sin Offerings, Guilt Offerings and Peace Offerings. It concludes with the portions of the Peace Offerings which are allotted to the Priests and the installation ceremony of the Priest for serving in the Sanctuary.

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Dvar Torah

based on Growth Through Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states regarding the offering of a specific sacrifice:

"If for thanksgiving he offers it, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil, and fine flour soaked and made into cakes mingled with oil" (Leviticus 7:12).

What possible lesson can we learn from the bread brought with the sacrifice?

When a person's life is in danger and he is saved, it is incumbent upon him to bring a *korbon todah*, a thanksgiving offering. Together with

the offering he also brought forty loaves of bread in four different forms. One of each kind was given to the *Kohen*. The remaining thirty-six were his to eat -- however, there was a time limit. He had the remainder of the day and the following night to consume them.

The Sforno, the great 16th century Italian commentator, comments that the purpose of this extremely short time period was to ensure that he would share the bread

with others. This would ultimately publicize the fortunate event. The lesson for us: Publicize your joy and gratitude to the multitudes for the Almighty's kindnesses, but seek one sympathetic and understanding listener for the problems. Share joy with others and your life will be more joyous.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Seuda Shelishit: Presented by the Rahimian Family in memory of the late **Yousef** ben Israel and Senora ז"ל.

Birkat Hailanot: can be recite in the month Nissan, in front of the Synagouge.

Dear all: If anyone wants an alliyah please approach our gubbay Adel, David or Ghassan before Shahrit not later then 9:15.

A message to those saying Kaddish: please gather behind the TEBBA and recite the Kaddish together. As it will be a good help to the new Kaddish readers.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

02 Nissan Mr Norman Ezekiel	12 Nissan Mrs Berta Lawy
03 Nissan Mr Solly Yona	13 Nissan Mrs Suzette Lagnado
04 Nissan Mr Benjamin Sadka	14 Nissan Mr Joseph Laniado
07 Nissan Mr Abraham Cohen	15 Nissan Mr Richard Reuban Hannuna
07 Nissan Mr Dhia Cohen	20 Nissan Mr Simon Jacob
07 Nissan Mr Farid Cohen	22 Nissan Mr Meir David Lanyado
07 Nissan Mr Nabeel Cohen	25 Nissan Mr Robbie Rahimian
09 Nissan Mr Reuben Ezekiel	28 Nissan Mr Moses Jacob
09 Nissan Mrs Marcelle Benjamin	29 Nissan Mr Benny Benaiah
10 Nissan Mrs Judith Silas	25 Nissan Mrs Homa Sarah Rahimian
10 Nissan Mrs Esther Silas	

“ Quote of the Week ”

**Freedom consists not in doing what we like,
but in having the right to do what we ought**