

MOSES' SECOND ADDRESS

part I Deuteronomy 4:44 - 8:20
July 28, 2024

PART II Deuteronomy 9-15
Aug. 4, 2024

Part III Deuteronomy 16:1 - 26:19
Aug. 11, 2024



DT 16:1—"OBSERVE THE MONTH OF ABIB, AND KEEP **THE PASSOVER** UNTO THE LORD THY GOD: FOR IN THE MONTH OF ABIB¹ THE LORD THY GOD BROUGHT THEE FORTH OUT OF EGYPT BY NIGHT." (KJV)

"Let My People Go!"

EX 11:1---The tenth plague is sent by God upon the Egyptians. [READ EX 11:1-5a]

Passover

Today, Jews worldwide celebrate the Passover (Heb: *Pesach*) which is when the angel of death spared the first-born of Moses' people in Egypt. It's an eight-day holiday from the 15th through the 22nd day of Nisan. (In 2025 that will be April 12-20.)

- All leaven (*chametz*) is removed from the home for the week: bread is replaced with matzah, which was also called "the bread of affliction."
 - "Feast of Unleavened Bread" is another name for Passover.
- Passover is a 15-step family-oriented tradition and ritual-packed feast.
 - The first two nights begin with a ceremonial dinner called the Seder. It is always eaten in the early evening ("when the sun goes down"—EX 16:6), because that's the time of day Moses' people left their homes in Egypt.
 - This is the highlight of Passover, during which the exodus story is told. Each



¹ Until the Babylonian exile in 597 and 587 BC this first month was named "Abib"; since then it has been called "Nisan," also spelled "Nissan" ...but it's pronounced NEYE-san, and means "month of flowers."

participant in the Seder drinks four cups of wine throughout the evening, at fixed points, for the four promises of redemption associated with the exodus story

- This starts a week of re-telling of the Passover story with family and friends gathered. It includes the *Haggadah*, which is a detailed story of the exodus from Egypt, and it is used as a teaching tool for the children. The *Haggadah* always begins with a child asking, “What makes this night different from all other nights?”

Today is August 11, 2024 = **ABIB 7, 5784**
(*Abib* means “the month of the ears of grain.”)

Nisan is roughly equivalent to mid-March through mid-April on our Gregorian calendar and lasts for 30 days. This Hebrew calendar was based on lunar months and replaced the one being used in Egypt, which centered on Ra, their sun god.

Originally, the Passover was to be celebrated only in certain central locations (DT 16:5). Those locations were not specified in DT. Today it is expected to be celebrated in private home settings.

Other Annual Feasts



and gave us this
and honey.”

16:13-15---
was the Feast of
This was
celebration of the
feast which lasted

The Feast of Weeks (16:9-12) was later renamed

“Pentecost” because it was celebrated fifty (*pente*) days after the sabbath of Passover². This feast was in celebration of the wheat harvest, and was to be shared not only with family, but with servants, Levites, aliens, the fatherless, and widows.

When a worshipper offered his first fruits he was to confess that “Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,” and that “he brought us to this place, land, a land flowing with milk

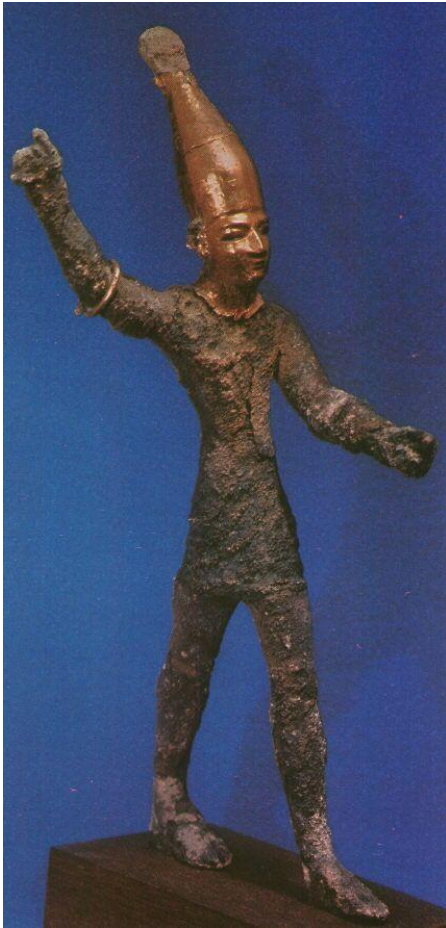


Seven days after the harvest
Booths (or Tabernacles).
probably the greatest
year. It was a thanksgiving
seven days.

16:16-17---All men must attend all three events each year. No one is to come empty handed: bring a gift worthy of the blessings that God bestowed.

² Later, Christians would adopt this word to mean the initial coming of God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

16:18-20---Judges and other tribal appointees must be honest, fair, and show no partiality.



What Is Passover?

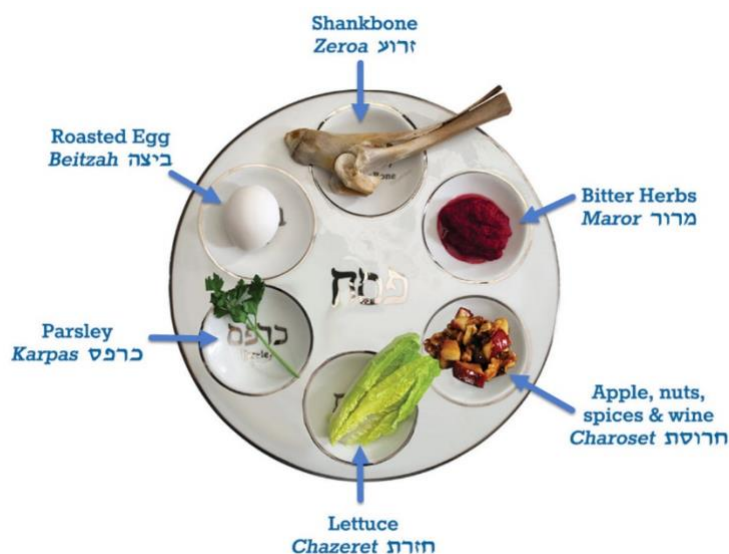
Passover is the Jewish festival in celebration of the Jews' freedom from slavery and flight from Egypt. Although traditions vary throughout the world, the basics are as follows: The holiday lasts a total of seven or eight days (depending on where it's being celebrated), and The food and wine customs of a given Seder are elaborate, and they differ between regions and families, but some factors remain constant.

- The major dietary restriction during the week of Passover is the ban of leavened bread, or *chometz*. Chometz is as bread made from (wheat, oat, spelt, rye, or barley) flour that has been in contact with water for more than 18 minutes and therefore had a chance to rise. Before Passover, the house is traditionally cleansed of chometz.

1. **Maror:** These are the bitter herbs, meant to symbolize the harshness the Jews were treated with when they were slaves in Egypt. Red horseradish is often used for this.
2. **Charoset:** This is a mixture of apples, wine, walnuts and cinnamon and is used to represent the bricks and mortar used by the Hebrews to build the pyramids.
3. **Karpas:** A vegetable, often celery, is used to represent hope and renewal. The karpas is dipped in salt water before eaten to represent the tears of the Jews when they were slaves.
4. **Zeroah:** The shank bone on the plate symbolizes the Pascal Lamb whose blood was painted on the doors of the Israelites so that God would pass over the homes during the 10th plague (slaying of the firstborn).
5. **Beitzah:** The hardboiled egg represents the circle of life.
6. **Matzo:** Three pieces of matzo are stacked on a separate plate. The middle matzo is broken and one half of it is put aside as the afikomen, which the father will hide and have the children search for in return for a prize (or the children hide it and have the father search in some homes). The other half of the broken matzo will be used to make a Hillel sandwich, which includes the maror and charoset.

The meaning of matzo

On Passover, all leavened bread is matzo, or unleavened bread during is to commemorate the fact that the "not enough time to allow for the bread affliction" was also eaten while the both suffering and redemption.





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