

Pesach — Passover

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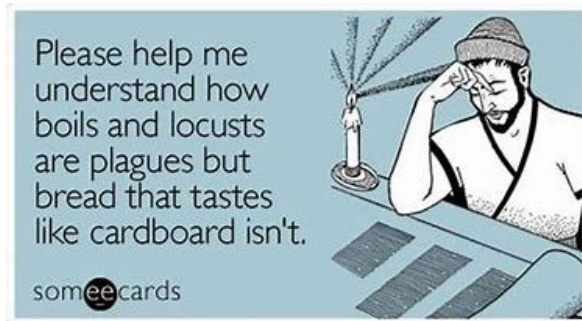
What is Pesach?

- Pesach is one of the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three pilgrimage festivals (*chagim*), in the Hebrew calendar
 - ◆ The other two are *Sukkot* and *Shavuot*
- It starts on the 15th of Nissan and lasts for eight days, or seven days for Jews in Israel, and Reform and other progressive Jews who follow the commandment strictly
- The English name of the holiday, “Passover,” which comes from God’s “passing over” the Hebrews’ house during the tenth plague — the killing of the firstborns of Egypt
- During Pesach, make sure not to own or eat any *chametz* (or anything that has the potential to become *chametz* by leavening)!



The Chametz Herald

- ❑ Make sure not to possess or eat any *chametz* during Pesach
 - ❑ **Question:** What even *is chametz* in the first place?
 - ❑ **Answer:** *Chametz* is a product that is made from one of five types of grain, has been combined with water and left to stand raw for longer than eighteen minutes, becomes leavened (rises).
 - ❑ The five grains that can become *chametz* (in no particular order)
 - ❑ **Barley**
 - ❑ **Wheat**
 - ❑ **Oats**
 - ❑ **Spelt**
 - ❑ **Rye**



A Conversation About *Chametz*

"So, rabbi, if that's *chametz*, what's matzah?"

"Matzah is a flat, unleavened bread made from flour made from one of the five grains above, mixed with water and occasionally egg or other ingredients."

"But rabbi, if it's made from one of those grains, isn't it *chametz*?"

"No! You see, it is made from grains that *can become chametz*, but it isn't permitted to leaven!"

"Thanks rabbi!"

So, What Do You Do With Your Chametz?

There are several ways to remove *chametz* from your possession:

- **ביעור חמץ — *Bi'ur chametz*** — burning/destroying *chametz*
 - ◆ The night of the 14th of Nissan, search for all *chametz* (*bedikat chametz*)
 - ◆ The day of the 14th of Nissan, burn all *chametz* found
- **ביטול חמץ — *Bittul chametz*** — nullifying *chametz*, also conducted at *bi'ur chametz*)
 - ◆ According to the *Shulchan Arukh*, all *chametz* in your possession can be nullified through a formal statement until five twelfths of the way through the 14th of Nissan
 - ◆ After this point, all *chametz* must be burned
- **מכירה חמץ — *Mekhira chametz*** — selling *chametz*
 - ◆ Sell all *chametz* in your possession to a non-Jew, who likely will sell it back to you after *Pesach*



Bedikat Chametz — “The Hunt for Chametz”



- Get a bunch of bread or crackers or other *chametz*
- Hide bits of it throughout your home (make sure you know exactly where every piece is!)
 - Extra step to make things more interesting: Write cryptic clues leading from each piece of *chametz* to another!
- Assemble your family the night before the first night of *Pesach* (the night before the Seder)
- Go on a *bedikat chametz* Scavenger Hunt!
 - For an extra traditional element of fun, turn off all the lights, use a candle to light the way, and use a feather to scoop up all the *chametz* you find
- Make sure you don't leave any *chametz* behind when you're all done!

The Five Mitzvot of the Seder

- ❑ **Biblical** commandments
 - ❑ **Maggid:** The telling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt
 - ❑ **Matzah:** Eating matza
- ❑ **Rabbinic** commandments
 - ❑ **Maror:** Eating bitter herbs
 - ❑ **Mishteh:** Drinking four cups of wine
 - ❑ **Mesubin:** Reclining

מגיד Maggid

מצה Matza

מרור Maror

משתה Mishteh

מסובין Mesubin



The CARTOON KRONICLES

History in Brief — מגיד (Maggid)



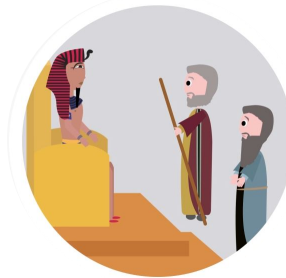
- ❑ In Bereishit, Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt, where he rises to high office as second-in-command to Pharaoh
- ❑ He single-handedly (with God's help) saves the land from famine and brings the rest of his immediate family into the land
- ❑ However, the Pharaoh slowly takes away all the Egyptians' property, including that of the Hebrews, until no one other than the upper class has anything left; they are effectively slaves, though the Hebrews have a large population
- ❑ A new Pharaoh comes along at the beginning of Shemot and feared the Hebrews, issuing a decree to the midwives, Shifra and Pua'h, to kill all the newborn Hebrew males, who would potentially lead an uprising
 - ❑ Shifra and Pu'ah object
- ❑ Yocheved saves her baby by sending him in a תיבה *teiva*, a mini "ark," and he floats right in the palace, where Batya, Pharaoh's daughter, is bathing

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History in Brief Cont. — מגיד (Maggid)

- ❑ Pharaoh's daughter names him Moses (see sidebar), and Miriam offers to have Yocheved nurse Moses
- ❑ Moses grows up in royalty, sees the land, kills an Egyptian taskmaster, flees to Midian, and marries Tzippora
- ❑ Moses encounters the burning bush, and hears God's voice; God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh and have him send the Hebrews from Egypt so they may worship their God, but Moses refuses, offering five different reasons that he was the wrong person; eventually God wins the argument
- ❑ Moses returns to Egypt and, with Aaron as his spokesman, he frees the Hebrews after the ten plagues
- ❑ The people leave Egypt at midnight in their 430th year in the land after eating the Paschal sacrifice and obtaining riches from their Egyptian neighbors

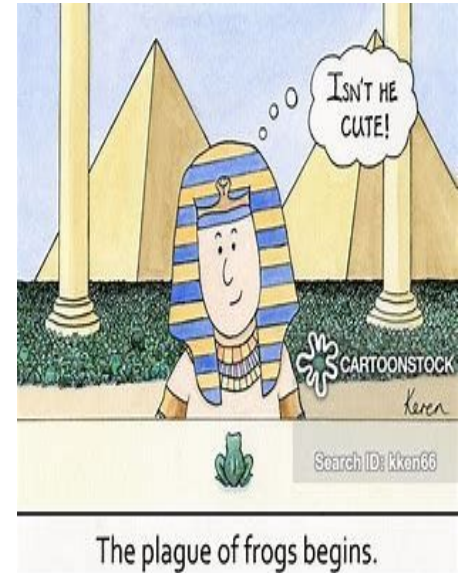


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The origin of Moses' name is hard to pin down. In the Torah, Pharaoh's daughter says "I drew him out of the water," where the Hebrew for "I drew him" is *meshitihu*, which contains the root of Moses' Hebrew name, Moshe. This also foreshadows how Moses brings the Israelites out of Egypt through the Red Sea. Other explanations say that his name comes from an Egyptian root, such as in Rameses, with the sense of *creation*. A final explanation posits that his name comes from a combination of ancient words for "seed" and "body of water," yielding "child of the Nile."

The Midrash of Frogzilla

The second of the Ten Plagues is traditionally the plague of frogs, after the Hebrew word *tzefarde'im*, meaning “frogs.” However, there is one instance in the Torah’s recounting of the plague in which the singular form of this word, *tzefardei'a*, is used. In the Midrash (Shemot Rabbah 10:4), this was interpreted to mean that originally there was just one massive frog, and the Egyptians attacked it until it split into numerous smaller frogs. In the Midrash, this situation represents the Egyptians’ inability to see past the symptom of the problem—the one massive frog—to the root of the problem: Why was it there in the first place, and what should they have done to get rid of it?





The Midrash of the Darkness

The ninth plague was that of darkness, which lasted for three days and three nights and affected only the Egyptians. A darker reading of the text and the Midrash (Shemot Rabbah 14:3) leads to a different story. It is indicated that there were Hebrews who were collaborating with the Egyptians and were compliant in the enslavement of their people — “informers.” In the Midrash, by the time the “darkness” over Egypt lifted, these informers had “vanished.”

The Midrash of the Killing of the Firstborn

Makkat HaBekhorot: The last and worst of the Ten Plagues, the killing of the firstborn sons of Egypt, is also interpreted somewhat differently in the Midrash. We read in *Tehillim* (Psalm 136): “לְמַכָּה מִצְרַיִם בְּכוֹרֵיהֶם”. This can be interpreted in two ways: God struck Egypt *in* its firstborn; or God struck Egypt *through* its firstborn. The prefix “ב-” can be interpreted either as “in” or as the instrumental “through.” This alternative interpretation leads to a new account of the tenth plague.

When the firstborn sons of Egypt heard that the last plague would mean their death, they were frightened and angry. Their parents ignored their complaints, so they joined together to petition Pharaoh and the ruling class to expel the Hebrews and spare their lives, pointing out that Pharaoh himself was a firstborn. Pharaoh, however, sent them away. So, the firstborns of Egypt decided to take matters into their own hands and strike at the root of their problem: They went out in the night and killed the ruling class of Egypt — and this is the killing of the firstborn, when God struck Egypt *through* or *using* its firstborns.



The Ten Plagues of Egypt



The Four Children

The Torah refers to four children: One wise, one wicked, one simple and one who does not know how to ask a question.

What does **the wise child** say? "What are the testimonials, statutes, and laws Hashem our God commanded you?" You should tell him about the laws of Pesach — namely, that one may eat no dessert after eating the Pesach offering.

What does **the wicked child** say? "What does this drudgery mean to you?" To you and not to him. Since he excludes himself from the community, he has denied a basic principle of Judaism. You should blunt his teeth by saying to him: "It is for the sake of this that Hashem did for me when I left Egypt. For me and not for him. If he was there he would not have been redeemed."

What does **the simple child** say? "What's this?" You should say to him "With a strong hand Hashem took me out of Egypt, from the house of servitude."

As for **the child who does not know how to ask**, you start for him, as the Torah says: "And you should tell your son on that day, saying 'It is for the sake of this that Hashem did for me when I left Egypt.'"

—The *Haggadah*

The Wise Child

חכם

Hakham

The Wicked Child

רשע

Rasha

The Simple Child

תם

Tam

The Child Who Does Not Know How to Ask

שאינו יודע לשאל

She'eino Yodei'a Lish'ol

אֶת בֵּשׁ — A Jewish Code

There is an old Jewish code called אֶת בֵּשׁ (At Bash) in which you pair the first letter with the last letter (א and ת), then the second letter with the second to last letter (ב and ש), and so on.

- ❑ The first day of Pesach, א, always falls on the same day of the week as תשעה באב (Tish'a B'Av) — in 5780 they're both from Wednesday night to Thursday night
- ❑ The second day of Pesach, ב, always falls on the same day of the week as שבועות (Shavuot)
- ❑ The third day, ג, always falls on the same day as ראש השנה (Rosh Hashana)
- ❑ The fourth day, ד, always falls on the same day as קריאת התורה (Simchat Torah)
- ❑ The fifth day, ה, always falls on the same day as צום כיפור (the Fast of Yom Kippur)
- ❑ The sixth day, ו, always falls on the same day as פורים (Purim)
- ❑ The seventh day, ז, always falls on the same day as עצמאות (Yom Ha'Atzma'ut)

א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו
ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל
מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	ק
ר	ש	ת			

Fun Facts for the Holiday



- ❑ Pesach is the oldest continuously observed Jewish festival
- ❑ Moses' name is mentioned only once in the Haggadah
- ❑ The world's largest matzah ball weighed 267 pounds
- ❑ The world's largest Seder is held annually in Nepal — more than 1,000 people usually attend
- ❑ Pesach has several names: Pesach (referring to the original “Pesach” or paschal sacrifice); Z'man Cheiruteinu (“the season of our freedom”); Chag HaMatzot (“the Festival of Matzot”); and Chag Ha'Aviv (“the Festival of Spring”)
- ❑ The word “chag” in Hebrew, meaning “festival,” comes from the same root as the Arabic word “hajj,” which is now used to refer to the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca — our chaggim were originally pilgrimages to the Temple

2020 Passover Seder - the order of the meal

Kadesh

קִדְּשׁ



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Karpas

כֶּרֶפֶס



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Yachatz

יָחַץ



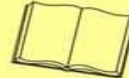
Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Magid

מַגִּיד



Rachtzah

רְחָצָה



Motzi

מוֹצִיא



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Matzah

מַצָּה



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Marror

מָרֹר



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Korech

כוֹרֵךְ



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Shulchan Orech

שֻׁלְחַן עֹרֵךְ



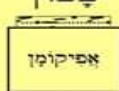
Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Tzafun

צִפּוֹן



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Barech

בָּרַךְ



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Hallel

הַלֵּל



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ



Nirtzah

נִרְצָה



Urchatz

וּרְחָץ

