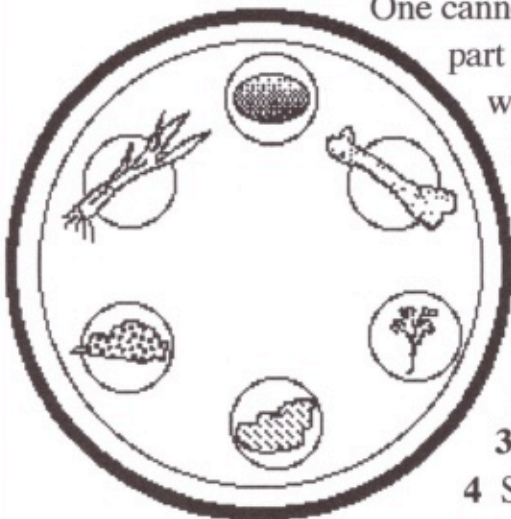


פסח

Pesach



One cannot even think of Pesach without remembering the part of the Seder when we list in order the judgments which HaShem brought against the gods of Egypt. Every one of the “plagues” were made to show that there was only one true God and that was the God of Israel! Here are the plagues in the order that God sent them:

- 1 Water of the Nile turned to blood
- 2 Land overrun by frogs
- 3 Swarms of gnats
- 4 Swarms of flies
- 5 Cattle died
- 6 Boils on the skin of the Egyptians
- 7 Deadening hail
- 8 Swarms of locusts
- 9 Thick darkness
- 10 Death of the firstborn of each Egyptian family

With each of the judgments Pharaoh had been given the opportunity to do the right thing and let the people go, but each plague saw him become more bitter than before. Given the chance to leave with no time for their bread to rise, the Israelites picked up their things and left quickly! For one week following the Pesach night we eat unleavened bread (*מצה*, *matzah*) to remind us that we were all once slaves and would still be in slavery if HaShem had not delivered us.

Every year at Pesach we dip our fingers into the wine (representing blood) and drip one drop for every plague that God performed on our behalf so that we might be free. Pesach calls us to remember the strength of our God who did mighty acts to insure our freedom. Yet in taking 10 drops from our cup of wine we are also reminded that even the death of our enemies diminishes our joy.

Thus Pesach calls us to remember that we were once slaves and that everything we presently have is a gift from God. Eating matzah reminds us that we've not always been free, so we never take our freedom for granted. Pesach reminds us that we were slaves who had no hope of a better life without the redemption or deliverance which HaShem graciously made for us.

Pesach - Exodus 12

E D S N H R D F R F B C X G Z Y Z K R G C Y F H Y
 R W P A P L O Z S T X H Z I A Y C A G B J X E H J
 A T C R B A O V A M E C Z B O J I B M G B U G O X
 Q Y W V E I R E B T F T J Y E E A A C Q P K Y U V
 M P F K D R P K B O N V J Y C G L E X M Y M T S N
 C O Z M H O O I A Z B E D E H S I M E L B N U E C
 K Q S Y E M S F T T G T G I O Y H Y V S F B O H Y
 A O B G I E T M H A I S A K Q T E K L B E V T O E
 C Q Y F V M S O X M V A O J N Z Z R K M P V V L G
 V P K T S J H P O M A H P E F J B E K M Y Y E D N
 T C N P S L U N L E A V E N E D E W N A Y X P N I
 F J K K E A T N R O B T S R I F Q O G M D E P D N
 M N P A S S O V E R R W S V X M G A V Q T H O L N
 L B H J T Z F R Y U J F T W I L I G H T Q O Q S I
 W L X A C G S Y O A S S E M B L Y A Z M L V S E G
 R H T H R E M F E E H E A G P P Y C Q B Q Q X T E
 I T L P X N D T H C J Y O B G N T Z N I C K Y Z B

BEGINNING

LAMB

HOUSEHOLD

UNBLEMISHED

FOURTEENTH

TWILIGHT

BLOOD

DOORPOSTS

ROAST

HASTE

PASSOVER

FIRSTBORN

EGYPT

MEMORIAL

UNLEAVENED

SEVEN

MATZOT

SABBATH

ASSEMBLY



Passover
(continued)

Before Passover the kitchen is scrubbed clean. Bread and other non-Passover foods are packed or thrown away, and the closets are filled with special holiday dishes, pots and foods. The springtime air is balmy-soft. A feeling of freshness and renewal indoors and outdoors is part of the holiday. The night before the eve of the holiday, some families follow the ancient custom of searching the house with a candle, a feather and a spoon or dish. They are searching for a few last crumbs of non-Passover food, called *hametz*. After a successful search the house is finally ready for the holiday.