

Passover 2018

Four Winds Church

G-d uses four expressions of redemption in describing our Exodus from Egypt and our birth as a nation:¹

1. "I will take you out..."
2. "I will save you..."
3. "I will redeem you..."
4. "I will take you as a nation..."

Our sages instituted that we should drink a cup of wine, a toast if you will, for each one of these expressions. We recite the Kiddush over the first cup, we read the Exodus story from the Haggadah over the second cup, we recite the Grace after Meals over the third cup, and we sing the "big Hallel" (Psalms and hymns of praises to G-d) over the fourth cup.

During the Seder we can experience these elements of redemption in a spiritual sense

There are a number of explanations as to the significance of the various stages of redemption conveyed through each of these expressions. Here is one:

1. Salvation from harsh labor—this began as soon as the plagues were introduced.
2. Salvation from servitude; or the day the Jews left Egypt geographically and arrived at Ramses.
3. The splitting of the sea, after which the Jews felt completely redeemed, without fear of the Egyptians recapturing them.
4. Becoming a nation at Sinai.

During the Seder we can experience these elements of redemption in a spiritual sense, by leaving our "Egypt" and our servitude to our egos.²

There is actually a fifth expression in the above mentioned verses: "And I will bring you to the land which I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as an inheritance."³

While the Exodus from Egypt and the birth of the Jewish nation were permanent, we have yet to be brought to Israel on a permanent basis.

In honor of this verse we have a fifth cup at the Seder: the Cup of Elijah. This cup is set up for Elijah during the second half of the Seder, but we do not drink it. Elijah will announce the arrival of Moshiach, who will bring all Jews to Israel, for good.

During the course of the evening you will have:

- four cups of wine.
- veggies dipped in saltwater.
- flat, dry cracker-like bread called matzah
- bitter herbs, often horseradish (without additives) and romaine lettuce, dipped into charoset (a paste of nuts, apples, pears and wine).

- a festive meal that may contain time-honored favorites, like chicken soup and gefilte fish.

Each item has its place in a 15-step choreographed combination of tastes, sounds, sensations and smells that have been with the Jewish people for millennia.

The above info was found on an orthodox Jewish website.

John 13:1 (ESV)

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Exodus 6:1–8 (The Scriptures)

And יהוה said to Mosheh, “Now see what I do to Pharaoh, for with a strong hand he is going to let them go, and with a strong hand he is going to drive them out of his land.”

² And Elohim spoke to Mosheh and said to him, “I am יהוה.”

³ “And I appeared to Abraham, to Yitshaq, and to Ya‘aqob, as Ėl Shaddai. And by My Name, יהוה, was I not known to them?

⁴ “And I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Kena‘an, the land of their sojournings, in which they have sojourned.

⁵ “And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Yisra’el whom the Mitsrites are enslaving, and I have remembered My covenant.

⁶ “Say, therefore, to the children of Yisra’el, ‘I am יהוה, and I shall bring you out from under the burdens of the Mitsrites, and shall deliver you from their enslaving, and shall redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments,

⁷ and shall take you as My people, and I shall be your Elohim. And you shall know that I am יהוה your Elohim who is bringing you out from under the burdens of the Mitsrites.

⁸ ‘And I shall bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, to Yitshaq, and to Ya‘aqob, to give it to you as an inheritance. I am יהוה.’ ”

Exodus 6:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and **I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will deliver you from slavery** to them, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ **I will take you** to be my people, and **I will be your God**, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ **I will bring you into the land** that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. **I will give it to you for a possession.** I am the Lord.’ ”

There are actually 7, “I Will” statements in this passage.

Deuteronomy 16:1–8 (The Scriptures)

“Guard the month of Abib, and perform the Passover to יהוה your Elohim, for in the month of Abib יהוה your Elohim brought you out of Mitsrayim by night.

² “And you shall slaughter the Passover to יהוה your Elohim, from the flock and the herd, **in the place where יהוה chooses to put His Name.**

³ “Eat no leavened bread with it. For seven days you eat unleavened bread with it, bread of affliction, because you came out of the land of Mitsrayim in haste—so that you remember the day in which you came out of the land of Mitsrayim, all the days of your life.

⁴ “And no leaven should be seen with you in all your border for seven days, neither should *any* of the meat which you slaughter in the evening on the first day stay all night until morning.

⁵ “You are not allowed to slaughter the Passover within any of your gates which יהוה your Elohim gives you,

⁶ but **at the place where יהוה your Elohim chooses to make His Name dwell,** there you slaughter the Passover in the evening, at the going down of the sun, at the appointed time you came out of Mitsrayim.

⁷ “And you shall roast and eat it in the place which יהוה your Elohim chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

⁸ “Six days you eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there is a closing festival to יהוה your Elohim—you do no work.

Exodus 12:21–51 (The Scriptures)

²¹ And Mosheh called for all the elders of Yisra’el and said to them, “Go out and take lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and slaughter the Passover lamb.

²² “And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin, and you, none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

²³ “And יהוה shall pass on to smite the Mitsrites, and shall see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, and יהוה shall pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to smite you.

²⁴ “And you shall guard this word as a law for you and your sons, forever.

²⁵ “And it shall be, when you come to the land which יהוה gives you, as He promised, that you shall guard this service.

²⁶ **“And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What does this service mean to you?’**

²⁷ then you shall say, 'It is the Passover slaughtering of יהוה, who passed over the houses of the children of Yisra'el in Mitsrayim when He smote the Mitsrites and delivered our households.' " And the people bowed their heads and did obeisance.

²⁸ And the children of Yisra'el went away and did so—as יהוה had commanded Mosheh and Aharon, so they did.

²⁹ And it came to be at midnight that יהוה smote all the first-born in the land of Mitsrayim, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of livestock.

³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants, and all the Mitsrites. And there was a great cry in Mitsrayim, for there was not a house where there was not a dead one.

³¹ Then he called for Mosheh and Aharon by night, and said, "Arise, go out from the midst of my people, both you and the children of Yisra'el. And go, serve יהוה as you have said.

³² "Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go. Then you shall bless me too."

³³ And the Mitsrites urged the people, to hasten to send them away out of the land. For they said, "We are all dying!"

³⁴ And the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their garments on their shoulders.

³⁵ And the children of Yisra'el had done according to the word of Mosheh, and they had asked from the Mitsrites objects of silver, and objects of gold, and garments.

³⁶ And יהוה gave the people favour in the eyes of the Mitsrites, so that they gave them what they asked, and they plundered the Mitsrites.

³⁷ And the children of Yisra'el set out from Ra'meses to Sukkoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides the little ones.

³⁸ And a mixed multitude went up with them too, also flocks and herds, very much livestock.

³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Mitsrayim, for it was not leavened, since they were driven out of Mitsrayim, and had not been able to delay, nor had they prepared food for themselves.

⁴⁰ And the sojourn of the children of Yisra'el who lived in Mitsrayim was four hundred and thirty years.

⁴¹ And it came to be at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, on that same day it came to be that all the divisions of יהוה went out from the land of Mitsrayim.

⁴² It is a night to be observed unto יהוה for bringing them out of the land of Mitsrayim. This night is unto יהוה, to be observed by all the children of Yisra'el throughout their generations.

⁴³ And יהוה said to Mosheh and Aharon, "This is the law of the Passover: No son of a stranger is to eat of it,

⁴⁴ but any servant a man has bought for silver, when you have circumcised him, then let him eat of it.

⁴⁵ "A sojourner and a hired servant does not eat of it.

⁴⁶ “It is eaten in one house, you are not to take any of the flesh outside the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.

⁴⁷ “All the congregation of Yisra’el are to perform it.

⁴⁸ “And when a stranger sojourns with you and shall perform the Passover to יהוה, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and perform it, and he shall be as a native of the land. But let no uncircumcised eat of it.

⁴⁹ **“There is one Torah for the native-born and for the stranger who sojourns among you.”**

⁵⁰ And all the children of Yisra’el did as יהוה commanded Mosheh and Aharon, so they did.

⁵¹ And it came to be on that same day that יהוה brought the children of Yisra’el out of the land of Mitsrayim according to their divisions.

Personal Application

Eating the bitter herbs remembering our own personal bondage to sin.

Eating the Herbs dipped in salt water remembering our tears longing for deliverance.

Eating the Matzah remembering the sacrifice of our Messiah Yeshua.

Eating the Charoset, remembering the sweetness of our deliverance.

Drinking the juice remembering the the shed blood whereby YHVH passed over our sins.

#1. What does this Passover mean to you today?

#2. Has YHVH brought you out of an “Egypt” ?

#3. What has been your experience in keeping the feasts to YHVH?

#4. What would you want your children or the next generation to learn from this experience of keeping the feasts of YHVH?

Next Year In Jerusalem!