



Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY LEYENING

PESACH

ISSUE 25/26

4th April 2015 – 12th April 2015

15th Nissan 5775 - 22nd Nissan

First Day Yom Tov: Shemot, Chapter 12, Verses 21 - 51

- ✚ The reading relates to the events that precede Yetziat Mitzraim (the Exodus from Egypt) and continuing with the final plague of the firstborn and the Exodus itself.
- ✚ The Portion concludes with the various laws involved in eating the Passover Lamb.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, Verses 16 - 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Haftorah: Yehoshua (Joshua) Chapter 5, Verse 2 - Chapter 6, verse 1 & Chapter 7, verse 1

- ✚ The Haftorah recounts the festival of Pesach that B'nei Yisrael celebrated before Yehoshua led them into battle in order to conquer the land of Israel, echoing the Torah portion which describes the preparations and the sacrifice done in Mitzraim under Moshe's leadership.

Second Day Yom Tov: Vayikra, Chapter 22, Verse 26 - Chapter 23, Verse 44

- ✚ This section enumerates a number of laws pertaining to Korbonos (Sacrifices)
- ✚ It also warns us, not to profane Hashem's name because he took us out of Mitzraim.
- ✚ A brief synopsis of what Shabbat, Pesach, Shavuot, Yom Kippur and Succot is mentioned too.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, verses 16 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Haftorah: Melahim II (2nd book of Kings) Chapter 23, verses 1 - 9 & 21 – 25

- ✚ King Yosheyahu commands all B'nai Yisrael to keep the festival of Pesach
- ✚ This would be the first Pesach celebrated since the reign of the Judges.

Third Day Chol Hamoed: Shemot, Chapter 13, Verses 19 - 25

- ✚ The Laws pertaining to firstborn humans and animals are discussed here.
- ✚ The Mitzvah to remember Yetziat Mitzraim is given here. The Torah tells us that one way of doing it is by educating the children. Another way is to maintain a bond with Hashem by wearing Tefillin.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, verses 16 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Fourth Day Chol Hamoed: Shemot, Chapter 22, Verse 24 - Chapter 23, verse 19

- ✚ Laws ranging from giving Charity to the actions of Judges are discussed.
- ✚ The reading concludes with the commandment to travel into Jerusalem three times a year (Pesach, Shavuot and Succot) and bring korbans to celebrate these festivals.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 22, verses 19 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Fifth Day Chol Hamoed: Shemot, Chapter 34, Verses 1 - 26

- ✚ A new covenant was made with Hashem after B'nei Yisrael sinned by worshipping the Heter Eigel (golden calf.)

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, verses 19 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Sixth Day Chol Hamoed: Bamidbar Chapter 9, Verses 1 - 14

- ✚ The Laws Pertaining to Pesach Sheni are read.
- ✚ Those people who were unable to bring their Korban Pesach at its proper time either because they were tamei (impure) or too far away' were allowed to bring one a month later on the 15th Iyar.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, verses 19 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Seventh Day Yom Tov: Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs)

- ✚ Shir HaShirim is a poetic love song composed by Shlomo Hamelech (King Solomon)
- ✚ It describes allegorically the love of B'nai Yisrael for Hashem.
- ✚ This is an appropriate song to sing as it this day that Hashem freed us from Slavery.

Shemot, Chapter 13, Verse 17 - Chapter 15, Verse 26

- ✚ We read about the Exodus from Mitzraim and the miracle of the splitting of the sea.
- ✚ The Torah then continues with the Shira (song of praise) B'nei Yisrael sang after crossing the sea safely
- ✚ The Portion concludes with how Hashem showed Moshe to miraculously turn the bitter waters of Marah into sweet drinking water enabling the people to quench their thirst.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, verses 19 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Haftorah: Shmuel II (2nd book of Samuel) Chapter 22, Verses 1 - 51

- ✚ The Haftorah connects to the theme of thanksgiving in the Torah reading.
- ✚ David Hamelech (King David) composes his own song of thanksgiving to Hashem for all of his victories and deliverances from the enemy.

Eighth Day Yom Tov: Shemot, Chapter 14, Verse 22 -Chapter 16, Verse 17

- ✚ We are taught the importance of giving charity and helping one another.
- ✚ The reading concludes by summarizing the three festivals.

Maftir: Bamidbar, Chapter 28, verses 16 – 25

- ✚ The Maftir describes the Korbonos (Sacrifices) bought into the Sanctuary over the Pesach period.

Haftorah: Yosheyahu (Isaiah) Chapter 10, verse 32 - Chapter 12, Verse 6

- ✚ The famous prophecy of “The wolf dwelling with lamb” and the “leopard lying down with the kid” depicting a future co-existence that will occur when we are once again redeemed from exile.

PESACH DISCUSSION: Lessons we can take away from the Passover story

I remember as a small child sitting through the Seder service each year with little sense of why I was there or what we were doing. I knew the Exodus story, but the actual celebration of Passover meant little to me. In effect I was celebrating more out of a sense of obligation than anything else.

As I grew up I began learning a bit more about the holiday and its symbolism, but I remember still being more concerned with the fact that I couldn't eat bread for a week than I was about my ancestors being freed from slavery by a G-d with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Pesach still felt devoid of anything meaningful or spiritual but full of a sense of being stuck in a Mitzraim, where I was enslaved by the rules and laws that went with the Pesach Festival.

It was not until my father allowed me to host our own family Seders, I began to understand and appreciate what our ancestors had to go through in those distressing and hard times in our history.

Today, the term Mitzraim provides a new meaning to my Pesach observances especially the Seder services. It makes me think of my own personal and sometimes difficult situations and experiences I've found myself in and how with Hashem's help discovered not only how to overcome them in the physical sense but gave me a chance to connect with who I really am spiritually as well.

It's easy enough to find your own kind of 'Mitzraim' that exists in our lives right now or have in the past 12 months. No matter what it is, we are able to place them on our own personal Mizbayah (altar) which is our Seder table for all to see, hear and relive our own Passover experience; because after all we were there and it's our own story we are recounting. The feeling and struggle of being slaves and the elation and the joy of freedom felt as all the shackles became loose. We may be just reading the same Haggadah year in, year out but if we incorporated our own lives from the present we can surely live as if we were, indeed, there in the real Mitzraim with those we read about in the Torah.

The main lesson I take from Pesach is always believe in Hashem have faith that he will, help us all, come out of the tight places we may find ourselves in. All we need is to trust Ha Kodesh Baruch Hu, like Nachson, who entered the waters of the Reed Sea even when Moses could not part the waters with his words or his staff. Nachson just walked into the water until it was up to his nose and he couldn't take another breath without drowning before the waters parted. His faith caused the miracle to occur. And our faith can do the same today.

The observance of Pesach and all of its ritual's gives me a new sense of spirituality, I've never encountered before. for me at least, my renewed Passover observances has transformed all the pre-cleaning, the food restrictions, the Seder all the elements of this beautiful festival; from an empty observance to both meaningful and spirit full ones.

We should all embrace this opportunity and moment with both hands, to make our moment of freedom count. Otherwise will just find ourselves falling once again into the trap, feeling ourselves once again squeezed, in a tight place, between a rock and a hard place and ending up back in Mitzraim. Heaven Forbid!

Chag Pesach Kasher V'Sameach



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