

Passover 2021

When Passover Begins on Saturday night:

I. The Fast of the Firstborn Thursday March 25th

A person may not begin Shabbat in a state of fasting, therefore fasts are not permitted on Fridays. However, all firstborns are required to fast on Erev Pesach (commemorating the Plague of the First Born from which they were saved), which this year is a Friday. Therefore, when Pesach begins on Saturday night, Ta'anit Bechorim is observed on the preceding **Thursday**.

II. The Siyum ~The Celebration of Torah Study Completion

A "Siyum" is held on the Fast of the Firstborn to exempt those who are fasting from having to do so. This year the Siyum is held on Temple Menorah's **ZOOM** site **Thursday morning March 25th immediately following morning Shacharit minyan (8:30 am)**.

III. Bedikat Chametz ~ The Search for Chametz

One is not allowed to own or have chametz in their possession on Passover. Therefore, one goes through the rigorous ritual of cleaning and then destroying all chametz before Passover. Both Bedikat Chametz and Bi'ur Chametz cannot take place on Shabbat. We therefore search for chametz on **Thursday night March 25th and burn it on Friday March 26th**.

Before the Search Recite this Blessing:

**Bo-ruch A-toh A-do-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom
A-sheer Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Al Bee-ur Cho-metz.**

Blessed art Thou L-rd

IV. Kol Chamira ~ Nullification of Leaven Food Ownership

Since it is against Jewish Laws to own or have chametz in one's possession, we recite a legal formula disowning any chametz that might have escaped our scrutiny. Although this is done on Friday morning, many of us will continue to eat chametz up to the last moments allowed on Saturday morning. Therefore, when we recite Kol Chamira on **Friday morning**, we must keep in mind that we are **not including chametz that we will eat on Shabbat morning**. **Last opportunity to nullify chametz is 12:24 pm.**

After the search, we recite Kol Chamirah

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments, and has commanded us concerning the removal of *chametz*.

Then Recite:

כָּל חַמִּירָא וְחַמִּיעָא דְאִכָּא בְּרִשׁוּתֵי דְחֻזְתָּהּ וְדָלָא חֻזְתָּהּ דְחַמְתָּהּ וְדָלָא חַמְתָּהּ
דְּבַעְרָתָהּ וְדָלָא בְּעַרְתָּהּ לְבָטֵל וְלֵהוּי הֶפְקֵר כְּעַפְרָא דְאַרְעָא

Kol Chamirah V'Chami-ah dee-ika Vir-shooti D-la Chazee-tee
Ood-low Vee-artay ood-low Ya-da-na lay Lee-ba-tale
V'leh-heh-vay Hefkar Ke-afra D'ar-ah

(If you don't understand Aramaic, the declaration should be said in your familiar language):

"All types of leaven in my domain which I did not see or did not remove, or have no knowledge of same, shall be null and void as the dust of the earth."

Note:

This is NOT a prayer, but a *legal declaration* for you to disown any Chametz overlooked.

V. HaMotzi Friday evening and Shabbat Morning

For 24 hours prior to the Seder, it is **forbidden to eat matzah** or any foods made with matzah byproducts (matzah meal, matzah balls, etc.). Some do not eat matzah starting from Rosh Chodesh Nisan, two weeks earlier. This is to ensure the uniqueness of matzah when we do eat it at the seder. This means we cannot use matzah for HaMotzi on Shabbat. There are two possibilities:

- a. Purchase a **small quantity** of pita bread or challah rolls (that doesn't create a lot of crumbs) in the exact amount needed for each meal and set it aside for Hamotzi. Carefully wash and make Hamotzi in a place where it will be easy to clean up: (balconies, outdoor porches, picnic areas etc). It is imperative that we used as much disposable items as possible (tablecloths, cutlery, etc). After HaMotzi is made and the bread eaten, the tablecloth and utensils are wrapped up and thrown away and the table is set with a fresh cloth. **it is forbidden to eat chametz after 11:22**
- b. The second option is to use **Egg Matzah** for Hamotzi. Egg Matzah is not chametz, however it is **FORBIDDEN to be eaten on Pasach for healthy people**. It is only permissible for the very elderly or young who would otherwise have problems eating regular matzah. Under these circumstances we wash for Hamotzi and eat the egg

matzah as one would on any day. Since even Saturday morning is still not Passover, there is no restrictions on eating Egg Matzah.

VI. Disposing of left Over Chametz on Shabbat morning

There are few options:

- a. Leftover chametz may be **fed to animals** if it will be eaten right away.
- b. It may be given to a non-Jew, as long as they remove the chametz from your house before the time period ends.
- c. It can be flushed or removed to garbage beyond your personal property.
- d. Since it is shabbat, burning the chometz is not an option.

VII. Seudat Shlishi ~ The Third Meal of Shabbat

To honor shabbat we **eat three meals**, Friday night, Shabbat noon, and late afternoon.

We are not allowed to eat meals Erev Pasach, so we fulfill the mitzvah of eating mitzvah foods with enthusiasm. Therefore, many observe the tradition not to wash and make Ha-Motzi for Se'udah Shelishit instead they eat fruit **and light snacks** in the middle of the afternoon (obviously without chametz).