
A VERY DIFFERENT NIGHT... AGAIN

COVID PASSOVER 2021

PRE-PASSOVER LECTURE

Cantor Jeremy Burko

MARCH 24, 2021 | 7:30PM

1. Pre-holiday Prep

2. Zooming In

3. Tips & Tricks

4. Ask the Cantor



PRE HOLIDAY PREP

FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

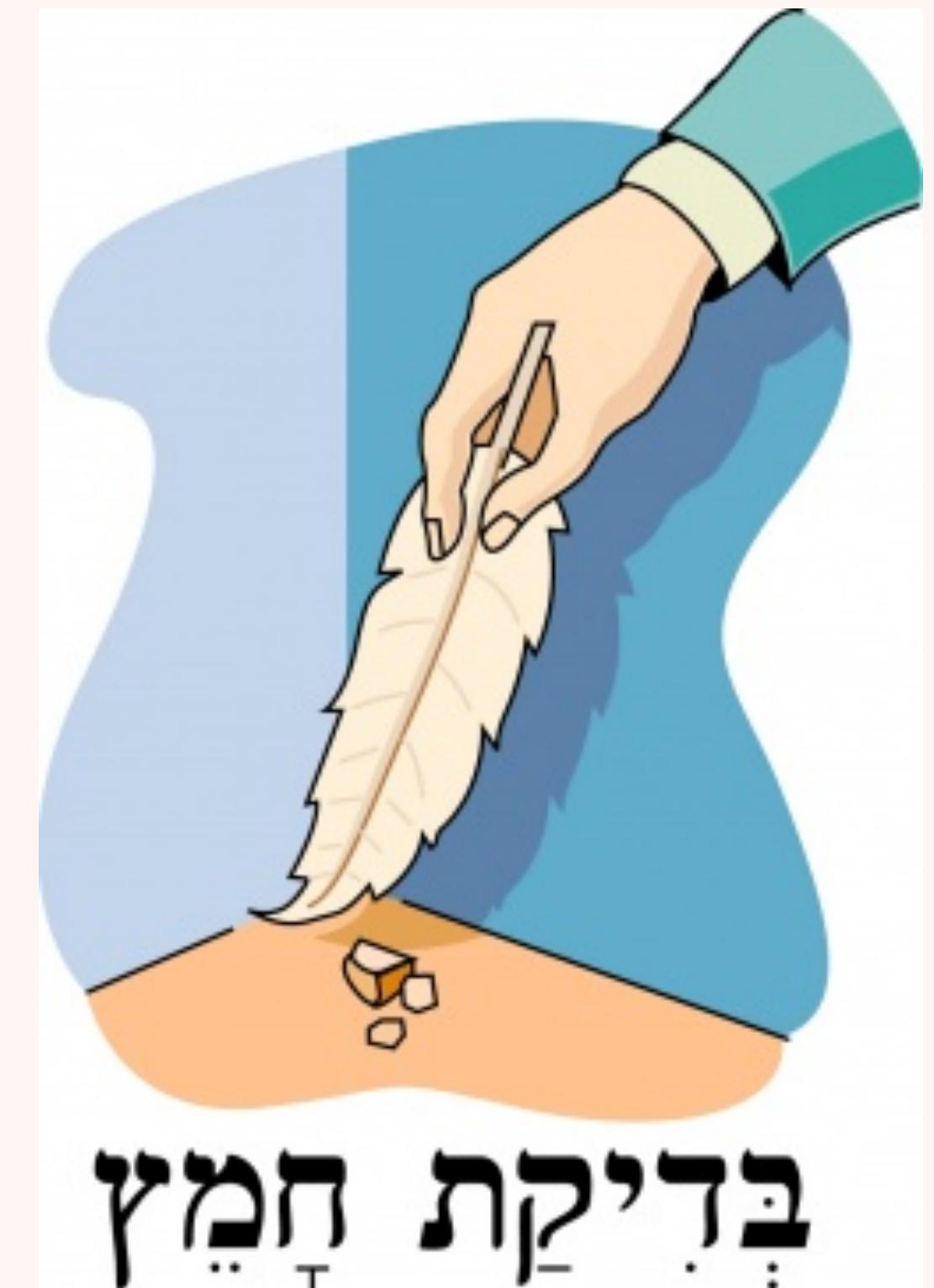
- **It's TOMORROW! (Thursday)**
- **Siyyum: your get-out-of-jail-free mini party**
Join me for 15 minutes on Zoom tomorrow morning at 9am for this quick ritual
- **BYOC (bring your own coffee)**

Find the link at www.bethradom.com/resources

BEDIKAT CHAMETZ

The Search for Leavened

- When to do it? **THURSDAY NIGHT** (after sundown)
- Plant a few crumbs to find beforehand...
- ...but you're really searching for what you may have forgotten about!
- It's fun to get kids involved
- A guide sheet for Bedikat Chametz from the Rabbinical Assembly is available on the shul website www.bethradom.com/resources



BI'UR CHAMETZ

Burning of the Leavened



- **When? Friday morning**
- **Where? Not at shul this year, but there are easy ways to do this at home by either flushing it, crumbling and scattering to the wind, or disposing it in a PUBLIC waste receptacle (not in your own garbage bin)**
- **Some customs include a bracha for this ritual. This year, DO NOT recite it!**
- **The more universal custom of reciting a short formula after bi'ur chametz (called *bitul chametz*) is at the bottom the resource sheet, but do not recite it until SHABBAT MORNING. If you Zoom in with us for Shabbat Services, we'll do it together.**

All chametz in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

BEFORE/ON SHABBAT

- Light a candle before that will last at least for a couple of days (if you have an oven with a pilot light, this is also useable). No blessing is required for this.
- Technically, you CAN still eat bread after completing bi'ur chametz on Friday morning up until midday on Shabbat, but if you're all out by that time, egg matzah is ok to eat.
- Egg matzah should be used in place of challah for Shabbat
- After 1:30pm on Shabbat, all chametz is now prohibited to consume or to have in the home. Avoid also eating any matzah, including egg matzah, until the bracha has been made at your first passover seder
- Candle lighting for Havdalah and for Yontif must be lit from an existing flame



ZOOMING INTO SEDERS

SHA'AT DACHAK

- “Sha’at Dachak” Emergency Measures: In times of crisis and/or great need, some unconventional and VERY careful rule bending can be invoked
 - Critical principles
 - 1. Our systems must be set up in such a way that we don’t have to touch it on Shabbat or Yontif
 - 2. If there’s a problem, we aren’t allowed to fix it
 - 3. A non-Jewish person will likely be handy to have on standby, but we should avoid asking for their assistance DIRECTLY once Shabbat/Yontif has begun
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SETTING UP ZOOM

- **The person setting up the zoom room for your seder will need a PAID Zoom account, otherwise your zoom room will shut down after 45 minutes**
 - **Sign into the waiting room before Shabbat/Yontif**
 - **Make use of multiple computers/devices for 1st and 2nd seders**
 - **Ask a non-Jewish person to host or co-host your seder on zoom, and who can be responsible for letting people in from the waiting room when the seder begins, and end the session at the end of the seder**
 - **Be sure your devices are plugged into a power supply and that the automatic screen savers and sleep modes are disabled**
 - **Place your devices where you want them before Shabbat/Yontif begins and avoid touching them until the end of yontif**
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SEDER TIPS AND TRICKS

TIP 1: NON-JEW AT THE SEDER IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY!

- **Setting up and ending the zoom room**
 - **spotlighting**
 - **Screen sharing for pictures and videos**
 - **Bring in unique perspectives that are relevant to the central theme of the seder -
FREEDOM: black slavery, asian discrimination in the west, immigrant experiences,
cultural erasure of the Canadian indigenous peoples (among others), islamophobia**
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TIP 2: EMBRACE DIFFERENT HAGGADAHS

Offer the best of YOUR haggadah:

Inclusivity

Family participation

Insightful commentary

Artistic pictures

Unique perspective

Zionism

Creativity

Historical facts

Family history

OR CREATE YOUR OWN!

opensiddur.org

TIP 3: LEAN IN TO DIGITAL MEDIA

- **YouTube is your FRIEND!**
 - A simple search of the words “seder”, “passover”, or “pesach” can yield some exciting results with music videos, funny clips, commentaries and more. Videos can be screenshared as long as you have the “share computer sound” and “optimize screen share for video” boxes selected. Have each of the videos open ahead of time in your browser, ready to go when the time is right.
 - (PRO TIP: YouTube Premium has a 1-month free trial which you can sign up and then get rid of, if you want to, and during that time, you won’t have to sit through those annoying commercials that pop up in the middle of watching your video!)
- Screenshare family photos from the past year, or prepare some staged photos to reveal at a fun spot in your seder. Have them ready in a digital photo album in the right order.
- Use illustrations with screensharing. There are lots of “action items” in the haggadah such as “point to the marror”, or “lift the matzah”. The idea in the seder is to guide people’s attention and teach about these items. It can also work well by screensharing an illustration of marror or matzah. Great illustrations are easy to find on Google image search. Again, be ready ahead of time, and have them in a pre-planned order. The key to the seder is ORDER.

TIP 4: SPOTLIGHTING

- **Multi-Spotlighting feature in Zoom: It's fairly new and super useful**
 - **For a smooth seder, add a spotlight on the next person about to speak while the current speaker is already on. Not only does it look better, it helps the next person remember that their turn is coming soon (don't forget to unspotlight too!)**
 - **Use multi-spotlighting so that you can highlight interactions between speakers. Example: Have different readers for each of the “Four Sons” and spotlight them all on the screen. In addition to your haggadah text, they can communicate with each other in character!**
 - **Don't forget you can also control WHERE each spotlighted person is on the screen by clicking and dragging. This also helps with knowing who comes next in the order of speakers.**
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Q&A
