

REFLECTIONS ON THE MEANING OF PASSOVER

Doug Leblang

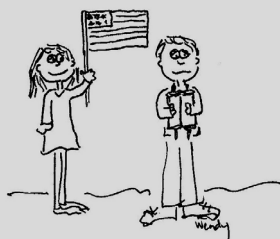
All my life, I was taught that Passover is the celebration of the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage and a commemoration of the journey from slavery to freedom that we try to relive every year. Recently, I discovered that, according to one Midrash, only twenty percent of the Jewish people left Egypt with Moses. The other eighty percent were not only enslaved physically but spiritually as well, to the point that they could not accept the gift of freedom--it was too intimidating. These Israelites saw freedom as a threat and were ultimately assimilated or lost forever.

All our lives we exalt freedom as the ultimate positive human value. Is there a down side to freedom? The truth is that even those of us who live in America ("the land of the free") are not totally free and are bound by the laws of the land. In the sixties there was a widespread movement to "turn on, tune in and drop out." Some hippies tried to find a life of "total freedom" from others by escaping to the wilderness. But was their freedom complete? They still had to provide food and protection for themselves, and they had to overcome loneliness and separation from the world. Were they not, in a way, slaves to these inescapable needs?

If we are honest with ourselves, we would acknowledge that we all serve internal "masters." Some of our actions are governed by our need to feel validated, while others are motivated by a need to stand out from the crowd. Some people are slaves to fashion, some are driven to lives of opulence and luxury, and others strive always to place themselves on a pedestal.

On Passover, we should accept the fact that we all serve some "master." Ironically, a person who is governed by basic impulses is

"WHO IS TRULY FREE?"



not truly free. However, there is one Master who is unlike any other. Standing with G-d for justice, love, and righteousness can give a person infinite freedom. Serving G-d is really the only valid path to spiritual freedom, and those who faithfully serve G-d will soon experience reward and liberation.

The Torah provides us with advice for living. It guides us beyond our insufficient individual understanding of what is right and wrong, beneficial and harmful, wise and foolish. Everyone makes mistakes in life, but the Torah enables us to see the world from a more objective, spiritually-higher perspective, giving us something for which to strive. We must understand that if we focus on our own private self-serving world we will be unable to truly realize our full potential as human beings. However, if we agree that it is the duty of every human being to strive to leave the world better than we found it, then we can begin to live in the Messianic world that G-d has envisioned for us, even before the arrival of the final redemption.

The celebration of Passover should remind every Jew that the Liberation from *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) should be a daily experience and realize that if we have to serve some master, G-d is surely the best choice.

Happy Passover.

Doug Leblang is an artist, klezmer musician and speaker on the contributions of the Jewish People to the world. He has been a friend and follower of Rabbi Buchwald for thirty five years.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Miriam Bates and Yossi (Jeremy) Apple
Mazal Tov to mother, Robin Gordon
Orly Buchwald and Daniel (Tati) Klimovsky
Mazal Tov to parents, Aidel and
Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald



Estefania (Sarah) Matute and Aaron Greenblatt
Shayna Simon and Oriel Weinberg
Mazal Tov to parents, Dodi Lamm and Rabbi Simcha
and Deborah Weinberg

MARRIAGES

Sarah Belfer and Elliot (Yechiel) Eisenberg
Mazal Tov to parents, Dr. Michelle and Benjamin Belfer
Nancy Miller and Tzvi Fishman
Chava Rivka (Éva) Illés and Yehuda Giavarini
Rivkah Fayazi and Baruch Goldberg,
son of the late Shelley Goldberg, z"l
Mazal Tov to father, Menachem Goldberg
Aviva Cambara and Ilan Itzhak
Sara Hanna (Sarita) Disenhouse and Mordechai (Moti) Saban
Mazal Tov to parents, Irene and David Disenhouse
Shoshana Nechama (Shani) Gluck and Yitzzy Saphir
Mazal Tov to parents, Miriam and Sam Gluck
Leah (Lily) Namanworth and Pesach (Peter) Walker
Mazal Tov to parents, Nancy Temkin and Philip Namanworth
Erin Aliza Rent and David Wasserman

BIRTHS

Marissa Shorenstein and Karl Anderson,
on the birth of a daughter, Malina
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Janice and Stuart Shorenstein
Ayelet (Buchwald) and Gavriel Berger,
on the birth of a daughter, Bella Batsheva
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Aidel and
Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald

Lauren Stark and David Boim, on the birth of a son,
Joseph Victor
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Joan and Arnold Stark
Leah and Seth Goldberg, on the birth of a son,
Abe Benjamin
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg
Elana and Yehoshua Moshe Gross, on the birth of a son,
Shmuel Chaim
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Donna and Dr. Jack Mensch
Amy and Seth Litzenblatt, on the birth of a daughter,
Sarah Leah Chava
Elisheva and Aviad Rosenblum, on the birth of a daughter,
Talia
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Leslie and Dr. William Kolbrener
Ilana and Adiv Spivack on the birth of a son, Roi
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sharona and Steven Spivack
Nechama and Reuven Weiser, on the birth of a son,
Amichai Moshe
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sema and
Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Avi Blitzer
Mazal Tov to parents, Elizabeth (Hadassah) Kirk
and Jerry Blitzer
Joy Sarah Cheskin
Mazal Tov to parents, Judith Goldkrand and Barry Cheskin
Michael Diker
Mazal Tov to parents, Ofira and Daniel Diker
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Val and Charles Diker
Yehoshua Lamstein
Mazal Tov to parents, Jill and Jonathan Lamstein

CONDOLENCES

Devorah Altman on the loss of her mother, Helen Altman
Eve Goldberg and Natan Volkmar on the loss of their son,
Issac Volkmar
Daniel Jarashow on the loss of his father, Morton Jarashow

The Weissberg and Kramer families on the loss of
Meme Weissberg Kramer
Arlene Ross on the loss of her mother, Estelle Ross
Greg Sholom on the loss of his mother, Susan Levy Berman
Russel Siegel on the loss of his wife, Dvora (Denise) Siegel
Howard Stotsky on the loss of his mother, Hasia (Helen) Stotsky

SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Regina Ullendorff, Rachel bat Feige

TSETCHEM L'SHALOM (To live or Study in Israel)

Haviva Zahava Korenblit on joining the IDF
Michael Prell

CONGRATULATIONS

Ruth and Marc Berenson, on being honored by the Passaic
Torah Institute
Barbara Ribakove Gordon, on being honored at the
Benefit
Dr. Leora Mogilner and Richard Linhart, on being honored
with the Community Service Award at the Chabad of the
Upper East Side's 7th Annual Auction and Gala
Amy and Seth Litzenblatt, on being honored at the
20th Annual NJOP Dinner
Bluma Snyder, on being honored with the Charles and Els
Bendheim Distinguished Service Award at the Manhattan
Day School's 71st Annual Scholarship Dinner

TODAH RABBAH

Purim Shpiel: Producer and Director, Akiva Moshe Prell.
Actors: Tovah and Assaf Alster, David Bratslavsky, Jenna
Nelson, Ira Weinstock, Deena Kristi Hays, Naomi
Ferrando, Moshe Jennings and Akiva Moshe Prell
The Shabbat Across America at Lincoln Square Synagogue
Committee: Tovah and Assaf Alster, Mordechai Beilis,
Deborah Bendheim, Dr. Leonard Davidman, Akiva Moshe
Prell and Chaviva Warner, and special thanks to Iris Cahn

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Fri April 11, 2014 - 11th of Nisan

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting 7:13 PM
Mincha 7:15 PM

Sat April 12, 2014 - 12th of Nisan *Acharei Mot***SHABBAT HAGADOL Beginners Shabbaton**

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Mincha & Shabbat HaGadol Drasha . . . 6:45 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:15 PM

Sun April 13, 2014 - 13th of Nisan

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:20 PM
Bedikat Chametz after 8:06 PM

Mon April 14, 2014 - 14th of Nisan**TA'ANIT BECHORIM**

Morning Services with Siyum 6:30 & 7:30 AM
Latest time to eat *Chametz* 10:07 AM
Latest time to burn *Chametz* 11:22 AM
Candle Lighting 7:16 PM
Mincha/Maariv 7:20 PM
Begin Seder after 8:06 PM

Tues April 15, 2014 - 15th of Nisan**1st DAY PESACH**

Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:25 PM
Light Candles & begin Seder after 8:17 PM
Mincha 8:18 PM

Wed April 16, 2014 - 16th of Nisan**2nd DAY PESACH**

Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:25 PM
Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends 8:19 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:20 PM

Thurs April 17, 2014 - 17th of Nisan**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**

Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri April 18, 2014 - 18th of Nisan**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**

Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Candle Lighting 7:21 PM
Maariv 7:25 PM

Sat April 19, 2014 - 19th of Nisan**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**

Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Mincha 6:55 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:22 PM

Sun April 20, 2014 - 20th of Nisan**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**

Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
Candle Lighting 7:23 PM
Mincha 7:30 PM

Mon April 21, 2014 - 21st of Nisan**7th DAY PESACH**

Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:30 PM
Light candles after 8:23 PM
Maariv 8:24 PM

Tues April 22, 2014 - 22nd of Nisan**8th DAY PESACH - Yizkor**

Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:30 PM
Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends 8:25 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:30 PM

Fri April 25, 2014 - 25th of Nisan

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:21 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 7:28 PM
Mincha 6:45 & 7:30 PM

Sat April 26, 2014 - 26th of Nisan *Kedoshim*

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 5:45 PM
Talmud/Pirkei Avot Class 6:00 PM
Bible Class 6:15 PM
Mincha 7:15 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:30 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:35 PM

Wed April 30, 2014 - 30th of Nisan**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Thurs May 1, 2014 - 1st of Iyar**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri May 2, 2014 - 2nd of Iyar

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:26 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 7:35 PM
Mincha 6:45 & 7:40 PM

Sat May 3, 2014 - 3rd of Iyar *Emor*

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 5:50 PM
Talmud/Pirkei Avot Class 6:05 PM
Bible Class 6:20 PM
Mincha 7:20 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:37 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:40 PM

Tues May 6, 2014 - 6th of Iyar**YOM HA'AZMA'UT**

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri May 9, 2014 - 9th of Iyar

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:32 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 7:43 PM
Mincha 6:45 & 7:45 PM

Sat May 10, 2014 - 10th of Iyar *Behar*

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 6:00 PM
Talmud/Pirkei Avot Class 6:15 PM
Bible Class 6:30 PM
Mincha 7:30 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:44 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:50 PM

Fri May 16, 2014 - 16th of Iyar

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:37 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 7:49 PM
Mincha 6:45 & 7:55 PM

Sat May 17, 2014 - 17th of Iyar *Bechukotai*

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 6:05 PM
Talmud/Pirkei Avot Class 6:20 PM
Bible Class 6:35 PM
Mincha 7:35 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:51 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:55 PM

Fri May 23, 2014 - 23rd of Iyar

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:42 PM
Regular Candle Lighting 7:56 PM
Mincha 6:45 & 8:00 PM

Sat May 24, 2014 - 24th of Iyar *Bamidbar*

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 6:15 PM
Talmud/Pirkei Avot Class 6:30 PM
Bible Class 6:45 PM
Mincha 7:45 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:57 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 8:05 PM

Wed May 28, 2014 - 28th of Iyar**YOM YERUSHALAYIM**

Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri May 30, 2014 - 1st of Sivan**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Candle Lighting 8:02 PM
Mincha 6:45 & 8:10 PM

Sat May 31, 2014 - 2nd of Sivan *Nasso*

Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service 9:15 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 6:20 PM
Talmud/Pirkei Avot Class 6:35 PM
Bible Class 6:50 PM
Mincha 7:50 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends 9:03 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 8:10 PM

Tues June 3, 2014 - 5th of Sivan**EREV SHAVUOT**

Candle Lighting 8:05 PM
Mincha/Maariv 8:10 PM
Torah Classes beginning 11:30 PM
Beginners Shavuot Learn-In 11:30 PM

Wed June 4, 2014 - 6th of Sivan**1st DAY SHAVUOT**

Morning Services 5:10 & 9:00 AM
Book of Ruth 7:10 PM
Mincha 8:10 PM
Light Candles after 9:05 PM
Maariv 9:06 PM

Thu June 5, 2014 - 7th of Sivan**2nd DAY SHAVUOT Yizkor**

Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Talmud Class 7:10 PM
Book of Ruth 7:10 PM
Mincha 8:10 PM
Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends 9:07 PM

SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons

Sat., 12:30 PM - \$20

May 3, June 7 (final)

Sept 6 (first of next year)

Beginners Shmooze - Free

Mon., 8:15 PM

May 5

All Night Shavuot Learn-a-thon

Tues., June 3, 11:30 PM - 7:00 AM