

**PASSOVER RESEARCH**  
BY  
RABBI SHOLOMO BEN LEVY

וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לָכֶם לְזִכְרוֹן וְחֻגְתֶּם אֹתוֹ חֵג לְיְהוָה לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם חֻקַּת עוֹלָם  
תִּתְחַגְּגוּ: טו שְׁבַעַת יָמִים מִצּוֹת תֹּאכְלוּ אֶדְ בַּיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן תִּשְׁבִּיתוּ שְׂאֵר  
מִבְּתֵיכֶם כִּי | כָּל־אֹכֵל חֵמֶץ וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל

### Exodus 12:14-15

Pesach shall be "a memorial, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generation you shall keep it as a feast by an ordinance forever. Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread...whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel."

I.E. Passover is a memorial feast to the Lord which should be kept forever. A memorial commemorates a past event.

### Exodus 12:17-18

"And you shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for on that very day I have brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall you observe this day throughout your generations as an ordinance forever.

### Exodus 12:19-20

" Seven days shall no leaven be found in your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened, that soul shall be cut off from the Congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger, or one that is born in the land."

If leaven cannot be found it certainly cannot be eaten. This shows how important it is to God that we do not eat leaven during Passover. Again, those who do will be cut off. This is also why we are required to clean our homes thoroughly to remove all leaven.

## Exodus 12:24-27

"You shall observe this things for an ordinance to you and to your sons forever.....And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you: "What does this service mean to you?" that you shall say: "It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, for He passed over the houses of the Children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians and delivered our houses."

I.E. Gods reminds us again that the Passover should be kept forever. He also commands the parents to teach their children about it. By law parents can not leave the teaching to someone else. Your dinner tables becomes your classroom to teach your children their history and instill in them the values you want them to have.

## Exodus 12:39

"And they baked unleavened cakes from the dough which they brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were forced out of Egypt, and could not linger, nor had they prepared for themselves any food."

The sense of urgency is conveyed. We must recreate this appreciation each year.

## Exodus 13:7-8

"And you shall tell your son in that day, saying:"It is because of that which the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt."

This explains how you should teach it to your children. Explaining that this is what God did for "me" when "I" came out of Egypt. It is personalized which demonstrates that we are a part of that same eternal spirit that lives within us. *It shows that we understand that whatever happens to one of us, happens to all of us everywhere and at any time.* We are one and our God is one. Hear O Israel the Lord our God the Lord is One.

## Exodus 13:14

"And it shall be when your sons ask you in the future saying: "What is this?" that you shall say to him: "By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

By saying "it shall be" God is teaching us that as children grow they have questions; and the first persons they ask for answers to these questions are their parents.

God Commands us, that when your child asks you this question about the Passover, YOU better be ready to give him a satisfactory answer. YOU better be ready to teach him about this.

## Deuteronomy 6:20-25

"When your son asks you in the future, saying....you shall say to your son: "We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand...."

Once again the Torah implores us to teach our children ourselves; and also, teaches us to remember that we too were once slaves.

## Deuteronomy 16:1-5

Observe the month of **Abib**, and keep the Passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night. Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the Passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there. Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life. And there shall be no

leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there anything of the flesh, which thou sacrificed the first day at even, remain all night until the morning. Thou mayest not sacrifice the Passover **within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:**

**Here Passover is described as a 7 day feast with no mention of the feast of unleavened bread. They are considered one and the same. Inseparable. Also note that the names of the month is usually not given or referred to as “Abib” which means “spring.”**

**We should keep the Passover in the place where God shall choose to place his name such as a synagogue.**

## **Leviticus 23:5-8**

“In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's Passover. And on the **fifteenth day** of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.”

**\*\*\* The first day of the feast of unleavened bread is the Passover.**

## **2 Chronicles 35:16-17**

“So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah. And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.”

## **Ezekiel 45:21**

“In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.”