

## Passover Message

RABBI ISRAEL MILLER  
(Chairman, American Zionist Council)

All holidays are time for introspection. Passover is unique in this respect for it is a season of the year when our thoughts turn not only to the ancient saga of redemption from Egyptian bondage, but to the meaning of freedom in our own day and how to preserve it.

The immediate meaning of Passover is the exodus from Egypt and our people's date with destiny at Sinai. The people who plunged into the sea fleeing from Egypt had a premonition, a foreboding of Sinai, Torah and territory, or else the waters would have stopped them. Their faith was tested at Sinai and it did not fail them in the decisive hour that meant the difference between ascent and oblivion.

In our own days a new dimension has been added to Passover -- the preservation and freedom of Israel as it faces an array of enemies who would throw all Israelites into the sea. Israel in the twenty-one years of its existence has demonstrated the faith and the courage of our ancient people who braved the sea for survival and succeeded. As we celebrate Passover this year we are hopeful that wise counsel will prevail in the Arab lands to the end that enduring peace and freedom may come to that area of the world without the use of a "big stick" by the Big Four.

The Passover theme, freedom, is universal and so it is only appropriate that in its observance in the Jewish communities of our country we remember the still unfree, the unequal in our own land who too are struggling for redemption from poverty, from discrimination and humiliation. Nor let us forget the Haggadic dictum that all who are in need come to our tables and eat.

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Max M. Fisher  
(Chairman, United Israel Appeal, Inc.)

The festival of Passover is really mankind's oldest independence Day.

Since the Exodus - in every age and every generation - men who prize human freedom have taken inspiration from the Biblical story of how the Jews of old threw off the chains of slavery and marched out of Egypt to freedom.

But for the nearly 2-1/2 million Jews of Israel observance of Passover has come to be more than just the happy celebration of an ancient holiday.

It is an occasion filled with deepest personal meaning derived from contemporary events.

This year, as in other years, hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens who arrived as immigrants - will each give thanks for their own exodus from some modern land of oppression - to Israel's freedom and new life.

This year, two years after the events of June 1967, an entire people will recommit themselves to the goal of a secure and meaningful peace, one which will serve to insure the blessings of freedom they have achieved, both for themselves and those who will follow.

And finally, this year will be a time when Israel's brave people, ever mindful of the vast numbers of their fellow Jews still living in modern bondage in countries of despair and oppression - will renew their pledge to keep the immigration gates open so that all who can may enter.

Israel's people will say again - "Let all who are hungry for freedom, come in."

With the support of American Jews through the United Jewish Appeal, it has been the privilege of the United Israel Appeal, together with the Jewish Agency in Israel, to transport nearly 1-1/2 million Jews to Israel since 1948, and make their new freedom meaningful through vast efforts of immigrant absorption.

This great work has been made possible by the outstanding support of American Jews through the United Jewish Appeal.

The Officers of the United Israel Appeal, therefore, extend their warmest Passover greetings to the entire American Jewish community, confident that they understand that the work of building freedom for our fellow-Jews in our own time, must be continued with our full aid.

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Members of the College and University Council of the Lubavitch Youth Organization prepare packages of Shmurah (hand made and rolling) Matzoth for Passover use to be held at Armed Forces Bases and on college campuses where the LYU has its extensive Jewish cultural activity. A special shipment of these Matzoth has been dispatched by the LYO for Jewish servicemen in Vietnam. The Lubavitch Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, has urged the use of Shmurah Matzoth by all for at least the Seder Plate.

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