

Passover Feature

IN HONOR OF PASSOVER, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE ISRAELITES FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF FEATURES. THIS YEAR THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL IS INAUGURATED AT SUNDOWN ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 AND ENDS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 6.

Passover Message

By RABBI BERNARD L. BERZON
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"Our hearts this Passover will be especially with our co-religionists who are clamoring for the opportunity to assert their Jewish identity without harassment or interference. They are located primarily behind the Iron Curtain in Russia and its satellites. While we deeply appreciate the several thousand of our brethren in the Soviet Union who during this past year were permitted to emigrate and to be reunited with their families in Israel and elsewhere, we would appeal to the authorities in the Soviet Union to recognize that this is not what the greater need is, that of the nearly three million Jews who make their home in the Soviet Union and who are not permitted to assert their Jewish identity fearlessly.

We appeal to the authorities of the Soviet Union to make it clear to their Jewish citizens that they are free to acknowledge their religious heritage to pursue their cultural and religious traditions without fear and to develop as free human beings. Of course, those who wish to emigrate must be granted that right but the emigration of a few cannot condone the repression of a majority and freedom implies the right to make a choice, - a choice of residence, a choice of belief, a choice of life style. All these are the prerogatives of every human being.

The great festival of Passover, which we are about to celebrate, underscores this freedom. It tells the story of the eternal struggle between the expounders of liberty and the ad-

traditional way to make a Seder

- 1 CANDLES** are lighted by the mother of the house to usher in the festival of Passover. The benediction which she pronounces over the candles gives a religious meaning to this simple act. An abundance of light symbolizes joy and festivity, and the soft candle-glow adds an aura of spirituality to the Seder table.
- 2 A CUP OF WINE** is placed at each table setting. The sanctification of the Holiday is pronounced over the first cup. Three additional cups are drunk during the course of the Seder, making a total of four, to symbolize the four expressions of the Lord's promise to redeem the children of Israel and deliver them from bondage.
- 3 THE HAGGADAH** (literally "the telling") contains the complete Seder ceremonies in their prescribed order (Seder). The first part of the book, concerned mainly with the story of the Jews' deliverance from Egypt, is read before the meal. After dinner follows the second portion consisting of prayers of praise and thanks to the Almighty.
- 4 MATZOH** represents the "bread of affliction" eaten by the Jews in Egypt, and also the bread that had to be baked during their hasty flight when there was no time for leavening. Three matzot are placed in the Seder tray. Half the middle matzoh, saved for the *Afikomon* (dessert), is playfully "stolen" by a child and ransomed for a prize.
- 5 THE Z'ROAH**, a roasted shank bone, is placed on the Seder tray. It represents the ancient sacrifice of the Paschal lamb (*Pesach*) which had to be eaten roasted. *Pesach*, the Hebrew name for Passover, also refers to the Lord's passing over (*posach*) the Jewish homes during the plague visited upon the Egyptian first-born.
- 6 THE BEITZAH**, a roasted egg placed left of the *Z'roah*, symbolizes the required offering brought on all festivals in the Temple. The egg, while not itself sacrificed, is used in the Seder as it is the Jewish symbol of mourning (in this case for the loss of the Temple where the sacrifices were brought).
- 7 THE MAROR** or "bitter herbs" (usually horseradish) is placed in the middle of the tray and symbolizes the Jews' bitter suffering under the Egyptian yoke. Directly below is the *Chazereth*, another piece of bitter herbs, commemorating the custom of eating *Maror* sandwiched between two pieces of *Matzoh*.
- 8 THE CHAROSET**, placed beneath the *Z'roah*, is a mixture of chopped apple, nuts, cinnamon, and wine designed to look like the mortar used by the Jews in building the palaces and pyramids of Egypt during centuries of forced labor. Before the *Maror* is eaten, it is dipped into the *Charoset*.
- 9 THE KARPAS**, a piece of parsley or lettuce placed to the left of the *Charoset*, symbolizes the meager diet of the Jews in Egyptian bondage. It is dipped into salt water in remembrance of the tears they shed in their misery. The *Karpas* also signifies Springtime, the season of Passover.
- 10 THE CUP OF ELIJAH**, filled with wine, is kept on the table throughout the Seder in the hope that the Prophet Elijah may appear as a messenger of the Almighty and announce the coming of the Messiah. Thus, in the midst of their memories of the past, the Jews look forward to the day of universal peace, love, and brotherhood.

vocates of spiritual and physical oppression. Passover celebrates man's great yearning for freedom and commemorates its achievement. Man realized his potential for the first time in far off Egypt when a few slaves declared that the only slavery they would recognize is that of free human being to his Creator. Mankind must constantly be reminded of its great debt to that band of Hebrews who proclaimed liberty and under the banner of the Almighty marched forth to freedom.

Israel can never falter as a sovereign state if she clings to the traditional and Biblical values of the faith of Judaism. The State of Israel truly represents the finest flowering of the spirit of Jewish history and embodiment of the tenets of a morally elevating and sus-

taining belief in the Almighty.

"Passover's theme of freedom is urgently needed in the modern world. The ideals of Passover should guide the statesmen of the universe in arranging for a more humane, equitable and freedom-oriented peace. These legacies of liberty should never be forgotten in all kinds of human relations."

NEW YORK (WNS)--The Office for the Aging of New York City announced that when President Nixon signs the Bratemas-Pepper-Kennedy bill, which has been approved by Congress, the Federal government for the first time will be providing funds for kosher food for the Jewish elderly.



REJOICE IN THE SPIRIT AND TRADITION OF

PASSOVER

BEST WISHES TO ALL

Mr. and Mrs. Al Sachs & Family

