

Passover: An End And A Beginning, First Seder, Monday April 13, 1987, 14th Day Of Nisan

Passover is an end and a beginning. And end to slavery as a universally accepted world order, and a beginning of rebellion against tyranny.

The struggle of the Jews for freedom from the Egyptian yoke was the first revolt in history against subjugation. The beginning of this struggle marked the beginning of the Jewish people as a nation. What Genesis was to the creation of the world, the Exodus was to the creation of Jewish peoplehood.

But the birth of the Jewish people occurred in two stages: the first stage was the liberation from Egyptian bondage. The second stage was the acquisition of their own country, the establishment of their state. Thus, the dual aspects of the Divine Promise were realized: (1) "And I shall bring you out from the burdens of the Egyptians." (2) "And I will bring you into the Land I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." (Exod. 6:6-8).

Clearly, the Redemption of the people of Israel, which began with the Exodus, was not completed until they acquired the Land of Israel and established their sovereign state, as envisioned in the Song of the Sea: "Thou shalt bring them and plant them on the mountains of thy inheritance." (Exod. 15:17).

Passover is more than a celebration. It is essentially an educational undertaking. Since a basic pedagogic tenet is to teach by doing, the Seder, the central act of the holiday, is focused on the children, the head of the family assuming the role of teacher. The subjects taught are the value of freedom and how to achieve, preserve and defend it.

The Haggada calls on every Jew "to see himself as if he himself went out of Egypt."

Therefore, it is our sacred duty to identify ourselves spiritually with the first stage of Redemption, i.e., the liberation, and actively with its second stage, that of upbuilding the State of Israel.

The Israel Bond program is the major instrument for fulfilling this task. It affords us a blessed opportunity to be part of the miraculous revival by sharing in the development of the Land of Israel through an investment in Israel Bonds.

Even the geographic sites upon which the main Bond efforts are presently focused bring to life for us the timeless events of Passover. The exodus was the point of departure in the long, torturous road that led to statehood. The start of that road was in the Negev, the cradle of the Jewish peoplehood, since it was the first region of Israel reached by the Jews upon the Exodus from Egypt. After thousands of years of wandering, suffering and struggle, we find ourselves again on the same site.

Passover this year takes on an additional significance. The holiday beckons us to continue on the road of our ancestors by taking a gigantic step forward, by galvanizing the Jewish pioneering spirit in conjunction with the enormous possibilities of modern technology.

How much more meaningfully we can celebrate this Passover by saying: The Israel Bond effort is part of the miraculous revival of our ancient people and we are part of it as Bond investors.

The Israel Bond Organization is a major source of development capital for Israel, having provided over \$8 billion since its inception to help build every aspects of the nation's economy. Israel Bond proceeds, channeled through Israel's Development Budget, help to finance industrial and agricultural projects, the construction of highways and harbors, the expansion of communications and transport, the building of new towns and the development of new sources of energy.

New BBW Program Asks: How Do We Pass On Jewish Values To Our Children?



B'nai B'rith Women's new 20-minute slide show entitled "Creating Jewish Memories: What Do We Pass On to Our Children?" explores how we shape our Jewish values and pass on those values to our children. The documentary-style program is designed to strike a responsive chord in audiences by presenting 12 people, aged 15 to 88, who share their own Jewish memories and experiences as well as evocative photographs from their personal albums. A discussion guide accompanies the program, which is available for \$40 from B'nai B'rith Women, Program/Public Affairs Dept., 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Abba Eban has politely declined a proposal that he become Israel's next Ambassador to the United States, a post he held with distinction from 1950-1959.

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