

Notes: April 20 2024 – Shabbat Ha Gadol

Introduction: Shabbat Ha Gadol

The Sabbath before the Passover.

Shabbat Ha-Gadol is the Shabbat before [Pesach \(Passover\)](#).

Traditionally, this was one of the few times of the year that a [rabbi](#) gave a lengthy sermon (in modern times, we get one every week).

The sermon was usually about preparations for Pesach, and this special Shabbat commemorates a preparation for the original Pesach in Egypt. Shabbat Ha-Gadol (The Great Sabbath) commemorates the 10th day of Nissan, when the Hebrew slaves took the lambs that they were going to offer for Pesach and tied them up outside their homes, to keep until they offered it on the 14th (Ex. 12:3-6).

According to tradition, this was a dangerous thing to do, because Egyptians worshipped sheep, but miraculously, instead of slaughtering the Hebrews, the Egyptians instead fought with each other over whether the Hebrews should be sent away already.

By the time we came to the last plague, the Egyptians were so demoralized that they did not pay attention to what Israel was doing. Under normal circumstances, I believe they would have seen what was happening and responded. Needless to say, this time was anything but ordinary.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Isra'el and say, 'On the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb or kid for his family, one per household —

Exo 12:4 except that if the household is too small for a whole lamb or kid, then he and his next-door neighbor should share one, dividing it in proportion to the number of people eating it.

Exo 12:5 Your animal must be without defect, a male in its first year, and you may choose it from either the sheep or the goats.

What is happening here?

This period of time allowed for each family to become personally acquainted and therefore attached to their lamb. Therefore, it would no longer simply be a lamb, but it would be their lamb. A much more personal relationship. Ultimately making the sacrifice that much greater.

Exo 12:6 " 'You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el will slaughter it at dusk.

During the time of Yeshua, we read in John 11...

Joh 11:55 The Judean festival of Pesach was near, and many people went up from the country to Yerushalayim to perform the purification ceremony prior to Pesach.

Joh 11:56 They were looking for Yeshua, and as they stood in the Temple courts they said to each other, "What do you think? that he simply won't come to the festival?"

Joh 11:57 Moreover, the head cohanim and the P'rushim had given orders that anyone knowing Yeshua's whereabouts should inform them, so that they could have him arrested.

The purification ceremony prior to Pesach. Those who had become ritually unclean because of having touched a dead body had to purify themselves by immersion ([Num 9:10](#), [Num 9:13](#)).

Num 9:4 Moshe told the people of Isra'el to observe Pesach.

Num 9:5 So they observed Pesach at dusk on the fourteenth day of the month in the Sinai Desert; the people of Isra'el acted in accordance with all that Adonai had ordered Moshe.

Num 9:6 But there were certain people who had become unclean because of someone's corpse, so that they could not observe Pesach on that day. So they came before Moshe and Aharon that day

Num 9:7 and said to him, "We are unclean because of someone's corpse; but why must we be kept from bringing the offering for Adonai at the time designated for the people of Isra'el?"

Num 9:8 Moshe answered them, "Wait, so that I can hear what Adonai will order concerning you."

Num 9:9 Adonai said to Moshe,

Num 9:10 "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'If any of you now or in future generations is unclean because of a corpse, or if he is on a trip abroad, nevertheless he is to observe Pesach.

Num 9:11 But he will observe it in the second month on the fourteenth day at dusk. They are to eat it with matzah and maror,

Num 9:12 they are to leave none of it until morning, and they are not to break any of its bones — they are to observe it according to all the regulations of Pesach.

Num 9:13 But the person who is clean and not on a trip who fails to observe Pesach will be cut off from his people; because he did not bring the offering for Adonai at its designated time, that person will bear the consequences of his sin.

Sometimes the purification required seven days ([Num 31:19-20](#)).

So, there was a time of preparation for the people, homes and nation.

People would be purified.

Homes would be cleansed of chametz

The nation would be instructed days in advance of the Passover.

We see Yeshua on Shabbat Ha-Gadol in Beit-Anyah with El'azar, Marta and Miriam...

Joh 12:1 Six days before Pesach, Yeshua came to Beit-Anyah, where El`azar lived, the man Yeshua had raised from the dead;

Joh 12:2 so they gave a dinner there in his honor. Marta served the meal, and El`azar was among those at the table with him.

Joh 12:12 The next day, the large crowd that had come for the festival heard that Yeshua was on his

way into Yerushalayim.

How do we know it is Shabbat Ha-Gadol? Or the 9th day of the first month?

The timeline that I have shared with you in the past reveals this to us.

Psa 118:23 This has come from Adonai, and in our eyes it is amazing.

Psa 118:24 This is the day Adonai has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad.

Psa 118:25 Please, Adonai! Save us! Please, Adonai! Rescue us!

Psa 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of Adonai. We bless you from the house of Adonai.

Psa 118:27 Adonai is God, and he gives us light. Join in the pilgrim festival with branches all the way to the horns of the altar.

Psa 118:28 You are my God, and I thank you. You are my God; I exalt you.

Psa 118:29 Give thanks to Adonai; for he is good, for his grace continues forever.

Passover preparation – page 3 from Messianic Passover Haggadah

The Passover occurred once, many years ago. Every Passover since has been a memorial to Adonai (Lord) in which the God of Yis'rael redeemed His people from the bondage of slavery. It is through this Feast of Adonai that Yeshua Ha Mashiach would redeem Yis'rael and the nations from the bondage of our transgression that led to a separation from our Creator.

Lev 23:4 " 'These are the designated times of Adonai, the holy convocations you are to proclaim at their designated times.

Lev 23:5 " 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between sundown and complete darkness, comes Pesach for Adonai.

Lev 23:6 On the fifteenth day of the same month is the festival of matzah; for seven days you are to eat matzah.

It is a Feast that is to be remembered and celebrated from generation to generation – forever:

Exo 13:14 When, at some future time, your son asks you, 'What is this?' then say to him, 'With a strong hand Adonai brought us out of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery.

We are instructed to prepare our homes by removing the chametz (leaven) from our homes:

Exo 12:15 " 'For seven days you are to eat matzah - on the first day remove the leaven from your houses. For whoever eats chametz [leavened bread] from the first to the seventh day is to be cut off from Yis'rael.

Types of leaven include:

- Yeast
- Baking Powder
- Baking Soda
- Cream of Tartar

Note: Many products include yeast extract, which is used as a flavor enhancer. Yeast extract does not have an active leavening agent. However, Exodus 12:15 does not distinguish between active and inactive leaven. Use of yeast extract during Passover is a gray area. It is extremely challenging to find products today that do not include this flavor enhancer.

During this Passover season, we not only prepare our homes, but must also prepare ourselves.

Passover is the beginning of a new year, a new season. It is a time, like when we come into Yom Kippur, we are to reflect upon ourselves, just as Sha'ul (Paul) conveyed to the Corinthian congregation:

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know the saying, "It takes only a little chametz to leaven a whole batch of dough?"

1Co 5:7 Get rid of the old chametz, so that you can be a new batch of dough, because in reality you are unleavened. For our Pesach lamb, the Messiah, has been sacrificed.

1Co 5:8 So let us celebrate the Seder not with leftover chametz, the chametz of wickedness and evil, but with the matzah of purity and truth.

On the eve of Passover, the home is searched by the head of the home for leaven. This is the final act before the Passover. It represents a final inspection. Let us prepare our hearts for this Passover Seder as we recall the story of Adonai leading His people from slavery to freedom. Likewise we will see Yeshua follow the same path during the Passover.

The special haftarah reading for this Shabbat is Malachi 3:4-24. This messianic prophecy regarding the end of days and the return of the prophet Elijah is read at this time because it is believed that Elijah will return at Pesach. This is why we include a cup for him in our [seder](#) rituals.

Malachi meaning "My messenger" is attached to the last of the prophetic books in the Tanakh.

The premise behind the book of Malachi is a defense of Adonai. It is not God who has changed but rather Israel.

Like the other Prophets, Adonai is providing a warning in advance of judgment. An opportunity to return to Him before the Day of the Lord, the Day of His Judgment.

It is on this day Shabbat Ha Gadol that the Prophet Malachi is read. You will understand why it is read in relation to Yeshua...

Mal 3:1 "Look! I am sending my messenger to clear the way before me; and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple. Yes, the messenger of the covenant, in whom you take such delight — look! Here he comes," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 3:2 But who can endure the day when he comes? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like the soapmaker's lye.

Mal 3:3 He will sit, testing and purifying the silver; he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold and silver, so that they can bring offerings to Adonai uprightly.

Mal 3:4 Then the offering of Y'hudah and Yerushalayim will be pleasing to Adonai, as it was in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Mal 3:5 "Then I will approach you for judgment; and I will be quick to witness against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers; against those who take advantage of wage-earners, widows and orphans; against those who rob the foreigner of his rights and don't fear me," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 3:6 "But because I, Adonai, do not change, you sons of Ya`akov will not be destroyed.

Mal 3:7 Since the days of your forefathers you have turned from my laws and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says Adonai-Tzva'ot. "But you ask, 'In respect to what are we supposed to return?'

Mal 3:8 Can a person rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How have we robbed you?' In tenths and voluntary contributions.

Mal 3:9 A curse is on you, on your whole nation, because you rob me.

Mal 3:10 Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so that there will be food in my house, and put me to the test," says Adonai-Tzva'ot. "See if I won't open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing far beyond your needs.

Mal 3:11 For your sakes I will forbid the devourer to destroy the yield from your soil; and your vine will not lose its fruit before harvest-time," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 3:12 "All nations will call you happy, for you will be a land of delights," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 3:13 "You have spoken strongly against me," says Adonai. "Yet you say, 'How have we spoken against you?'

Mal 3:14 By saying, 'There is no point in serving God. What good is it to obey his orders or to walk about as mourners before Adonai-Tzva'ot?

Mal 3:15 We consider the arrogant happy; also evildoers prosper; they put God to the test; nevertheless, they escape.' "

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared Adonai spoke together; and Adonai listened and heard. A record book was written in his presence for those who feared Adonai and had respect for his name.

Mal 3:17 "They will be mine," says Adonai-Tzva'ot, "on the day when I compose my own special treasure. I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.

Mal 3:18 Then once again you will see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between the person who serves God and one that doesn't serve him.

Mal 4:1 (3:19) For the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the proud and evildoers will be stubble; the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says Adonai-Tzva'ot, "and leave them neither root nor branch.

Mal 4:2 (3:20) But to you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will break out leaping, like calves released from the stall.

Mal 4:3 (3:21) You will trample the wicked, they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 4:4 (3:22) "Remember the Torah of Moshe my servant, which I enjoined on him at Horev, laws and rulings for all Isra'el.

Mal 4:5 (3:23) Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.

Mal 4:6 (3:24) He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; otherwise I will come and strike the land with complete destruction." [*Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.*]

For Yeshua reveals to us through Matthew's Gospel...

Mat 11:2 Meanwhile, Yochanan the Immerser, who had been put in prison, heard what the Messiah had been doing; so he sent a message to him through his talmidim,

Mat 11:3 asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for someone else?"

Mat 11:4 Yeshua answered, "Go and tell Yochanan what you are hearing and seeing—

Mat 11:5 the blind are seeing again, the lame are walking, people with tzara`at are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised, the Good News is being told to the poor—

Mat 11:6 and how blessed is anyone not offended by me!"

Yeshua's answer is also in code. He refers to prophecies in the book of Isaiah of six signs which the Messiah will give when he comes: he will make the blind see ([Isa 29:18](#), [Isa 35:5](#)), make the lame walk ([Isa 35:6](#), [Isa 61:1](#)), cleanse lepers ([Isa 61:1](#)), make the deaf hear ([Isa 29:18](#), [Isa 35:5](#)), raise the dead (implied in [Isa 11:1-2](#) but not made specific), and evangelize the poor ([Isa 61:1-2](#) in the light of [Mat 4:23](#) above). Since he has done all these things (chapters 8-9), the message should be clear: Yeshua is the one; Yochanan need not look for another.

Mat 11:7 As they were leaving, Yeshua began speaking about Yochanan to the crowds: "What did you go out to the desert to see? Reeds swaying in the breeze?"

Mat 11:8 No? then what did you go out to see? Someone who was well dressed? Well-

dressed people live in kings' palaces.

Mat 11:9 Nu, so why did you go out? To see a prophet! Yes! and I tell you he's much more than a prophet.

Mat 11:10 This is the one about whom the Tanakh says, 'See, I am sending out my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.'

Mat 11:11 Yes! I tell you that among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than Yochanan the Immerser! Yet the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he!

As a congregation on Shabbat Ha Gadol, just as any congregation we are preparing for Passover, yet our Passover will not point to Messiah, but reveal Yeshua as Messiah.