



TOLMM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER for 4-20-24 METSORA

Ministry News

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU WOULD LIKE PEOPLE ON THE LIST TO PRAY FOR YOU CAN SEND THEM TO US AT TOLMM@ETZ-CHAYIM.ORG OR BY TEXT MESSAGE TO 575 644-7706 AND I WILL SEND THEM BY EMAIL ONLY.

Remember that you can support the work of Tree of Life Messianic Ministries with a donation made via PayPal or by check to PO Box 467, Organ, NM 88052. Your donation helps our continued outreach to inmates and the time it takes to put this Newsletter together.

Donate



Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a 501 C-3 non-profit. To donate go to etz-chayim.org and click on the PayPal or Venmo Link.

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries primarily focuses on its Prison Ministry and helping form groups in the prisons. TOLMM also seeks to help Home Groups and offers a covering for Home Groups and the combined experience of leadership

from Rabbi Philip Hammond and Rabbi Mordecai Silver. Group leaders can receive recognition as Elders under TOLMM, which will help in an advisory role. Your support is needed for the Prison Ministry due to continuing rising costs. We now have an Affiliate in Australia.

HOME GROUPS, CONGREGATIONS AND PEOPLE SEEKING FELLOWSHIP...

Shawn Warren lives in Arizona. If you know of someone who is looking for a group in that area, please let me know and I will send the information to Shawn. Elder Shawn Warren is an Elder affiliated with TOLMM and helps with one-on-one correspondence with inmates in our Prison Ministry Outreach. He also encourages people to contact us about affiliating with TOLMM through Home Groups and our help to group leaders.

Elder Gabriel Martinez has a home group in El Paso. If interested let me know and I will send him the information. Gabriel is an Elder affiliated with TOLMM as is his Home Group, Ohr Ha'Brit Messianic Torah Assembly.

There is a Home Group in Las Cruces. For more information email tolmm@etz-chayim.org.

Elder Michael and Gayle Michelucci are forming a new Home Group in Idaho.

Rabbi Phillip Hammond has a Zoom Bible Study and a Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Service on Zoom Friday evening and Saturday morning at 11:00am. Rabbi Hammond is in Australia and the time difference would be 5:00pm Friday Mountain Time. Rabbi Hammond is looking into starting a men's group focused in the United States. You can contact Rabbi Hammond at Philip@etz-chayim.org. Rabbi Hammond is now affiliated with Rabbi Mordecai Silver and his ministry, Tree of Life Messianic Ministries. Check out Rabbi Hammond at <https://www.etz-chayim.org/australia-affiliate/>.

We thank you for your support. Blessings in Messiah Yeshua, Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph. D., and Rabbi Philip Hammond, Ph.D. and our team

General News

TO SEARCH FOR RABBI SILVER BOOKS ON AMAZON ENTER “**BOOKS BY RAV MORDECAI SILVER**”. MINE ARE AVAILABLE IN PRINT FORMAT ONLY. I HAVE TWO NEW BOOKS ON AMAZON: RAV SHA’UL AND REFLECTIONS ON TORAH. TO SEE MORDECAI’S BOOKS, GO TO: [HTTPS://WWW.ETZ-CHAYIM.ORG/SHOP-OUR-STORE/PRINT-AND-KINDLE-BOOKS/](https://www.etz-chayim.org/shop-our-store/print-and-kindle-books/)

RABBI MORDECAI HAS A NEW BOOK AVAILABLE. IT IS A SPANISH TRANSLATION OF THE TORAH IS VALID: THE COVENANT OF ISRAEL. IT’S AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.

FOR RABBI HAMMOND’S BOOK, **HIS PERFECT GRACE**, GO TO AMAZON.COM AS WELL.

CHECK OUT RABBI MORDECAI SILVER’S 3 YEARS OF VIDEO TEACHINGS ON THE TORAH PORTIONS AND FESTIVALS ON YOUTUBE.

WE HAVE 6 PRISON AFFILIATES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

MESSIANIC TEACHING ON THE WEEKLY TORAH, HAFTARAH, AND APOSTOLIC SCRIPTURE PORTIONS...



Rabbi Mordecai Silver tolmm@etz-chayim.org

MESSAGE FOR 4-20-24 METSORA-INFECTED ONE

Vayikra - Lev 14:1-15:33

2 Kings 7:3-20

Mattiyahu 23:19-24:2

Matthew 23:23: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you tithe the mint and the anise and the cumin and **have neglected the weightier matters of the law: the right-ruling and the compassion and the belief.** These need to have been done, without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:27-28: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly indeed look well, but inside are filled with dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

So, you too outwardly indeed appear righteous to men, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Vayikra 14:37: And he shall look at the plague and see if the plague is on the walls of the house with sunken places, greenish or reddish, which appear to be deep in the wall.

Vayikra 14:40-42: Then the priest shall command, and they shall remove the stones with the plague in them, and they shall throw them outside the city, into an unclean place, while he lets the house be scraped inside, all around, and the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city. And they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones and take other mortar and plaster the house.

Vayikra 14:45: And he shall break down the house, its stones, and its timber, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall bring them outside the city to an unclean place.

Before a Kohen diagnosis that a house has tzara'as, household possessions are removed to prevent them from also being declared ritually impure. The tzara'as is removed by smashing and rebuilding that section of the house; if it reappears, the entire building must be razed.

Can we compare ourselves to this? We are unclean due to sin and the Holy One through Messiah Yeshua tears us down and rebuilds us.

We include a Traditional Torah Commentary and my Messianic Commentary. The reason for this is so you can see a Messianic Perspective and a Traditional Jewish one. Remember to use discernment in approaching Traditional Jewish teachings as they do not recognize Yeshua as the Messiah. There are various ideas in traditional Jewish circles about the Messiah and even that there is no Messiah, the thinking in Reform Judaism. So, please be careful to balance the teachings.

We do not agree with the Jewish position on Yeshua, but Believers need to know the Jewish thinking on Yeshua and not buy into this thinking and forsake faith in our Messiah. For those who say they would never do this, we must beg to differ, because we have seen it over our lives as Jewish Believer's in Yeshua. We have been Believer's in Messiah Yeshua for decades. We have seen a lot and had many discussions with our fellow Jews and non-Jews who ultimately turned away from Yeshua because they steeped themselves in Jewish teachings. One does not come out of either traditional Judaism or Christianity and come into the Messianic walk, and then going back, or into, traditional Judaism. *There are many good things in Judaism but denying Yeshua as Messiah is not one of them.*

Berachot (Blessings), Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D., and Rabbi Philip Hammond, Ph.D.

A TRADITIONAL JEWISH PARASHAH AND HAFTARAH COMMENTARY



Parashat Metzora: Summary

Leviticus 14:1-15:33

God describes the purification ritual for people and homes afflicted with leprosy; God also instructs Moses and Aaron regarding the laws of the emission of bodily fluids.

God spoke to Moses, saying, “This is the instruction on how to purify a leper who is healed. When the time is right, a priest shall go outside the camp to the leper’s area and confirm if the leper is healed. The priest then shall make a sacrifice with two clean, living birds. One bird is to be killed with ritual while the other is to be set free in open country.

“The healed leper must wash his clothes, shave off all his hair and bathe in water. Then he shall be clean enough to enter the camp, but he must remain outside his tent for seven days. On the seventh day, after he shaves off all the hair on his body, scrubs his clothes and washes his body, then he shall be clean.

“On the eighth day, the healed leper, two lambs without blemish, and a flour and oil offering shall be presented before the Lord at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. The priest shall ritually slaughter the lambs and use their blood and the flour and oil to make wave offerings, sin offerings, burnt offerings and guilt offerings for the leper who is to be cleansed. With ritual and ceremony, the priest shall make expiation for him before the Lord. Then he shall be clean.”

Then God spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, “When you enter the land of Canaan and I inflict leprosy upon a house there, the owner shall come and tell the priest of the affliction. The priest must examine the house and pronounce the home clean or unclean. The unclean parts must be removed and replaced

with clean materials. If the whole house is unclean, the house shall be torn down and its materials shall be taken to an unclean place outside the city. The house is to be rebuilt with clean materials.

“The priest will inspect the house again. If the priest pronounces the house clean of leprosy, then the priest is to perform a cleansing ritual for the house. He shall make offerings before the Lord with two clean birds. One is to be slaughtered and the other is to be set free in the open country. The priest thus effects purification for the house and it is clean.”

The Lord then spoke to Moses and Aaron and instructed them to tell the people about the laws concerning the emission of bodily fluids. There are times when a man or a woman is “clean” [in a spiritual, not physical sense] and a time when a man or a woman is “unclean.” There are specific rituals to transform a man or woman from unclean to clean.

Parashat Metzora Discussion Questions

1) Why do you think there is a specific priestly purification ritual for a leper who is no longer sick? Do you have a purification ritual for when you become well after being sick? What is it?

2) In this portion, God says that God inflicts leprosy. Do you believe that God causes leprosy? Do you believe that God causes sicknesses? Why or why not?

Haftarah for Metzora

2 Kings 7:3-20

Four lepers save the Israelite camp.

This week’s haftarah is set in the time of a brutal famine in Israel, while Jehoram son of Ahab was king of Israel. The scene opens with four lepers sitting outside the city limits, discussing their sad, hungry prospects.

The four lepers realize that they will soon starve to death if they take no action. They decide to defect from the Israelite camp and go to the camp of the Arameans, who had laid siege over the area. They explain that they have nothing to lose: “If they [the Arameans] let us live, we shall live; and if they put us to death, we shall but die” (7:4).

At twilight, they head for the Aramean camp. Much to their surprise, they discover that the camp was totally abandoned. God had created a miracle, causing the Arameans to hear sounds of chariots and horses, and flee their own camp in fear of attack.

The four lepers help themselves to all the Arameans had left behind: food, drink, silver, and gold. Then they realize they should share the wealth: “This is a day of good news, and we are keeping silent! Come, let us go and inform the king’s palace” (7:9).

The lepers return to the city and tell the gatekeepers about their discovery. The gatekeepers pass the news along and soon King Jehoram, receives the message. Yet he is skeptical, believing that the Arameans had left the camp as a trap, and would be waiting nearby, ready to ambush, as soon as the hungry Israelites entered the Aramean camp to look for food.

But one of the king's courtiers—perhaps out of desperation in famine—encourages the king to investigate the situation further. The courtier proposes sending some horses ahead to see if the Arameans are really laying in ambush. The messengers on these horses discover that the lepers were in fact correct. The camp was fully deserted, and the road, all the way to the Jordan, was strewn with clothing and gear that the Arameans had thrown out in haste.

The people of Israel plundered the Aramean camp. The Israelite economy experienced an upturn, actualizing the prophecy which Elisha had delivered on the previous day: “This time tomorrow, a *seah* [a biblical measurement] of choice flour shall sell for a shekel at the gate of Samaria, and two seahs of barley for a shekel” (7:1, 7:18).

When Elisha had delivered this prophecy, the king's aide had expressed disbelief, and even mocked Elisha: “Even if the Lord made windows in the sky, could this come to pass?” Elisha had responded harshly: “You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it” (7:2, 7:19).

Sure enough, the king appointed this aide to stand at the gate of the Aramean camp while the Israelites helped themselves to the loot. In their massive excitement, the crowd descended on the camp and trampled this aide to death.

Connection to the Parashah

The name of this week's parashah, *Metzora*, means “leper.” The parashah describes the process for ritual cleansing after one is afflicted with leprosy—a skin disease which the Bible also considers a spiritual affliction, and therefore different from what we call leprosy today.

According to the Torah, lepers must separate from the community: “As for the person with a leprous affection, his clothes shall be rent, his head shall be left bare, and he shall cover over his upper lip, and he shall call out ‘Unclean! Unclean’...He shall dwell apart, his dwelling shall be outside the camp” (Leviticus 13:45-46).

In our haftarah, we see that even though lepers are separate from the community—indeed, the four lepers were at first situated outside the city gates—they can, and should, still feel communal responsibility. Instead of resenting their outsider status, the four lepers choose to share the news of the wealth they had found and were therefore instrumental in saving Israel from starvation.



From the Desk of Rabbi Philip Hammond. Ph.D.

Rabbi Hammond can be contacted at – Philip@etz-chayim.org

Metzora – infected one

- In this day and age, much is spoken about – infections etc.



Do we need to be worried about infections... this is the ?

Metzora...

- ³⁴ When ye be come into the land of Canaan, which I give to you for a possession, and I put the plague of tzara'at in a house of the land of your possession; ³⁵ And he that owneth the house shall come and tell the priest, saying, It seemeth to me there is as it were a plague in the house: ³⁶ Then the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest go into it to see the plague, that all that is in the house be not made unclean: and afterward the priest shall go in to see the house: ³⁷ And he shall look on the plague, and, behold, if the plague be in the walls of the house with hollow strakes, greenish or reddish, which in sight are lower than the wall; ³⁸ Then the priest shall go out of the house to the door of the house, and shut up the house seven days: ³⁹ And the priest shall come again the seventh day, and shall look: and, behold, if the plague be spread in the walls of the house; ⁴⁰ Then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which the plague is, and they shall cast them into an unclean place without the city: ⁴¹ And he shall cause the house to be scraped within round about, and they shall pour out the dust that they scrape off without the city into an unclean place: ⁴² And they shall take other stones, and put them in the place of those stones; and he shall take other mortar, and shall plaster the house.

Metzora...

- ⁴³ And if the plague come again, and break out in the house, after that he hath taken away the stones, and after he hath scraped the house, and after it is plastered; ⁴⁴ Then the priest shall come and look, and, behold, if the plague be spread in the house, it is an active tzara'at in the house; it is unclean. ⁴⁵ And he shall break down the house, the stones of it, and the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place. ⁴⁶ Moreover he that goeth into the house all the while that it is shut up shall be unclean until the even. ⁴⁷ And he that lieth in the house shall wash his clothes; and he that eateth in the house shall wash his clothes. ⁴⁸ And if the priest shall come in, and look upon it, and, behold, the plague hath not spread in the house, after the house was plastered: then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the plague is healed. ⁴⁹ And he shall take to cleanse the house two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: ⁵⁰ And he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water: ⁵¹ And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird, and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times:

Metzora...

- ⁵² And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet:⁵³ But he shall let go the living bird out of the city into the open fields, and make an atonement for the house: and it shall be clean.⁵⁴ This is the Torah for all manner of plague of tzara'at, and scale,⁵⁵ And for the tzara'at of a garment, and of a house,⁵⁶ And for a rising, and for a scab, and for a bright spot:⁵⁷ To teach when it is unclean, and when it is clean: this is the Torah of Tzara'at. Leviticus 14:34-57
- As we read through these passages of scripture I would like to focus on the need for spotting leprosy/Tzara'at, and dealing with it..

Metzora...

- Very important point: YHVH put the Tzara'at in the house: ³³ And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, ³⁴ When ye be come into the land of Canaan, which I give to you for a possession, and I put the plague of Tzara'at in a house of the land of your possession;
- A little reminder - it is our Father who controls, and allows all ...
- When we come to an understanding of what Tzara'at involves we need to take a look at the remedies, prescribed by YHVH, and what relevance they have for us today.
- Leprosy/Tzara'at **צָרַעַת** = Something that erupts. Something that not only erupts but infects/ Metzora
- The rituals that HaShem tells Mosheh to apply to the person who has Tzara'at show the importance of community to YHVH.

Metzora...

- Because of the threat this disease would spread throughout the community, the person who had Tzara'at was to be taken outside the camp.
- Now upon his day of purification, or on the day he/she believed their Tzara'at was healed, the priest was to examine the claim. Where was this examination to take place?
- None other than outside the camp. We learn some important biblical patterns from this. Who inspects the person? It is obviously the Priest.
- Yeshua is the only one who can declare a person clean or unclean. Yet, I want us to go to Leviticus 13:1-3

Metzora...

- And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, saying, ²When a man shall have in the skin of his flesh a rising, a scab, or bright spot, and it be in the skin of his flesh like the plague of tzara'at; then he shall be brought unto **Aaron the priest, or unto one of his sons the priests:** ³And the priest shall look on the plague in the skin of the flesh: and when the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight be deeper than the skin of his flesh, it is a plague of tzara'at: and the priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean [Taw-may – foul contaminated].
- Aaron or one of his sons: Aaron High Priest – then his sons and others priests, then the children of Israel or community – rough structure outline.
- Yeshua is our High Priest – We are to have a structure of servant leadership, within our community, just as in Aarons time. Now to understand the pattern surrounding these issues of Metzora, tzara'at, and temai, we should take a brief look at the role of the **priest...**

Metzora...

- Priest/Kohen כהן = Serve as leader, one officiating – it is also used for Egyptian priests, Philistine priests, priests of Chemosh [deity of Moabites], of Asherim [pagan goddess], Baal, and others.
- ⁹ But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 1 Peter 2:9
- To better understand this passage, we must view ...
- ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. Exodus 19:6.
- Question: Did everyone within the nation of Israel serve as priests regarding Tzara'at? NO – yet they were called a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. There were trained servant leaders [priests] to carry out such work.

Metzora...

- This brings us to a couple of cross roads:
- 1st If one is a servant priest leader, inspecting houses for Tzara'at, they should be priests trained and schooled by the High Priest – In our case Yeshua – Even in those days of Aaron and Moshe it was still Yeshua. Why...
- They followed the instructions as given to them by YHVH – the TORAH. We know Yeshua is the Living Torah Who was before the foundation of the world...
- This then leads us to the problem of inspecting priests... These inspecting priests claimed a person, house clean or unclean. In other words they claimed the presence of Tzara'at or not.
- Suggestion: If a priest [servant leader] doesn't know YHVH's instructions/Torah that priest cannot be qualified to pronounce the presence or absence of Tzara'at. That priest will end up pronouncing that which is Tzara'at as clean, and that which isn't Tzara'at as unclean...

Metzora...

- Notice a crucial pattern here. If a person was declared to have Tzara'at then that person was dealt with outside the camp – community protection.
- If a house was declared Tzara'at, that house was to be dismantled and cleaned before it could be relived in. Warning...
- **²³ He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. ²⁴ When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. ²⁵ And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. ²⁶ Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. ²⁷ And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the breasts which thou hast sucked. ²⁸ But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. Luke 11:23-28**

Metzora...

- Pondering - Tzara'at, outside the camp, cleansing houses, Metzora, unclean spirits, the state of our nation – I see our Father at work as never before...
- Big statement considering the flood, the death and resurrection of Yeshua, the moment in the Garden of Eden, the birth of Yeshua, the priest hood system, the exodus and much more...
- Yet I suggest all the above and more are coming into play. Consider the state of our nation. Where are the headquarters of those who profess biblical truth.. outside of our capital Jerusalem.
- We are being given a wonderful chance to clean our houses, and ourselves up. To reside with the King in the World to come, we will need to know what Tzara'at is and depose of it outside in an unclean/temai place.
- An unclean place for refuge being burnt up = Gehenna @ **⁵ But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell/Gehenna; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. Luke 12:5**

Metzora...

- Full of Tzara'at, you are Metzora [infected] – not only that but what you have is contagious...
- In closing I am going to leave you with some thoughts to consider...
- Remember it was YHVH creating the Tzara'at – so could this only infect a house/person in an unclean state already?
- Could the Christian house, the Judaism House, be houses infected by Tzara'at? Could the house of so-called Torah followers be open to infection? How do we know the answer...
- Perhaps we should invite our High Priest to do an inspection – maybe that is a good idea or maybe not such a good idea, depending on your position, and what you are prepared to face.
- Let me ask another question...

Metzora...

- Imagine Yeshua the King is coming to inspect your house tomorrow – your house of faithfulness. How are you feeling? What Tzara'at is He going to find that puts you outside the community, until you have unloaded it to burn in Gehenna, allowing you to be pronounced clean.
- No I am not talking about salvation by works, but I am talking about pleasing the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Perhaps we could simply call it STANDARDS.
- I suggest the house of Israel has lowered its ' standards, and allowed 7 more evil spirits into the space – it is full of Tzara'ah. The house has been left unprotected ...
- **And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day... Nehemiah 13:22a**
- **Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: launder me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Pslam 51:7-10**
- Surely there is no God...

Jewish Practices



How to Make Your Own Passover Haggadah

A DIY Haggadah adds a personal touch to your seder and can make for a more meaningful holiday.

Making your own Haggadah is not just a money-saver, but also a great way to educate yourself about the Passover seder, add a unique twist to your seder and have a more meaningful and satisfying holiday.

For generations, enterprising seder leaders have been sticking post-it notes in their favorite parts of existing Haggadahs, adding in photocopied readings or even cutting and pasting from multiple Haggadahs and combining it all in a looseleaf binder.

The Internet makes the project of creating a personalized Haggadah infinitely easier — and tidier, even if your tech and graphic design skills are minimal. Plus, you can do it with a clean conscience: Whereas the old-fashioned technique of photocopying pages from copyrighted, published Haggadahs is technically illegal, the websites we list below provide only material that is in the public domain.

A homemade Haggadah (Susan Soneta/Flickr)

While a seemingly infinite trove of Passover-related blessings, readings, songs and images are available online, don't forget that you can also incorporate your own (or your guests') writing, art and family photographs into the finished product.

Many DIY Haggadot are copied and stapled, but you can make yours more durable (and spilled wine resistant) by laminating each page or putting them in a photo album, looseleaf binder with plastic sleeves or art portfolio like this.

Or, if you are reasonably tech-savvy and want to go paperless — and your guests are OK with using electronics on Passover (when traditional prohibitions similar to the Shabbat rules apply) — keep the whole text digital. You can email a PDF, PowerPoint, or other document to your guests to download on their mobile devices, or even create a password-protected website.

Below are some resources for DIY-ers. Leave a comment if we've missed one, or if you have other tips you'd like to share:

Haggadot.com

Haggadot.com is the most comprehensive and user-friendly resource for Haggadah makers — and it's free. After you register, you can choose from a constantly growing library of readings and images. The site guides you through the process with templates and an outline of all the sections of the seder. You can search by section, theme (i.e. social justice) and media type (text, video, image). In addition to letting you search by themes, the site also provides templates like this with recommendations for family-friendly and other specific needs.

You can also invite friends, or even all the seder guests, to log in and participate in the Haggadah-making. When you're done, you print it out as a PDF file or download it to your guests' mobile devices. This video gives an overview of the process:

PunkTorah.org's "Make Your Own Haggadah for Kids"

Print out this free (suggested donation of \$10) downloadable PDF and have your children fill in the blanks with words and pictures. While this somewhat irreverent Haggadah was originally designed for use in Hebrew schools, it is self-explanatory and can be used anywhere. Highlights include "The story of Passover: in comic book form" with panels where kids can put their own illustrations; activities like puzzles and lyrics to original songs like "Take Me Out of Mitzrayim" (sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame") and "Passover Things" (to the tune of "My Favorite Things"). ("Mitzrayim" is Hebrew for Egypt.)

Sefaria.org

Sefaria, a growing online library with many major Jewish texts in Hebrew and English, offers the full text of the Ashkenazi Haggadah and the Edot Hamizrach Haggadah. You can also create a DIY Haggadah by incorporating commentaries, source sheets, multimedia content, art and more. Further instructions [here](#).

Looking for something a little simpler? You can download the Haggadah text in English as a Microsoft Word document at [LivelySeders.com](#) and add to it (or cut) as you see fit.



How to Make Your Passover Seder Inclusive

Tips for making your non-Jewish guests and family members feel welcome and comfortable.

An important Jewish value is to invite strangers to the Passover seder, which celebrates freedom. The following tips are designed to make those at the table who are not Jewish feel more comfortable with the holiday, rituals, and traditions.

1. Prepare your partner, children and guests who are not Jewish.

As more and more partners, children and extended family who are not Jewish attend seders, letting them know what to expect will be helpful. Whether you are hosting or attending a seder, explain what will happen, who will be there, what will be eaten and when, and what they will be asked to do during the meal. Tell everyone that welcoming those who are not Jewish to the seder makes it a special and more valuable occasion and that the purpose of the seder is not to proselytize, but to celebrate freedom.

2. Select the right Haggadah.

The Haggadah is the book that contains the order, blessings, narrative, and songs for the seder. There are Haggadahs to reflect different approaches and needs, from traditional to liberal, from recovering alcoholics to feminists to vegetarians and more. Consider selecting a Haggadah that:

- Uses Hebrew with aligned translation and transliteration, so that people unfamiliar with Hebrew are better able to follow along.
- Is inclusive and reflects gender equality.
- Provides background and explanations for the rituals.

3. In advance of the seder, consider rephrasing parts of your Haggadah to be more welcoming to the people who will be coming to it.

4. Add blessings to welcome those who are not Jewish.

For some ideas, check out [this article](#). You can include some or all of these in your own seder, or write your own blessings, with your family.

5. Assign everyone passages from the Haggadah to read aloud during the seder.

Participating in this way can give your partner, children, and friends a better opportunity to experience the seder. Review the Haggadah before the seder to identify appropriate sections for them.

6. Connect the story of the Passover liberation story to other freedom stories, past or present, political and/or psychological (such as freedom from negative patterns).

If there are particular struggles that people attending your seder would relate to (such as the struggle for independence in India if an Indian woman will attend), be sure to mention them. Or discuss ten “plagues” that we face today. This discussion may engage your partner, children, and friends.

7. Don't forget to have fun.

Seders can be relaxed and informal. Some families add favorite songs that children learn in religious school, while others enjoy reading aloud Deborah Uchill Miller's “Only Nine Chairs,” a humorous account of a family seder.

8. Remember the children.

Some families have created a “Pat the Bunny”-type Haggadah for young children, using coloring sheets and cotton balls on pictures of sheep, sandpaper on pictures of bricks of the pyramids and grape scratch-and-sniff stickers on pictures of the Kiddush cups. Some even give children “goody bags” filled with Passover symbols, frog stickers and even moist towelettes for the inevitable spills of wine.

9. Debrief after the seder.

Talk with your family about the ways in which they felt comfortable and uncomfortable. Find ways to diminish any discomfort for the coming year's seder.

עֲבָרִי - Hebrew

Word (s) of the Week

Prayer / תְּפִילָּה

Pronounced: t-fee-LAH

Jewish prayer, *tefilah*, can be spontaneous or scripted. The opening line of Psalm 90 describes it as: *Tefilah l'Moshe, ish Elohim* — a prayer of Moses, man of God.



A Taste of Jewish Humor

A Helpmate Against Him

Morty just finished reading the book, 'MAN OF THE HOUSE'.

He stormed into the kitchen and walked up to his wife menacingly.

Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house, and my word is law! I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, I expect a sumptuous dessert afterward. Then, after dinner, you are going to draw me my bath so I can relax. And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"

His wife replied, "The Chevra Kadisha (Preparing the body for burial) would be my guess."

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Men's Group
Sun: 7:30pm

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