



The Pesach Perspective, Legacy of Liberation

The Pesach Perspective is in honor of Eretz Yisroel. May G-d protect our brave soldiers. May G-d return all the hostages in Gaza immediately.

The Pesach Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, and in loving memory of Hinda Bas Udl, Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.

We are about to celebrate Pesach, the holiday of freedom. We meticulously clean our homes, eat the ancient and spiritual bread of Matzah, and drink four cups of wine to honor our liberation. Most importantly, we retell the story of our Exodus from Egypt, making it relevant and resonant today.

Unfortunately, with hostages still in captivity, the Exodus narrative becomes starkly relevant. The phrase "in every generation they rise to destroy us" feels all too real as new enemies emerge, similar in intent to eradicate and destroy the nation chosen by G-d.

An essential part of Pesach is experiencing the story as if we, ourselves, had left Egypt. To declare our freedom, we must identify with the suffering they endured, appreciating the exodus, our redemption from Egypt.

Tragically, many of our brothers and sisters in Israel experienced such pain and misery. From the outright slaughter in Kibbutzim to the massacre at the Nova Festival, the suffering they experienced is incomprehensible.

Our correlation and comparison to the Jewish nation's suffering in Egypt won't be as challenging or difficult. Furthermore, with over 130 hostages still in captivity, held as pawns in a disgusting game of politics, the similarities to our past are stark and severe.

The holiday of Pesach and the Seder night is a gesture to the past so we may see our future. Just as those who have risen to destroy us failed time and again, our enemies today will meet the same fate. Their efforts will see them joining the ranks of those in history who have unsuccessfully battled against G-d's chosen nation.

The focus at our Seder tables must be turning our history into living memory, making our past a part of our present. Internalizing that our struggle for freedom never ends; enabling us to add our unique mark to our storied history. When we describe our beginnings, we are empowered because of how far we have come and inspired to forge ahead to the day that 'Next Year in Yerushalayim' is a reality!

"Nations need identity. Identity needs memory. And memory depends on the story we tell ourselves and our children as to who we are. If you preserve that memory forever, you will preserve that people forever."

-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Have a Joyful and meaningful Pesach!
Rabbi Sholom Yemini