

Preparing your home for Passover

With Passover coming up hopefully, we're all starting to think about preparations:

What do we need to do to be ready? Since God's Word is the foundation for why we keep Passover, it is a logical place to begin our preparation. The first mention of preparation for Passover or what is kosher for Passover is found in **Exodus chapter 12:14-20**. (notice how it repeats itself V. 15, 18 and 19... another repetition. V 20 more repetition... Rabbi has mentioned in the past how repetition indicates importance)

In verse 14 Passover is called a memorial and that speaks to the continuance of keeping Passover. I would like to point out that this is a feast to Adonai. It belongs to Him and it is for Him. The text says "throughout your generations" and "eternal ordinance" which further speaks to the continuing act of keeping Passover. **Verse 15** speaks of eating matzah for 7 days or unleavened bread and it also speaks of removing chametz or yeast from your houses. As we prepare for Passover, our focus should not just be on physical preparation but spiritual preparation also. The place that our heart is while keeping Passover is so very important. Hametz or yeast is a symbol for sin. While we physically prepare our homes and our menus for Pesach, let us search our hearts preparing ourselves for celebrating the feast, asking Adonai to reveal any hametz/yeast in our lives that needs to be removed.

1st Corinthians 5: 6 - 8- Sincerity and truth

This passage is also a clear passage in the Brit Chadasha instructing us not just to keep Passover, but how to keep it. This is in addition to the example Messiah Yeshua in His faithful keeping of Passover.

Other passages that mention Passover:

Again in **Exodus 13: 3 - 9**

Why are we doing this? One of the things I love about this passage is that we are given a reason to keep this memorial, besides the obvious reason that God said so. Verse 8 states, "It is because of what Adonai did for me when I came out of Egypt." When our children ask, or family or friends ask why keep Passover, we can answer confidently, Because of what Yeshua did for me. He became the Passover Lamb, suffering and dying a terrible death, and rising from the dead, redeeming us from our own individual Egypt, slavery to sin.

Exodus 23:15

Leviticus 23:4-6

Numbers 28: 16 - 17

Deuteronomy 16: 1-8

Recurring themes

--eat unleavened bread or matzah for 7 days

--no chametz or yeast is to be found in your houses

In the Hebrew the command specifies no yeast.

Required Observances versus TRADITIONAL OBSERVANCES

Why is some Matzah labelled Kosher for Passover, and other is not? Matzah that is labeled Kosher for Passover has been prepared quickly (18min), so that the flour and water mixture has no chance of becoming leavened or collecting wild yeast. Interestingly, In EX. 12:17 the Hebrew is translated “observe the feast of Matzot” but when I open to the Hebrew text I read, in my limited Hebrew, “guard the matzah.” This is why the rabbis have been so careful to prepare the Matzah for Passover! And the lessons you can pull from this in regards to guarding our lives!

Traditionally all leavening agents are also removed to avoid the appearance of leaven (sin). It is important that we understand the difference between tradition and the Scriptures. We are commanded no yeast, but there are those who may desire to remove the appearance of leaven, and we should not condemn those keeping the tradition nor condemn those who in their home only observe strictly, no yeast as the Scripture says. There are Ashkenazi or Sephardic traditions.... Just so you are aware of these practices.

Ashkenazi Jews traditionally prohibit the consumption of *kitniyot*

(legumes)during Passover. These items, known commonly as rice, corn, millet and legumes, have been banned for centuries by Ashkenazi Jews. The origin of the ban is unclear; it's thought that perhaps kitniyot were considered too similar to grains(traditionally associated with hametz). Grains and kitniyot often shared the same storage bags, so it's possible there was concern that chametz might accidentally be mixed in with the kitniyot and consumed during Passover.

Another theory is that kitniyot expand when immersed in water, which may have been perceived by the early rabbis as a form of rising or leavening. Whatever the reason, most Ashkenazi Jews today stick to the ban on kitniyot, even though it's not technically prohibited by Torah law.

See the full

post:<http://toriavey.com/what-foods-are-kosher-for-passover/#ZHKZzV02EmWE99H3.99>

KITNIYOT

Rice

Corn

Millet

Dried beans and lentils

Peas

Green Beans

Soybeans

Peanuts

Sesame Seeds

Poppy Seeds

Mustard

See the full

post:<http://toriavey.com/what-foods-are-kosher-for-passover/#ZHKZzV02EmWE9H3.99>

Sephardic Passover dietary law rulings permit the use of kitniyot [generally speaking, kitniyot (singular form: "kitnit" or "kitneet") include small fleshless seeds of annual plants that an individual might ground into flour], and their derivatives in other products.

PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS

STEP 1

IDENTIFY AND REMOVE OFFENDING YEAST PRODUCTS

There are many things that contain yeast or yeast extract beside just bread or bread like products. The most obvious thing of course that we have to remove bread. Many crackers also may contain yeast. Yeast extract is also used in various processed foods like canned soups, gravies, broths, packs of spices pre-mixed, vitamin supplements or dog food (some choose to store outside the home). It is best to read all the labels of items in your cupboard that might contain yeast or yeast extract. Citric acid is another ingredient you may want to watch out for. It is often produced from a kind of yeast or fungus.

WHEN TO START STEP 1?

This week (or Nisan/Aviv 1) would be a good time to start finding these things, to separate them out, so you can consume them, store it outside your home if necessary(storage unit) or give them away. This also means considering what might contain Chametz when grocery shopping the closer we get to Passover. It has been suggested that if you give it away, do it a week or more before Passover so that you are not giving the gift of hametz to your neighbor when you

believe it is wrong to have it yourself. If you cannot consume or give away something in time, it is also suggested that if you do throw it in the trash you do so by the last trash pickup day prior to Passover. I personally will try not to have yeast in my house as much as a few days before Passover.

STEP TWO

CLEAN!!!

Passover is also the origin of spring cleaning. When we remove yeast from the house things to consider:

- clean out our cupboards,
- clean the floors.
- some people may go so far as to move the stove if possible to get any food that may have fallen behind it.
- Cleaning out your oven to get any food that may have cooked onto any of the surfaces inside
- stove top under the burners if applicable
- Remove the toaster from your house perhaps pack it in a box in the garage or in a storage unit
- Cleaning out the drawers and utensil tray in your kitchen
- Fridge and Freezer
- dining room
- anywhere food could have been
- bedding
- Washing all your dishes or optionally if you so desire, obtaining a special set of dishes just for Passover use.

This may all seem very overwhelming. You can work at a little at a time and include other members of your household. Many hands make light work.

It is also good to consider and meditate on the scriptures concerning Passover preparation about removing the yeast or sin from our lives as we go through this whole process. I pray that we each will receive the blessing of some revelation or lesson this preparation season!

STEP TWO CLEAN WHEN?

A week or two before Passover. Don't forget to save a little hametz for the last ceremony preceding Passover. The searching for the leaven or bedikat chametz, Involves the father hiding a small piece of leaven in a conspicuous place and letting the children find it so that they can remove the last leaven from their houses.

STEP 3

Buying Kosher for Passover Matzah and matzah ball soup mix, etc. When buying remember to check ingredients! One way to make this easier is to make your own foods.

STEP 4

ENJOY THE WEEK OF UNLEAVENED BREAD!

Try starting new food traditions like, make your own matzah pizza night, PB and J matzah lunches, Matzah Lasagna, Matzah brittle, matzah and dips, matzah ball soup, matzah tuna salad or chicken salad sandwiches, be adventurous!

And REMEMBER, to be gracious to yourself as you learn how to keep Passover. Some of us may not be able to keep Passover and Unleavened bread as well as we might want this year, depending on our individual situations. It is a process! We are all going to make mistakes, and we will all learn some good lessons.

Passover Peanut Butter Cookies

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup peanut butter

1 egg

OPT. ½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips

Mix well. Roll into balls and pat with a fork. Bake at 350 for 8 to 10 minutes. Makes about 18.