

פסח

Pesach



Pesach (Passover) is one of G-d's appointed times. Passover retells our flight from slavery in Egypt. After Moses and Aaron went time and again to get Pharaoh, seeking to release the people, G-d sent one last judgement against the Egyptian people. Nine other times Pharaoh had refused to free our people but the 10th judgement was like none other. G-d warned His people that the *Malach Adonai*, the "Angel of the L-rd" would pass through the Land of Egypt and only those who had blood on their doorposts would have their first-born son still alive.

The Hebrew name for "Passover" is פסח, *Pesach*. Pesach is the name for the Lamb whose life is taken away so that the first-born son would live. Each family was commanded by HaShem to kill a lamb, roast it over a fire and eat all they could in one night. Whatever was left over was to be burned. Some of the blood from the lamb was then put on the doorposts of the house marking it as "covered" by the blood of the lamb.

On the night before the death Angel passed through the land of Egypt, the Israelites did just as Moshe had commanded them. We put the blood of the Pesach lamb on the doorposts of our houses. In the camp of Israel no first-born son was killed while in the homes of the Egyptians you could hear the crying of parents as one by one they found out that their oldest son was dead. So angry was Pharaoh at finding his own first-born son dead that he let all of Israel go free.

With no time to let our bread rise, we simply gathered everything that belong to us and fled into the wilderness. Realizing later what he had done, Pharaoh sent his army to recapture Israel. With Pharaoh's army behind us and the Red Sea in front of us, we were trapped! It looked certain that we would become Pharaoh's slaves once again. At just the right time G-d miraculously opened the Red Sea, allowing all of us to pass through on dry ground. When Pharaoh and his armies tried to follow us through the divided waters, HaShem let the walls of water collapse upon them and they all were drowned in the Sea. We were free!

G-d commanded us to celebrate every year זמן חרותינו, *z'man charuteinu* the "time of our freedom."