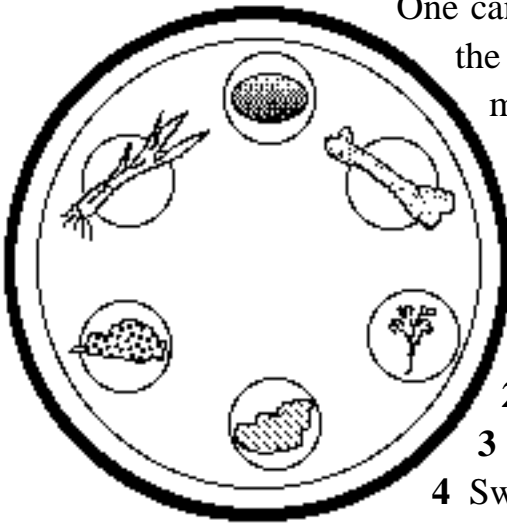


פסח

Pesach



One cannot even think of Pesach without remembering the part of the Seder when we list in order the judgments which HaShem brought against the gods of Egypt. Every one of the “plagues” were made to show that there was only one true G-d and that was the G-d of Israel! Here are the plagues in the order that G-d sent them:

- 1 Water of the Nile turned to blood
- 2 Land overrun by frogs
- 3 Swarms of gnats
- 4 Swarms of flies
- 5 Cattle died
- 6 Boils on the skin of the Egyptians
- 7 Deadening hail
- 8 Swarms of locusts
- 9 Thick darkness
- 10 Death of the firstborn of each Egyptian family

With each of the judgments Pharaoh had been given the opportunity to do the right thing and let the people go, but each plague saw him become more bitter than before. Given the chance to leave with no time for their bread to rise, the Israelites picked up their things and left quickly! For one week following the Pesach night we eat unleavened bread (*מַצָּה*, *matzah*) to remind us that we were all once slaves and would still be in slavery if HaShem had not delivered us.

Every year at Pesach we dip our fingers into the wine (representing blood) and drip one drop for every plague that G-d performed on our behalf so that we might be free. Pesach calls us to remember the strength of our G-d who did mighty acts to insure our freedom. Yet in taking 10 drops from our cup of wine we are also reminded that even the death of our enemies diminishes our joy.

Thus Pesach calls us to remember that we were once slaves and that everything we presently have is a gift from G-d. Eating matzah reminds us that we’ve not always been free, so we never take our freedom for granted. Pesach reminds us that we were slaves who had no hope of a better life without the redemption or deliverance which HaShem graciously made for us.

