



# Bais Midrash 715

## Pesach 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Edition Newsletter

### Zmanim

Erev Shabbus, Friday April 18	Seventh Day, Shabbus April 19	Eighth Day, Sunday April 20
Mincha ..... 6:00 pm	Shacharis ..... 7:15 am	Shacharis ..... 7:30 am
Earliest Halakhos Neiros . 6:16 pm	Mincha ..... 2:30 pm	Mincha ..... 2:30 pm
Kabalos Shabbus ..... 6:16 pm	Maariv ..... 8:31 pm	Maariv ..... 8:37 pm
Sunset ..... 7:40 pm	Halakhos Neiros (72) .... 8:53 pm	Tzeis (72) ..... 8:54 pm

#### Davar Torah 1 By ChatGPT

On the Seventh Day of Pesach, we commemorate Kriat Yam Suf—the miraculous splitting of the Sea of Reeds—marking not only the physical redemption of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage but the spiritual birth of a nation guided by Divine providence. The Midrash (Mehilta Beshalach 6) teaches that even the simplest maidservant at the sea saw more of God's presence than the prophet Yechezkel—a powerful image of emunah peshutah, simple faith, awakened through experiential revelation. This moment defines Jewish history: a people walking into the sea, uncertain yet trusting, and emerging transformed. It is this same blend of faith, courage, and national destiny that echoes in the founding and ongoing resilience of the State of Israel. Like the Israelites facing the sea, Israel's founders stepped into uncertainty in 1948,

guided by a belief in Jewish sovereignty and Divine promise. Rav Soloveitchik writes in Kol Dodi Dofek that the establishment of the State of Israel represents not just a political event but a Divine knock on the door of history, awakening the Jewish people to their national mission. On this day, we do not merely remember a past miracle—we recognize that the splitting of the sea continues in every act of Jewish self-determination in the Land of Israel. The courage to walk through the unknown, the commitment to a shared destiny, and the belief that Hashem walks with us still—that is the legacy of the Seventh Day of Pesach. May we merit to see the final redemption with the same awe and unity that accompanied us at the sea.

Sources: Shemot 14; Mehilta Beshalach 6; Kol Dodi Dofek, Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik; Talmud Sotah 37a.

#### Davar Torah 2 By ChatGPT

On the Eighth Day of Pesach, known as *Acharon Shel Pesach*, we shift our focus from the Exodus to the future redemption, as highlighted in the

Haftarah from Isaiah 10:32–12:6. This passage envisions a messianic era marked by peace and the ingathering of exiles: “He will raise a banner



for the nations and gather the dispersed of Israel". In the diaspora, many observe the tradition of *Seudat Moshiah*, a meal symbolizing hope for ultimate redemption.

This year, the themes of redemption and liberation resonate deeply as we remember the Israeli hostages taken during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack. As of this Passover, 59 individuals remain captive in Gaza, their absence poignantly marked by empty seats at Seder tables across Israel. The recent release of a video featuring Edan Alexander, the last known living

Israeli-American hostage, pleading for his freedom, underscores the ongoing anguish and the urgent need for deliverance.

The Eighth Day of Pesach calls upon us to transform our yearning into action. As Isaiah proclaims, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid" (Isaiah 12:2). In this spirit, we are reminded that redemption is not solely a divine act but also a human responsibility. May our prayers and efforts hasten the release of the captives and bring peace to the land of Israel.

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### Davar Torah 3 By Gemini AI

The period of Sefiras HaOmer, the counting of the forty-nine days between Pesach and Shavuot, is traditionally a time of semi-mourning, a spiritual ascent marked by introspection and refinement. We count each day, each week, building towards the revelation at Sinai. This year, however, our counting takes on an added layer of profound significance as we continue to hold in our hearts and prayers the Israeli hostages still held captive since the horrific attacks of October 7th. The Gemara in Yevamot 62b teaches us about the students of Rabbi Akiva who tragically perished during this very period, a time when qualities of *chesed*, loving-kindness, were perhaps lacking. Their loss reminds us of the fragility of life and the paramount importance of unity and compassion within our community. Just as we meticulously count each day of the

Omer, anticipating the receiving of the Torah, so too do we count each agonizing day of captivity, yearning for the safe return of our brothers and sisters. The mitzvah of *pidyon shvuyim*, the redemption of captives, is a core tenet of our faith, considered a great mitzvah, as the Rambam states in Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Matanot Ani'im 8:10. Our collective hope and unwavering advocacy for their release become an integral part of our spiritual journey during this Sefirah, transforming our personal introspection into a communal cry for justice and a powerful expression of our interconnectedness. May this Omer period be a time of increased *ahavat Yisrael*, love for our fellow Jews, and may we merit to see the swift and complete redemption of all those held captive.

**GOOD SHABBUS!**

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