

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM  
REBIRTH OF NATURE  
Environmental Model Seder



*Pesach - Passover*  
*April 20, 2008 • 10 Nisan, 5768*

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## **PESACH - PASSOVER**

Hag Ha'Aviv – The Vernal Holiday

### **FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY ~ REBIRTH OF NATURE**

To Enslave Humanity is to Enslave Nature

To Free Humanity is to Sanctify Nature

Hark! My beloved! There he comes, Leaping over mountains,  
Bounding over hills. <sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle Or like a  
young stag. There he stands behind our wall, Gazing through the  
window, Peering through the lattice. <sup>10</sup> My beloved spoke thus to  
me, “Arise, my darling; My fair one, come away! <sup>11</sup> For now the  
winter is past, The rains are over and gone. <sup>12</sup> The blossoms have  
appeared in the land, The time of pruning has come; The song of  
the turtledove Is heard in our land. <sup>13</sup> The green figs form on the  
fig tree, The vines in blossom give off fragrance. Arise, my darling;  
My fair one, come away! <sup>14</sup> “O my dove, in the cranny of the  
rocks, Hidden by the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your  
voice; For your voice is sweet And your face is comely.” **Song of  
Solomon 2:8-14**

\* Aviv-Spring

\* Hag-Holiday

# I. CREATION

**Narrator:** And Moses appeared before Pharaoh and said, “The God of the Hebrew has appeared to me and has instructed me to command you, LET MY PEOPLE GO.” And Pharaoh said, “Who is God, I do not know him.”

**What is it that Pharaoh does not know?  
Why does Pharaoh not recognize God?**

In the tenth year, on the twelfth day of the tenth month, the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>O mortal, turn your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Speak these words: Thus said the Lord GOD: I am going to deal with you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, Mighty monster, sprawling in your channels, Who said, My Nile is my own; and I created it. <sup>4</sup>I will put hooks in your jaws, And make the fish of your channels Cling to your scales; I will haul you up from your channels, With all the fish of your channels Clinging to your scales. <sup>5</sup>And I will fling you into the desert, With all the fish of your channels. You shall be left lying in the open, Ungathered and unburied: I have given you as food To the beasts of the earth And the birds of the sky. <sup>6</sup>Then all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know That I am the LORD... Ezekiel 29:1-6

**Day 1 Reader:** When God began to create heaven and earth – <sup>2</sup>the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water – <sup>3</sup>God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.

**Day 2 Reader:** <sup>6</sup>God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water...” <sup>7</sup>God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse... <sup>8</sup>God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

**Day 3 Reader:** <sup>9</sup> God said, “Let the water below the sky be gathered into one area, that the dry land may appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of waters He called Seas... <sup>11</sup> And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: seed-bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so... <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

**Day 4 Reader:** <sup>14</sup> God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times – the days and the years; ... <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth... And God saw that this was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

**Day 5 Reader:** <sup>20</sup> God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and birds that fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”... <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile and increase, fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

**Day 6 Reader:** <sup>24</sup> God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: cattle, creeping things, and wild beasts of every kind.” And it was so...<sup>26</sup> And God said, “Let us make Adam in our image, after our likeness...”<sup>27</sup> And God created Adam in His image, in the image of God He created Adam; male and female He created them...<sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; they shall be yours for food...”<sup>31</sup> And God saw all that He had made, and found it very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Day 7 Reader:** The heaven and the earth were finished, and all their array. <sup>2</sup> On the seventh day God finished the work that He had been doing, and He ceased on the seventh day from all the work that He had done. <sup>3</sup> And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that He had done. **Genesis 1:1 - 2:3**

**Reader:** <sup>15</sup> The LORD God took Adam and placed Adam in the garden of Eden, to till it and tend it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you are free to eat; <sup>17</sup> but as for the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, you must not eat of it; for as soon as you eat of it, you shall die.” **Genesis 2:15-17**

## II. CREATION AND SLAVERY

### Don't Mess with God or Mother Nature: or How I learned to Love and Understand the Ten Plagues

#	THE PLAGUE	REALM OF NATURE
1	Blood	Water
2	Frogs	Water
3	Lice	Land
4	Swarms of Insects or Swarms of Beasts	Land
5	Livestock Pestilence	Land
6	Boils	Air*
7	Hail	Air
8	Locusts	Air
9	Darkness	First Day of Creation-Light
10	Death of the Firstborn	Sixth Day of Creation-Life

\* Exodus 9:8 – Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Each of you take handfuls of soot from the kiln and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh, it shall become a fine dust all over the land of Egypt and cause boils on man and beast.”

- No one can enslave anyone else even if they're Pharaoh, King of Egypt because God has created all people in God's image.
- Moses says to Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, Let My people go.”
- Pharaoh says, “Who is the Lord that I should listen to Him and let Israel go? I do not recognize the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.”
- Essentially, what God says to Pharaoh is “You don't recognize me! If you don't know who I am, you will soon find out. I am the Creator, and hence, I am the Master of Nature.”
- God then proceeds to teach Pharaoh this graduated, developmentally appropriate lesson, step-by-step, realm of nature by realm of nature.
- First God shows Pharaoh mastery over the three realms of nature – water, land and air.
- God shows Pharaoh that He has arrayed all of nature against him from the first day of creation in which light is turned to darkness, plague 9, to the sixth day of creation when life is turned to death, plague 10.
- PHARAOH JUST DOESN'T GET IT!



### III.

## CELEBRATION IN THE MONTH OF AVIV

**Reader:** And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how the LORD freed you from it with a mighty hand: no leavened bread shall be eaten.

<sup>4</sup> **You go free on this day, in the month of Aviv.**

<sup>5</sup> So, when the LORD has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall observe in this month the following practice: <sup>6</sup> “Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival of the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Throughout the seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten; no leavened bread shall be found with you, and no leaven shall be found in all your territory. <sup>8</sup> And you shall explain to your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I went free from Egypt.’ Exodus 13:3-8

**Reader:** Observe the month of Aviv and offer a passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, for it was in the month of Aviv, at night, that the LORD your God freed you from Egypt. ... <sup>3</sup> You shall not eat anything leavened with it; for seven days thereafter you shall eat unleavened bread, bread of distress – for you departed from the land of Egypt hurriedly – so that you may remember the day of your departure from the land of Egypt as long as you live. <sup>4</sup> For seven days no leaven shall be found with you in all your territory... Deuteronomy 16:1, 3, 4

**Behold this is the bread of affliction, which our ancestors ate in the land of Mitzrayim-Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need come and celebrate the Passover. This year we are enslaved, next year we will be free. This year we are here, next year in Jerusalem.**

## IV. AGRICULTURAL CYCLE AND THE HOLIDAYS

### Pesach – Passover: Winter Wheat Grain Harvest

<sup>9</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>10</sup> Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving to you and you reap its harvest, you shall bring the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest. <sup>11</sup> He shall elevate the sheaf before the LORD for acceptance in your behalf; the priest shall elevate it on the day after the sabbath. ...

<sup>14</sup> Until that very day, until you have brought the offering of your God, you shall eat no bread or parched grain or fresh ears; it is a law for all time throughout the ages in all your settlements. Leviticus 23:9-11, 14

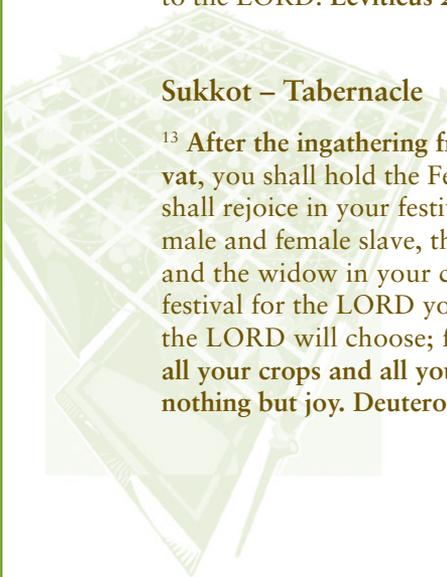


### Shavuot – Pentecost: Barley Harvest

<sup>15</sup> And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of elevation offering – the day after the sabbath – you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete: <sup>16</sup> you must count until the day after the seventh week – fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the LORD. <sup>17</sup> You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of bread as an elevation offering; each shall be made of two-tenths of a measure of choice flour, baked after leavening, as first fruits to the LORD. Leviticus 23:15-17

### Sukkot – Tabernacle

<sup>13</sup> After the ingathering from your threshing floor and your vat, you shall hold the Feast of Booths for seven days. <sup>14</sup> You shall rejoice in your festival, with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow in your communities. <sup>15</sup> You shall hold a festival for the LORD your God seven days, in the place that the LORD will choose; for the LORD your God will bless all your crops and all your undertakings, and you shall have nothing but joy. Deuteronomy 16:13-15



# FROM BEGINNING TO BEGINNING

## The Jewish Festival ~ Agriculture

Rosh ha-Shanah

Yom Kippur

SUKKOT

WHEAT SOWN

BARLEY SOWN



DATE HARVEST 6



OLIVE HARVEST



GRAPES RIPEN



1 early rain



2 heavy rain

RAINFALL



Elul

Tishri

Heshvan

Kislev

Tevet

Shevat

Adar

September

October

November

December

January

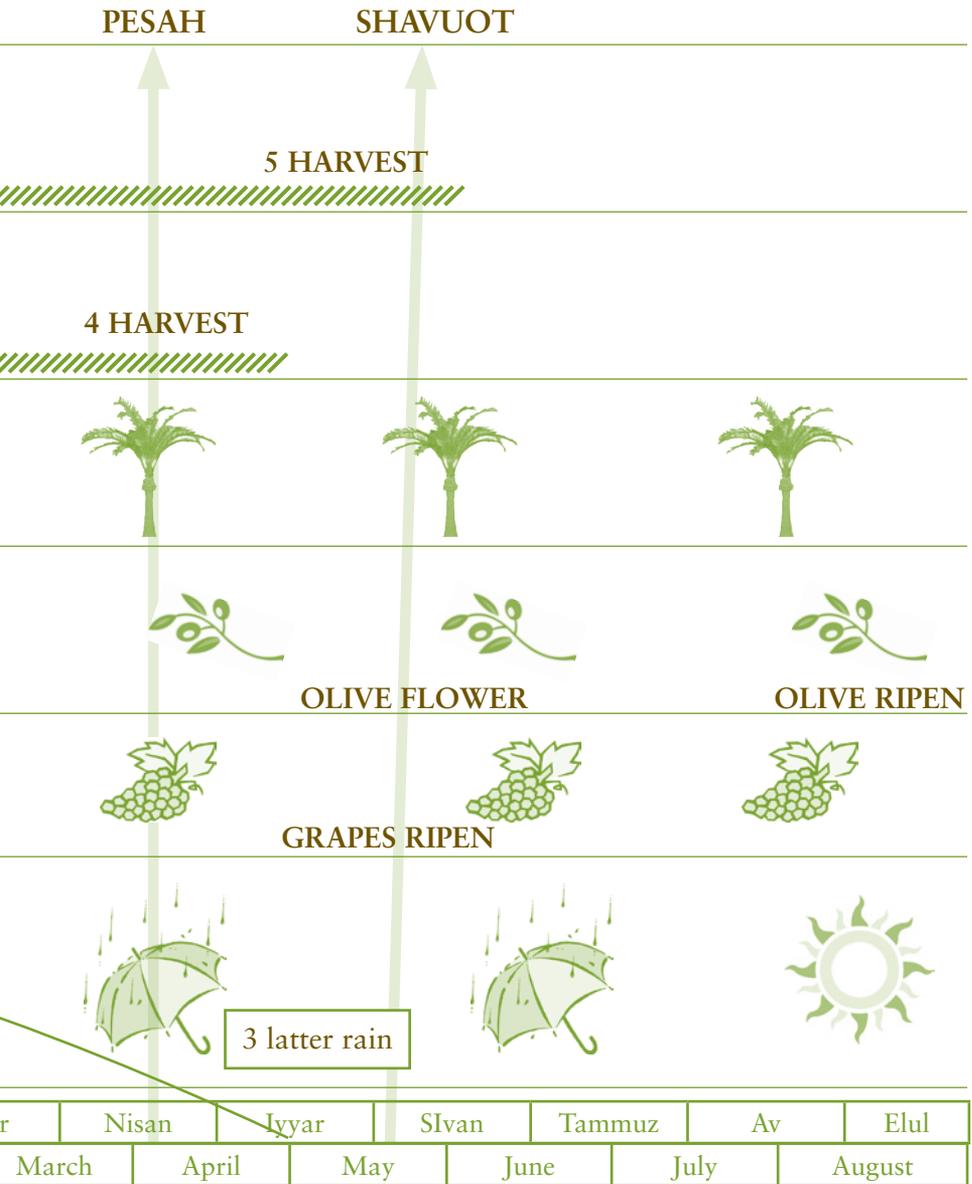
February

Hanukkah

Purim

# FROM BEGINNING TO BEGINNING

## Agricultural Calendar



Tishah be-Av



## V. THE CELEBRATORY FOODS OF THE SEDER

In each and every generation, each and every person is obligated to see him or herself as if he or she went forth from slavery in Mitzrayim-Egypt.



**Karpas**



**Matzah and Maror**

<sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs. Exodus 12:8

<sup>16</sup> You shall celebrate a sacred occasion on the first day, and a sacred occasion on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them; only what every person is to eat, that alone may be prepared for you. <sup>17</sup> You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt; you shall observe this day throughout the ages as an institution for all time. <sup>18</sup> In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. Exodus 12:16-18

<sup>11</sup> No meal offering that you offer to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for no leaven or honey may be turned into smoke as an offering by fire to the LORD. Leviticus 2:11

You shall not eat anything leavened with it; for seven days thereafter you shall eat unleavened bread, bread of torment – for you departed from the land of Egypt hurriedly – so that you may remember the day of your departure from the land of Egypt as long as you live. **Deuteronomy 16:3**



### The Four Cups of Wine

I am a rose of Sharon, A lily of the valleys. <sup>2</sup> Like a lily among thorns, So is my darling among the maidens. <sup>3</sup> Like an apple tree among trees of the forest, So is my beloved among the youths. I delight to sit in his shade, And his fruit is sweet to my mouth. <sup>4</sup> He brought me to the wine hall And his banner of love was over me. <sup>5</sup> “Sustain me with raisin cakes, Refresh me with apples, For I am faint with love.” <sup>6</sup> His left hand was under my head, His right arm embraced me. **Song of Solomon 2:1-6**



### Haroset

I went down to the nut grove To see the budding of the vane; To see if the vines had blossomed, If the pomegranates were in bloom. <sup>12</sup> Before I knew it, My desire set me... **Song of Solomon 6:11, 12**

Who is she that comes up from the desert, Leaning upon her beloved? Under the apple tree I roused you... <sup>6</sup> Let me be a seal upon your heart, Like the seal upon your hand. For love is fierce as death, Passion is mighty as Sheol; Its darts are darts of fire, A blazing flame. <sup>7</sup> Vast floods cannot quench love, Nor rivers drown it. If a man offered all his wealth for love, He would be laughed to scorn. **Song of Solomon 8:5-7**

## **In-Green-Dients**

- Organic wine and grape juice
  - Organic vegetable medley
- Biodegradable utensils and plates
  - Organic gefilte fish
- Organic chicken matzo ball soup
  - Organic vegetarian kishke
    - Reusable linens



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