

Pesach Torah & other readings

First Day of Pesach

15 Nisan - TUE, April 23rd

First Torah - five people, 31 p'sukim
Sh'mot 12:21-51 (Parshat BO)

MISHCHU... This portion is the continuation of what we read on Shabbat Parshat HaChodesh. It contains the actual procedures to be followed in the bringing of the Korban Pesach, the account of the night of the 10th plague, the Exodus, the Exodus-Matza connection, reference to Leil Shimurim, and mitzvot related to K.P.

Second Torah - Maftir, 10 p'sukim
Bamidbar 28:16-25 (in Parshat Pinchas)

UVACHODESH HARISHON... Contains the Korban Musaf of Pesach. Begins with Korban Pesach on the 14th and the command to eat matza for seven days.

Haftara: 15 p'sukim • Yehoshua 5:2-6:1

BA-EIT HAHI... The Torah tells us of Pesach Mitzrayim, and then of the first annual Pesach. After that, KP was not brought for the duration of the time in the Midbar. The haftara tells of the mass circumcision at Gilgal of the males who were below military age when we came out of Egypt and those born in the Midbar. Following the Mila, a prerequisite for KP, the first Pesach in Eretz Yisrael was observed. The Manna ceased and the new People of Israel ate from the harvest of the Land for the first time. Yehoshua meets an angel and is about to begin preparations for battle against Yericho, the first step in conquering the Land.

2nd day of Pesach

1st day of Chol HaMoed, WED, April 24th

Day 1 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 52 p'sukim
Vayikra 22:26-23:44 (from Parshat Emor)

SHOR O CHESEV O EITZ... The Festival Portion, ch. 23 in Vayikra. It deals with the entire cycle of holidays, all of which revolve around Pesach, all of which in some way commemorate the Exodus. The reading contains the mitzva of the Omer. Perfect timing. The Festival Portion is preceded by several p'sukim that deal with sacrifices and with the mitzvot of Kiddush HaShem. Reference is made to G-d's taking us out of Egypt - definitely part of the reason for "adding" this to the Festival portion.

Second Torah - 4th Aliya, 7 p'sukim
Bamidbar 28:19-25 (in Parshat Pinchas)

V'HIKRAVTEM... Contains just the Musaf of Pesach, without the first 3 p'sukim read on the first day only.

3rd day of Pesach

2nd day of Chol HaMoed, THU, April 25th

Day 2 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 16 p'sukim
Sh'mot 13:1-16 (from Parshat BO)

KADEISH LI... Continuation of the reading of the first day. It consists of the two parshiyot known as KADEISH and V'HAYA KI Y'VI'ACHA, which join the first two portions of the Sh'ma as the four parshiyot in T'filin. The reading contains the mitzvot of the sanctity of firstborns, which derives from the events in Mitzrayim. Extensive reference to Pesach is also found here.

2nd Torah - 4th Aliya, same as day 2

4th day of Pesach

3rd day of Chol HaMoed, FRI, April 26th

Day 3 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 26 p'sukim

Sh'mot 22:24-23:19 (from Mishpatim)

IM KESEF... Many mitzvot including those related to the Three Festivals. The opening mitzvot deal with Tzedaka, appropriate in light of the practice of KIMCHA D'PISCHA, providing for the Pesach needs of the poor.

2nd Torah - 4th Aliya, same as day 2

Shabbat Chol HaMoed

5th day of Pesach, Apr 27th

Day 4 of the Omer

Many shuls have the custom of reading Shir HaShirim before Torah reading on Shabbat Chol HaMoed. When it is read from a kosher megila scroll, the b'rachot AL MIKRA MEGILA and SHE'HE'CHE'YANU are said. The love between G-d and Israel is the theme of Shir HaShirim. That love was forged in Egypt (and earlier, from the time of the Avot & Imahot).

First Torah - 7 people, 38 p'sukim

Sh'mot 33:12-34:26 (from Ki Tisa)

R'EI ATA OMEIR EILAI... Who knows 13? - Thirteen are the MIDOT of HaShem. This is the main theme of the reading of Shabbat Chol HaMoed. In the aftermath of the Sin of the Golden Calf, Moshe Rabeinu asks G-d to allow him to know Him (G-d) more intimately. G-d will not allow this completely, for it is impossible for any human being, but He will show Moshe more of Himself (so to speak) than anyone else would ever see. G-d then commands Moshe to cut new LUCHOT and write upon them

that which was written on the first set, "that you broke". G-d forgives the People, sends Moshe back to them with the new LUCHOT, and with the special knowledge of the YUD-GIMEL MIDOT, which the people of Israel are to use in prayer, and some of whose traits, we are to emulate.

This is followed by a review of the three major Chagim, including mitzvot related to Pesach.

2nd Torah - MAFTIR, same as day 2

Haftara: 14 p'sukim • Yechezkeil 37:1-14
HAYTA ALAI YAD HASHEM... The famous prophecy of the Valley of the Dry Bones. The NAVI sees bones gradually get covered with sinew, flesh, and skin. Then G-d tells Yechezkeil to prophesy in His name to the inert bodies that G-d will bring to them the breath of life and they will live. The message to Yechezkeil (and all of us) is that the Jewish Nation, scattered in Exile among the nations of the world, are like those dry bones. But they are not gone and forgotten. They will have the breath of G-d breathed into them and they will return to life - active spiritual, religious life. This prophecy is also about T'CHYAT HAMEITIM.

Shabbat Mincha - 3 people

17 p'sukim from the beginning of Parshat Acharei, as usual for Shabbat Mincha.

6th day of Pesach

5th day of Chol HaMoed, SUN, April 28th

Day 5 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 14 p'sukim

Bamidbar 9:1-14 (from B'haalot'cha)

B'MIDBAR SINAI... This portion deals with the first (and only) Korban Pesach brought

in the Wilderness. It also contains the mitzvot of Pesach Sheni.

2nd Torah - 4th Aliya, same as day 2

7th day of Pesach

MON, Apr 12

Day 6 of the Omer

First Torah - 5 people, 63 p'sukim

Sh'mot 13:17-15:26 (from B'shalach)

VAYHI B'SHALACH PAR'O... Continuation of the reading from the fourth day... contains the events immediately following Y'tzi'at Mitzrayim, mainly the Splitting of the Sea the drowning of the Egyptians, and the Song of the Sea - AZ YASHIR. Our tradition is that it was on the seventh day of Pesach that we crossed Yam Suf.

2nd Torah - Maftir, same as day 2

Haftara: 51 p'sukim • 2 Shmuel 22:1-51

VAYDABEIR DAVID... The Song of David HaMelech - an exultant hymn of thanksgiving to G-d. One gets the sense, when following the Torah reading with this Haftara, of B'CHOL DOR VADOR - in every generation...