

Pesach Torah & other readings

First Day of Pesach (15 Nisan - Thursday, April 2nd)

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

This portion is the continuation of what we read on Shabbat 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 Matza connection, reference to Leil Shimurim, and mitzvot related to KP.

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

Contains the Korban Musaf of Pesach. Begins with Korban Pesach on the 14th and repetition of the "comand" to eat matza for seven days.

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

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, FRI, April 3rd)

Day 1 of the Omer

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

The Festival Portion, Vayikra 23. 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 (Pinchas)

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

3rd day of Pesach (Shabbat Chol HaMoed, April 4th)

Day 2 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, 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)

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

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'CHIYAT HAMEITIM.

Shabbat Mincha - 3 people

16 p'sukim from the beginning of Parshat Sh'mini, as usual for Shabbat Mincha.

4th day of Pesach (3rd day of Chol HaMoed, SUN, Apr 5th)

Day 3 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 16 p'sukim

Sh'mot 13:1-16 (from Parshat BO)

Continuation of the reading of the first day of Pesach. 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

5th day of Pesach (4th day of Chol HaMoed, MON, Apr 6th)

Day 4 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 26 p'sukim Sh'mot 22:24-23:19 (from Mishpatim)

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

6th day of Pesach (5th day of Chol HaMoed, TUE, April 7th)

Day 5 of the Omer

First Torah - 3 people, 14 p'sukim Bamidbar 9:1-14 (from B'haalot'cha)

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 (Wednesday, Apr 8th)

Day 6 of the Omer

First Torah - 5 people, 63 p'sukim Sh'mot 13:17-15:26 (from B'shalach)

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

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

