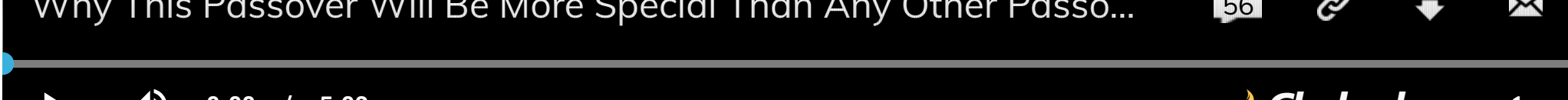


Jewish Practice > Jewish Holidays > Passover > Coronavirus Passover Resources

# Why This Passover Will Be More Special Than Any Other Passover



Passover means to pass over every challenge.

There are some big challenges right now.

We've been isolated from one another, many of us confined to our homes. Our paths into the future have been suddenly swallowed into a great fog of uncertainty. The world in which we lived only a month ago is gone, never to return quite the same.

What do we Jews do when terra firma slips out from under our feet, when all that seemed certain a moment ago has suddenly vanished and there isn't a railing left to grasp or a rope to hang on to?

**What do we Jews do when terra firma slips out from under our feet?**

Grasp that which has always proven solid and sure. In every time, in every circumstance.

On the night when we were rescued from the bondage of Ancient Egypt, sit with your family, sit with your roommate, sit just you and the Creator of the Universe alone. Eat the matzahs and bitter herbs, drink the wine and tell the greatest story ever told.

While the whole world is grounded on the tarmac, tell the story of an exodus from excruciating restriction to holy freedom. The story of our own people, of your and I, of some 4,000 exodus of eternity.

As all of humanity ties itself in protective knots, talk about escape from bondage. As we all await our exodus back to freedom, tell the ancient story our ancestors told. Tell it to whoever is there in your house. Most of all, tell it to yourself.

## Matzah

The night of Passover is a transcendental night. It's a night that puts past and present into perspective. It says there's something beyond today's headlines. That there is a purpose to everything, meaning hiding in every corner, a destiny to this awesome world. Eventually, it will all make sense. Eventually, we will all be free.

**The night of Passover is a transcendental night.**

The matzah we eat on Passover night is called the bread of faith. It's also called the bread of healing.<sup>1</sup> Right now, we could use both.

We need faith—faith that none of this is pointless, that life has meaning, that this is leading to something good, good far beyond our understanding of good, and—despite all the hardships—there could be no better path. Because there is an Author to this story, and He is good.

We need healing—healing not only from aches and fevers, healing not only for our lungs but for our souls, so that we can face the world once more with joy and confidence, with optimism and courage.

So we can build a new world to which sickness will never return.

## Holding Tight

Without Passover, could there be a Jewish people? Could there be any freedom at all in the world? Could there be hope for a better future?

All these things, the story of the Exodus brought into the world. It is the story that inspired liberty and justice throughout the ages, that felled tyrants and lifted the downtrodden to a place of hope.

**Passover is the story of hope. We could use hope right now.**

And hope is something we all need right now.

When your ship is tossed by raging waves, don't dispose of your anchor.

When your backpack is too heavy to bear and a formidable mountain range lies before you, that is not the time to trash your hiking gear. That is the time to put it to good use.

When the world is inundated with rushing waters, when a flood swiftly rises above your head, climb aboard the ark your ancestors left you. You will not be alone. All your people will be there with you.

As the waters rise, so will you, so will all of us, higher and yet higher.

On the night of the very first Passover, in Ancient Egypt, each family was sequestered in its home. No one was permitted to step outside. Outdoors, a plague swept through the land, but in each Jewish home, there was light and hope.

The next morning, the Jewish people left for the Promised Land.

Now we are here. Next year in [Jerusalem](#).

## FOOTNOTES

1. Zohar II, 41a. Ibid, 183b.

By Tzvi Freeman

Tzvi Freeman is the author of [Bringing Heaven Down to Earth](#) and, more recently, [Wisdom to Heal the Earth](#). Subscribe to [The Daily Dose of Wisdom](#) and [Freeman Files](#) for regular updates.

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**A** **Ananga Ponniah** Malaysia April 9, 2020  
Thank you. This message is wonderful.  
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**D** **Dayana Nunez** Bronx April 8, 2020  
Soooo beautifully recounted! Praise the Lord!  
[Reply](#)

**E** **Evelyn** Sydney Australia April 8, 2020  
You have encouraged me. Thank you. Shalom.  
[Reply](#)

**C** **Chava ( Vita )** John's Creek April 6, 2020  
Thank you for uplifting, and inspiring message. Now the plug of COVID 19 is around us, but on Passover nights we will seat at our homes and read Haggada and stay well and safe because our Father is protecting us all. Shalom !! Chag Pessah Sameah !!  
[Reply](#)

**S** **Sarah Borja** Philippines, Manila April 6, 2020  
Timely and accurate. Thank you, so much help.. Shalom!  
[Reply](#)

**C** **Cherie E Hughes** Santa Fe April 6, 2020  
Thank you, after reading this email I felt stronger and better and that is why I love Chabad so much, looking forward when we will all be together again.  
[Reply](#)

**A** **Aleia Hutcherson** April 5, 2020  
Very beautiful, and helps to inspire those like me who will be home alone for Seder night.  
[Reply](#)

**R** **Rene Siegel** April 5, 2020  
*Words of healing—thank you*  
Shalom and thank you for the words and writings of inspiration and healing troubled, frightened souls in troubled times.  
[Reply](#)

**Y** **Yael Rosenberger** Brooklyn April 5, 2020  
This is really beautiful. Thank you for this positive and uplifting message  
[Reply](#)

**M** **Max Slater** UK April 4, 2020  
Shalom. A much needed message in these unprecedented times. Thank you. Max.  
[Reply](#)

**H** **Hassan** Canada April 3, 2020  
the most beautiful epic story I can't get enough of it  
[Reply](#)

**D** **Deena Landau Graber** Stamford,CT April 3, 2020  
Thank you for this. You have given me some beautiful insight on how to make this Passover into a beautiful albeit different experience. Having experienced so much loss in my life ,oftentimes beautiful family holidays such as Passover are tinged with bittersweet memories.This year I will sit at our Seder table with my husband and 2 daughters and relay the part of the Passover story we often miss- that before the Exodus the jewish people were not allowed to go out of their house either....and freedom was waiting for them on the other side. I hope everyone has a wonderful Passover.  
[Reply](#)

**D** **Dorit Grobeld** stockholm sweden April 3, 2020  
These Sedarim will be different from all the sedarim I have experienced before as I never in my life before have been entirely alone on Erev Seder but I think then how the jews felt while they were captured and tortured in the concentration camps during the holocaust and then I know how free i myself am and get happy then of being able to celebrate my Sedarim in freedom in stockholm!  
[Reply](#)

**S** **Steven** Las Vegas April 3, 2020  
That was really very nice and inspiring which we all need in these times..Thank You  
[Reply](#)

**A** **Anonymous** April 2, 2020  
Where is the "Like" button, lol.  
[Reply](#)

**E** **Eli S** englewood April 2, 2020  
Thank you for wonderful words, and words of hope!! Hag Sameha  
[Reply](#)

**P** **Pete** WA April 2, 2020  
**Exodus**  
A WALL WAVES

The waves of water rose  
on two sides  
and left the center  
undisturbed  
and dry  
as a river bed

while I  
got on my bike  
and rode right through  
this tunnel  
of love  
left there for me

by the overwhelming  
breath of goodwill  
as I

departed from here  
and pedaled to there  
and remained completely dry  
while the waves of water  
formed a wall

and then crushed  
as they crashed  
the doubts of past years  
and eliminated  
the fears  
of all my future  
worries

because I found myself  
suddenly  
reeling from  
the untapped joy  
of my first day

as if I were being born again  
this time as a free man.  
[Reply](#)

**Amy Lapidus** New Mexico April 3, 2020  
*in response to Pete:*  
This is beautifull! Have a good Shabbos.  
[Reply](#)

**A** **Anonymous** Ny April 2, 2020  
It's not only Jews that are leaving the slavery of egotism and darkness. It's all good and decent Americans.  
It's the perfect holiday for this plague of fear slavery and darkness.  
May we all reach that promised land together.  
[Reply](#)

**L** **Lcc** Edberry Farm April 2, 2020  
I am completely alone (as in the only Jewish person) for miles. I am sitting on a farm housesitting for my absent friend. I will be seeing my first Pesach alone. I am not worried, though, because I have a great guide that will help me. I just wish someone else was here.  
[Reply](#)

**Laura Dunovits** Mexico April 3, 2020  
*in response to Lcc:*  
To whom feel that is alone : We are not alone, we are connected through Hashem and our souls.  
This morning I have a thought about the current situation : what a wonderful opportunity of this virus outbreak and how grateful I am to Hashem , that I could live this situation , even alone!  
I am learning to listen what my soul has to tell me and to confirm , how great is Our Lord and how grateful I am and what a blessed time to improve my life and be stronger and a witness.  
Also I am strengthening my faith ! In order to approach in the shores of HIS gracious Majesty , Adonai. But I pray to G\_d, that HE gives comfort to people who lost loved ones and think that Hashem is in control of everything , nothing is outside of HIM and everything that happened is for our good. I learn this three statements from the Jewish sages. Shalom to everyone.  
[Reply](#)

**Liza** Florida April 3, 2020  
*in response to Lcc:*  
All Jews present and past are with you dear. Truly, you are not alone. We all are here with you. Step outside and sing Eiyahu for all of us to hear.  
[Reply](#)

**B** **Barry** Los Angeles April 2, 2020  
I think that the tagline under the headline is misleading and is giving readers the impression that you are advocating large gatherings for a seder "in defiance" of the recommendations against doing so by medical experts and experts on epidemiology. This is what is happening in many religious groups and organizations in the United States. They are telling people to come and join together in worship in large groups "in defiance" of coronavirus.  
I do not read that in your article. You specifically include the option of people observing a seder alone (well with the Creator of the Universe in attendance)! Please consider revising the tagline. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!  
[Reply](#)

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