

Temple Shabbat Shalom

Volume 4, Issue 1

Passover 2004

The “Global Village” Congregation

On Being a Leader

Moses, as you all know is not mentioned at the Seder. We are back to the basic question- Why is the Redeemer not included in our retelling of the story of Redemption? Is this a case of not stating the obvious?

Moses ascends the Mountain alone to receive the Teachings. Do we need a mediator? Open the Bible to the Book of Exodus Chapter Eighteen verse thirteen. An individual with a message usually founds a religion. Abraham did not receive the Torah. Torah is different. The Revelation is given to the entire People. Tradition teaches that every man, woman and child heard God’s voice proclaiming the Ten Teachings.

Rereading Chapter Eighteen we are reminded that Moses plays a unique role in the Covenant. The Rabbi’s think of Revelation as a wedding. Moses and God stand under the *Chuppah*(*Canopy*). The Children of Israel witness the intimate ceremony. The order of the events that follow are unclear. We do know Aaron was unable to convince the People not to put Moses and the Tablets of Testimony on a pedestal. The pedestal, according to rabbinic teaching, was the Golden Calf.

The *Haggadah* kicks Moses off of his pedestal. Similarly, the Rabbis teach, we do not know the burial place of Moses, so that we do not turn it into a shrine. Our ideal leader is a Teacher or Prophet- not a God. The place of Revelation is also not essential. We do not know the exact mountain that was called “Sinai”. The message is essential – not the medium. The Tablets are broken by Moses to remind us that anything and anyone may be turned into an Idol.

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Passover

April 5th - Seder at Sundown

We call our "religion" Judah-ism and not Moses-ism. This reminds all the Children of Israel that the promise existed before Moses and lives after Moses. Twelve are the sons of Jacob, yet the scepter of leadership is given to one-Judah. Judah's blessing is to reunite the tribes into a nation. Judah is a model of compassion and strong leadership. Judah's blessing is also a vision of a world redeemed from slavery and strife. Judah's leadership promises Peace and Tranquility - Freedom and Unity (Genesis 49:10).

We await a leader like Moses who leads us to the Promised Land of a peaceful and prosperous world.

Blessings this Passover,
Rabbi Aryeh Alpern

Simcha's- Mazel Tov to all

Mazel tov to Michelle and John on their wedding in December in Minneapolis

Mazel Tov on the newest bundle of Joy

Sally and Anton- on the birth of Nora -December 22nd

Julie and Shane- on the birth of Andrew Cade-July 9th

Wendy and Loal – on the birth of Sophia Ruth

Happy Anniversary

Brian & Cara –March 8-PA

Audrey & Mike-May 18-Chicago

Stu & Colleen-May 24-PA

Karen & Jacob-May 25-MA

Eva & David-June 1-MA

Jamie & Matt-June 2-RI

Arthur & Liz- June 14-MA

Josh & Rona-June 15-CA

Sarah & Fred-June 16-Texas

Matt & Alisa-June 21-Maine

Lisa & Jim-June 22-CA

Lianne & Tony-June 23-Ottawa

Yamimi & Ben-June 28-MA

Joe & Wendy-June 29-MA

Brett & Arley-June 29-CT

Joel & Sonya-June 30-Winnepeg

Newest Congregants

Jim Shuster and Sandra Lee

Brian Levine and Amy Paliotti

Sara Fishbein and Mark Bachteler

Hilary Ransdell and Stuart Lewin

Adam Horowitz and Erin Barrett

Alex Rudolph and Cynthia Morrison

Michelle Curtis and Phil Takesan

Allyson McAdam and Joshua Cohen

Evelyn Laptook and Joel Good

Danielle Hecht and Kyle Oeter

Michael Zalosh and Burke Rathbun

A Very Special Thank you for their generous donations, continuous membership and support:

Bob and Lila Tickman

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Doug and Karen Gladstone

Alison and Mark Jacoby

Patti and Marvin Demoff

Munro and Susan Levitsky

Joe and Nancy Murphy

Naomi Roth

Ruth and Rick Edelson

The Abrams Family

Lee Bergman

Yamini and Ben Levitsky

Jason and Rita Feinman

The Search for Leaven

The day before Passover we remove all leaven from our homes in preparation for the seven days of Passover. This cleaning takes on a virtuous air as we also fulfill biblical commands. I remember when I lived in an Orthodox community and the housewife in front of me at the market windexed the turnstile.

Leaven represents puffiness and arrogance. Spiritually the search for *chometz (leaven bread)* may be thought of as a housecleaning for the soul. Windex the windows of your soul. May we all be as aware as the woman in the market as we pray for insight into our shortcomings.

The blessings we say follow: (in English to honor the original Aramaic)

Anything leavened in my possession, seen or unseen, aware or not aware, removed or not removed should be considered as the dust of the earth.

The custom is to leave ten wrapped pieces of bread in various places around the home. Why ten?

A house cleaning of belief takes place in every dimension of our being. We begin with questions, the beginning of wisdom. We find knowledge in revelation. True Religion is an understanding that leads to kindness and intimacy. Beauty is found in the balance of discipline and lovingkindness. Praising God for the victory of Passover, via the ten basics of revelation, reaffirms our dream of an end to all exiles. Elijah announces the Redeemer of Zion who restores the Temple of Truth in Jerusalem.

We search for leaven in every sphere of our lives in anticipation of the day when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be burned as stubble. This is the promise of Elijah and the Seder. All ten dimensions of life are redeemed.

Another reason we save ten pieces of bread to burn is to specifically remember the ten sons of Haman. These ten signed and sealed the decree that would have allowed the murder of every Jew in the Persian Empire. May all tyrants and all tyranny be burned from the pages of History.

Back to the blessing, how do we remove the leaven we cannot see and are unaware of? The Rabbis teach that we nullify (*Bittul belev*) the leaven we cannot see. This is literally a *bittul* in the heart. *Bittul* is also a spiritual concept, the deflating of bread ego into humble matzoh. A Rabbinic sage asks: Why is it not sufficient to nullify all leaven in our domains, to renounce all the leaven in our being? One answer: Renouncing arrogance does not nullify the real existence of arrogance, as witnessed by our persistent failures, inspired by arrogance.

The point of Kol Nidre on Yom Kipper is that *bittul* by itself is not enough. When we stumble in life it is often a stumbling over a block we did not see. This is why we search every nook and cranny with a candle which represents the light of the teaching of Torah.

After burning the ten pieces of leaven: A Kavannah

Lord, God of our ancestors, as we remove the leaven from our lives, we ask you to remove all arrogance and pride from our minds and hearts

Save us from our blind spots and all impurity. Circumcise our hearts so we may receive your Passover.

End our exile. Destroy our destroyers. Defeat the Angel of Death.

Amen, Sealah

FEED THE BODY WHILE YOU FEED THE SOUL: An Atkins Passover

Classic Almond Flour Pound Cake

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter-softened	2 cups almond flour
1/2 cup full fat cream cheese	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup splenda	1 teaspoon lemon or almond extract
5 eggs, at room temperature	1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Cream butter, cream cheese and Splenda well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Mix almond flour with baking powder and add egg mixture a little at a time while beating. Add extracts. Pour into grease 9" -10" Springform pan, ring pan, or 9" round cake pan and bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes.

Makes 12 servings. 6.1 net carbohydrates per serving. So enjoy!!!!

Beautitudes for the Home

Blessed are those who give with both hands
They embrace the tithe.

Blessed are those who Love God
and in this learn to love their neighbor.

Blessed are those who rejoice in their Children
they grasp the Parenthood of God.

Blessed are those whose prayer is a Song
ascending the mount they hear the sermon
that elevates right above wrong

Psalm One: A Family Translation

Happy the Family
Who turn their house into a Home,
Whose Table is an Altar of Charity
All bounty an offering to the Lord our God
And those in need.

Our joy is in studying your teachings which we discuss
Every evening and every morning.

The beams of our roofs
Are living branches of the Tree
All of our meals worship.
The fruit of our labors.

This home will stand forever
A House of our Lord

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We look
forward to hearing from you!