

Guidelines for Passover 5781—Erev Pesach on Shabbat

Thursday, March 25—Taanit Bechorim

- The Fast of the Firstborn is observed, beginning at 5:36am.
- Firstborns may end their fast after attending a siyum, as usual. One may participate in the siyum via telephone or Zoom.
- Those who find it difficult to fast and will not be able to attend a siyum (or other seudat mitzvah), should contact me for guidance.
- For those fasting, the fast ends at 7:55pm. However, one may not have more than a light snack before completing bedikat chametz.

Thursday Evening, March 25—The Search for Chametz

- Begin the search for chametz after 7:40pm.
- The regular procedure for bedikat chametz is followed and the blessing is recited. This is despite the fact that the search this year is performed 2 nights before Passover, not the night immediately preceding.
- After the search, set aside all the chametz to be used on Friday and Shabbat in a secure and controlled area.
- After completing the bedikah and putting away the remaining chametz, say: “All leaven and sourdough that is in my possession, which I have not seen and not destroyed, is nullified as the dust of the earth and ownerless.”

Friday, March 26—Disposing of Chametz and Preparing for Shabbat

- Dispose of any remaining chametz (besides what is needed for the rest of Friday and Shabbat) before 11:55am. Preferably, one should burn this chametz. If one does not have easy access to a safe facility for burning, one should flush it down the toilet!
- If one did not dispose of the chametz in the morning, one may do so until Shabbat begins.
- Chametz may be eaten all day on Friday. (care to eat outside the home) However, utmost care must be taken to avoid spreading crumbs in one’s home. If one loses track of the location of any leftover chametz, this may necessitate repeating bedikat chametz.
- Prepare the shankbone, egg, charoset, maror, and saltwater for the Seder. As much other preparation for the Seder as possible should be completed before Shabbat.
- Light a candle which burns for 3 days, to enable the lighting of the Yom Tov candles on the first and second nights of Pesach.

General Guidelines for Shabbat, March 26-27

- Adults should eat chametz bread at the Friday night and Shabbat morning meals. It is advisable to use non-crumby bread such as pita or flour tortillas.
 - All children may be fed egg matzah instead of bread.
 - If one is extremely concerned about having any chametz in one’s home on Shabbat, even adults may use egg matzah instead of bread for the Shabbat meals (note than on Pesach itself, Ashkenazim only permit egg matzah for the elderly or infirm).

- For the rest of the food eaten on Friday night and Shabbat morning, most people will find it most convenient to cook in Pesach utensils.
- On Friday night and Shabbat morning, one may eat at a chametz table. If choosing this option, it is recommended to use disposable utensils.
- o Most people will find it more convenient, however, to make Kiddush and hamotzi in an alternate location (e.g. a hallway), eat an egg's bulk of bread, and then wash their hands and continue the meal at the dining table with a Pesach tablecloth and utensils.

Shabbat Day, March 27

- Matzah is forbidden to be consumed the entire day. In a pinch, one may consume egg matzah before 10:45am (as mentioned above).
- Chametz may only be consumed until 10:55am. As such, Shabbat morning services will be held early and one should hurry home from shul and begin the meal promptly.
- After finishing eating chametz, thoroughly clean the area in which chametz was eaten over Shabbat (in a manner permissible on Shabbat). Crumbs should be disposed of in the toilet rather than in the trash before 11:55.
- One need not finish the entire meal by 10:55am; it may continue after that time with Pesach foods.
- Any remaining chametz must be flushed down the toilet before 11:55am.
- After disposing of the remaining chametz, say: "All leaven and sourdough that is in my possession is nullified as the dust of the earth and ownerless." Make this declaration by 11:55am.
- Seudah shlishit should be eaten between 1:33pm and 4:05pm. This meal does not include bread or matzah, of course, but should preferably include meat or fish. One may also eat kneidlach (matzah balls).
- After 4:05pm, one should eat only light snacks. If one neglected to eat seudah shlishit before this time, one may still eat it afterwards but one must make sure not to eat to satiation.
- No preparations for the Seder may take place before 7:50pm.

Saturday Night, March 27—First Night of Pesach

- One may not do anything forbidden on Shabbat until davening maariv with vatodi'enu. At the very least, one should recite "baruch hamavdil bein kodesh lekodesh." Neither of these should be done before 7:50pm.
- Light Yom Tov candles from an existing flame. Customs differ regarding the recitation of shehecheyanu at candle lighting.
- The Seder is conducted as normal, except Havdalah is included with Kiddush in the procedure known as ז"יקנה.
 - Our practice is to use the formula "min hazevachim u'min hapesachim on this Saturday night.