

The Torah readings for chag ha'Matzot - Part One
Shmot chapters 12 & 13
"zot chukat ha'Pesach" – where does it belong?

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction

As Pesach is only two weeks away, we dedicate a two part series to study the Torah readings for Pesach

I. Outline of Shmot chapters 12 & 13

Hashem to Moshe - [Parshat ha'Chodesh...]

12:1-2 : Starting the new year in Nisan

12:3-13 - Laws of Pesach Mitzraim

12:14 - To remember this day forever..

12:15-20 The Laws of Seven Days of chag ha'Matzot

Moshe to the People

12:21-23 Taking the lamb & howy & why to sprinkle the blood

12:24-28 - Laws of ["Avodat"] Pesach for future generations

The Story of the Exodus

12:29-36 The tenth Plague

12:37-42 - Leaving Egypt & baking the dough matza

More laws -

12:43-50 - "zot chukat ha'Pesach" - Brit Milah/ re-req for Pesach

Hashem to Moshe

13:1-2 - Laws of sanctifying the 'first-born'

Moshe to the People

13:3-10 - The laws of chag ha'Matzot

13:11-16 - The laws of "kedushat bechor"

II. Pesach Mitzraim - a "korban" or 'family meal'

No "mizbeyach", but sprinkling blood (on doorpost...)

Limited time to eat the meat & eaten with matza

No portion goes to Hashem or the Kohanim

III. Chag ha'Matzot

Discussion -Does 12:14 go forward or backward?

i.e. does it relate to "Pesach dorot" or "chag ha'Matzot"

12:15-20 - based on 12:18, seems to be given after the Exodus

If so, why is being commanded here?

Also, why doesn't Moshe relay this until chapter 13 !

Note 12:37 - this seems to be the reason for the holiday!

Discussion:

Why such an emphasis on the prohibition of "chametz"

Why is the punishment so severe -"karet"

IV. Pesach dorot:

12:21-28

Note no mention of chag ha'matzot

Note name of the 'pesach' = avodah

Note reason for Pesach

V. 12:43-50 "zot chukat ha'Pesach"

AFTER the story of the Exodus in 12:29-42

It seems to be 'out of order' - Why

Relate to brit Mila /brit bein ha'Btarim [see 12:40-42]