

ערב פסח שחל בשבת
THE EVE OF PASSOVER THAT FALLS ON SHABBOS

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adapted from

ערב פסח שחל בשבת ופורים משולש

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Introduction

This year (5768) עֶרֶב פֶּסַח (the Eve of Passover) falls on Shabbos. As a consequence, several of the laws regarding preparing for the Seder and disposing of one's Chametz are different to other years, as will be explained below. All times given are BST.

Thursday 17th April – 12th Nisan – תַּעֲנִית בְּכוֹרוֹת – Fast of the Firstborn

1. The Fast of the Firstborn (תַּעֲנִית בְּכוֹרוֹת) is usually observed on the day before Pesach. As this falls on a Shabbos this year, it is brought back to Thursday, the 12th Nisan.
2. All firstborn males over Bar Mitzvah (and fathers of firstborn sons who have not reached Bar Mitzvah) are obligated to fast from dawn until nightfall.
3. One who is fasting may break his fast if he attends a סְעוּדַת מִצְוָה "Seudas Mitzvah", for example a meal to celebrate a בְּרִית מִילָה (circumcision) or one to celebrate the סוּיָם (conclusion) of a Tractate of Talmud. Thus it is the custom to attend Shul on the morning of the fast to hear a סוּיָם and partake of the meal afterwards.

Thursday 17th April – 13th Nisan – After Nightfall – בְּדִיקַת הַמֶּיֶץ – Search for Chametz

1. As soon as possible after nightfall on Thursday we search for the Chametz (בְּדִיקַת הַמֶּיֶץ). The same laws apply to the actual searching this year as in every other year.

Before commencing the search we recite the בְּרָכָה "Blessing":-

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה י"י אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוֵּנוּ עַל בִּיעוּר הַמֶּיֶץ

"Boruch Atoh Ado-noi Elo-heinu Melech Ho'olom Asher Kideshonu BeMitzvosov Vetzivonu Al Bi'ur Chametz"

2. One should not speak (except where necessary for the purposes of the search) from the reciting of the בְּרָכָה until after the search has been completed.
3. Upon completion of the search we nullify the Chametz (Bitul Chametz - בִּטּוּל הַמֶּיֶץ) by reciting:-

כָּל חֲמִירָא וְחֲמִיעָא דְאִיכָא בְּרִשּׁוּתֵי דְלָא חֲמִיתָהּ וְדָלָא בִיעֵרְתָּהּ וְדָלָא יִדְעָנָא לִיהּ לִיבְטִיל וְלִהּוֹי הַפְקָר פְּעֻפְרָא דְאַרְעָא

"All Chametz, leaven and leavened bread in my possession which I have neither seen, nor removed nor known about should be annulled and considered ownerless, like dust of the earth"

4. The Bitul Chametz should be recited in both its Aramaic version and the English translation so that one clearly understands what one is saying. One who is unable to recite the Aramaic version may recite the English translation only.
5. Any Chametz one has found should be kept in a safe place until Friday morning when it

is destroyed.

Friday 18th April – 13th Nisan – ביעור חמץ – Destruction of the Chametz

1. On Friday morning any Chametz that has not been sold to a non-Jew and which is not required for the Shabbos meals should be destroyed.¹
2. Destruction of the Chametz is customarily effected by burning it.
3. One should destroy the Chametz by 11.50 a.m.
4. We do not recite the Bitul Chametz at this point.

Friday 18th April – 13th Nisan – Seder Preparations

1. One should make one's Seder preparations before Shabbos so that the Seder may begin as soon as possible after nightfall on the following evening. This is because it is prohibited to prepare anything for the Seder (or, indeed, any Yom Tov) on Shabbos.²
2. The shank bone (זרוע) and egg (ביצה) should be roasted, the salt water and the Charoses should be prepared, and the lettuce or other suitable vegetable (if one uses it for Maror or Chazeres) should be very carefully cleaned and checked, as should any vegetable used for Karpas. The screw tops on the bottles of wine for use at the Seder or on Shabbos or Yom Tov should be unscrewed and the boxes of Matzos should be opened.
3. Lettuce, or any other suitable vegetable, which is to be used for Maror or Chazeres should not be left continuously in water for 24 hours.³
4. If one uses Chrayn (horseradish) for Maror, this should not be prepared until after Shabbos has ended, immediately before the Seder. This is so that it will not have lost its strength when it comes to be used.⁴ When grating it on Yom Tov one should grate it in a slightly different way to usual (שנוי), e.g. grating onto a cloth instead of a plate or turning the grater upside down or using one's left hand instead of one's right hand. This applies to the second night also.
5. When feasible, even the Seder table should be set on Friday.
6. The special Erev Pesach restrictions that apply to taking a haircut and doing laundry

¹ Although Friday is not really Erev Pesach, in certain respects we act as if it really is Erev Pesach. This is done in order to avoid confusion in subsequent years when Erev Pesach does not fall on Shabbos. Thus any Chametz which will not be consumed before Pesach is burned or sold no later than 11:50, the time that would have been the deadline had this day truly been Erev Pesach. If, however, the Chametz was not burned by this time, it may be burned anytime prior to the onset of Shabbos.

² Even a "verbal preparation", such as stating that the Shabbos nap is for the purpose of being well-rested for the Seder, should be avoided; see Mishnah Berurah 290:4.

³ This is because anything that is soaked in water or any other liquid *continuously* for 24 hours has the status of having been cooked, and the vegetables used for Maror must be raw – See Shulchan Aruch Siman 463:5.

⁴ The horseradish should be ground and then stored in an airtight container until the Seder.

after midday do not apply on this particular Friday.

Friday Night 18th April – 14th Nisan – שַׁבַּת הַגָּדוֹל – Shabbos Hagodol

1. For this Shabbos one should ideally cook all the meals Pesachdik, i.e. Pesach foods in Pesach vessels.
2. The only Chametz that should be put aside for Shabbos is the Challos, and it is suggested that one use Challoh rolls with just enough for the evening and morning meals. Matzos may not be used, although if this causes difficulty then Rabbi Cohen should be consulted regarding the use of Egg Matzos.⁵
3. One should be particularly careful to keep the Challos completely separate from the Pesach food and vessels.
4. It is recommended that at both the evening and morning meals one should sit at a separate table when eating the Challos. One should make Kiddush, wash one's hands (נְטִילַת יָדַיִם), make הַמּוֹצֵיא "Hamotzi" and eat the Challos immediately. Then one should rinse out one's mouth, wash one's hands, clear away all vestiges of the Challos⁶ and then proceed with the meal itself, after which בְּרַכַּת הַמְּזוֹן (Grace after Meals) should be recited.
5. For סְעוּדַת שְׁלִישִׁית "Seudah Shlishis" (the third meal eaten on Shabbos) one may either divide one's morning meal into two⁷ (washing נְטִילַת יָדַיִם, making הַמּוֹצֵיא and reciting בְּרַכַּת הַמְּזוֹן over each part and finishing both parts by 10.39 a.m.) or eat fruit or meat or fish for the סְעוּדַת שְׁלִישִׁית.⁸

Shabbos 19th April – 14th Nisan – Eve of Passover – בֵּיעוּר חֶמֶץ – Destruction of the Chametz

1. In order that one may eat Challos for the morning meal before the time that Chametz may no longer be eaten, we daven Shacharis in Shul early. Shacharis in Kingsbury will commence at 7.00 a.m.
2. See the previous section as to the meal and eating the Challos.
3. Chametz is forbidden to be eaten after 10.39 a.m. and therefore one should ensure that one has eaten one's Challos by that time.
4. Between 10.39 a.m. and 11.48 a.m. one should destroy any Chametz that is left from the meal, or that was found during the search for the Chametz, by flushing it down the

⁵ Anyone who finds Matzos difficult to eat on Pesach should consult Rabbi Cohen about the use generally of Egg Matzos.

⁶ If the floor needs to be swept, one must make sure that no Chametz crumbs remain on the broom (a soft-bristled broom only should be used). Since it is extremely difficult to adequately clean a broom on Shabbos, it is advisable to put away the broom with the Chametz utensils which have been sold to a non-Jew.

⁷ This is the recommendation of the Mishnah Berurah (Siman 444 Seif Katan 8).

⁸ Rama Siman 444:1. One should not eat too much such that it spoils one's appetite for the Seder.

toilet.⁹

5. Following the destruction one recites the following בְּיטוּל חֶמֶץ (nullification of the Chametz):-

כָּל חֲמֵצָא וְחֲמֵצָא דְאִיכָּא בְּרִשּׁוּתִי דְחֲזִיתָהּ וּדְלָא חֲזִיתָהּ דְחֲמִיתָהּ וּדְלָא חֲמִיתָהּ דְּבִיעֵרְתָּהּ וּדְלָא בִיעֵרְתָּהּ
לִיבְטִיל וְלִהְיוּ הַפְּקָר כַּעֲפָרָא דְאַרְעָא

"All Chametz, leaven and leavened bread in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, should be annulled and considered ownerless, like dust of the earth"

6. See the section above on the **Search for Chametz** (בְּדִיקַת חֶמֶץ) regarding the recitation of the Bi'ur Chametz in English.

Motzo'ei Shabbos 19th April – 15th Nisan – First Seder Night

1. One may not make any preparations whatsoever for the Seder until Shabbos has ended at 8.55 p.m. Ladies should recite בְּרוּךְ הַמְּבַדִּיל בֵּין קוֹדֶשׁ לְקוֹדֶשׁ "Boruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh LeKodesh"¹⁰ and then are permitted to commence preparations.
2. The Yom Tov candles should be lit. Matches may not be used, but one should take a light from either the gas stove or (if one only has an electric stove) from a 24-hour candle lit before Shabbos. In the latter case, one should light another 24-hour candle in order to use it for the candles on the second night (as one should do on every other Yom Tov).
3. See "**Seder Preparations**" above regarding the grating of the horseradish.
4. Havdoloh (הַבְּדֻלָּה) is made at Kiddush over the first of the four cups of wine. We make the B'rochoh בּוֹרֵא מְאֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ הָאֵשׁ הָאֵשׁ "Borei Me'orei Ho'eish" but we do not use בְּשָׂמִים (spices).
5. Any lady who has already recited the שְׂהֵחֵינּוּ ("Shehecheyonu") Blessing when lighting the candles should not answer אָמֵן "Omein" when the שְׂהֵחֵינּוּ Blessing is recited at the Seder, as it is deemed to be an interruption to the Kiddush.

Concluding Note

If anyone has any questions or difficulties regarding Pesach and its preparations, then Rabbi Cohen will be happy to answer them. He may be contacted on 07973 674 634. Further copies of this pamphlet may be obtained from the Shul Office or downloaded from the Shul website at [www.brijnet.org/kingsyn/ask the rabbi.htm](http://www.brijnet.org/kingsyn/ask_the_rabbi.htm).

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חג פֶּסַח וְשִׁמְחָה

⁹ If this is not possible, even after crumbling up the pieces of Chametz, then the only other recourse is to pour bleach over the Chametz so that it is completely soaked and rendered totally inedible.

¹⁰ This should be recited on every Yom Tov that starts on Saturday night. At the end of all other Shabbosos of the year ladies should recite בְּרוּךְ הַמְּבַדִּיל בֵּין קוֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל "Boruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh LeChol".