



# **ISRAEL AT YOUR SEDER:**

**Celebrating Our Journey to Freedom**

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### ***Seder Supplement - Read Aloud:***

*In each and every generation, every Jew is obligated to regard himself as though he/she actually left Egypt. Year after year we invoke this commandment, yet we often forget that the destination to which the Children of Israel were headed is equally as important as their redemption from the shackles of slavery.*

The Jews fled Egypt and embarked on a journey that only forty years later would culminate with their passage into the Land of Israel. As we gather with family and friends this Passover, let us remember that slavery, redemption, wandering and the dream of freedom have always been part of a singular course in our people's history: to ensure that we, our children, and our children's children shall merit seeing Jewish life flourishing freely in our ancient homeland.

**As we remember the miracle of the Exodus from Egypt, let us pay tribute to the dream and the destination and our eternal connection.**

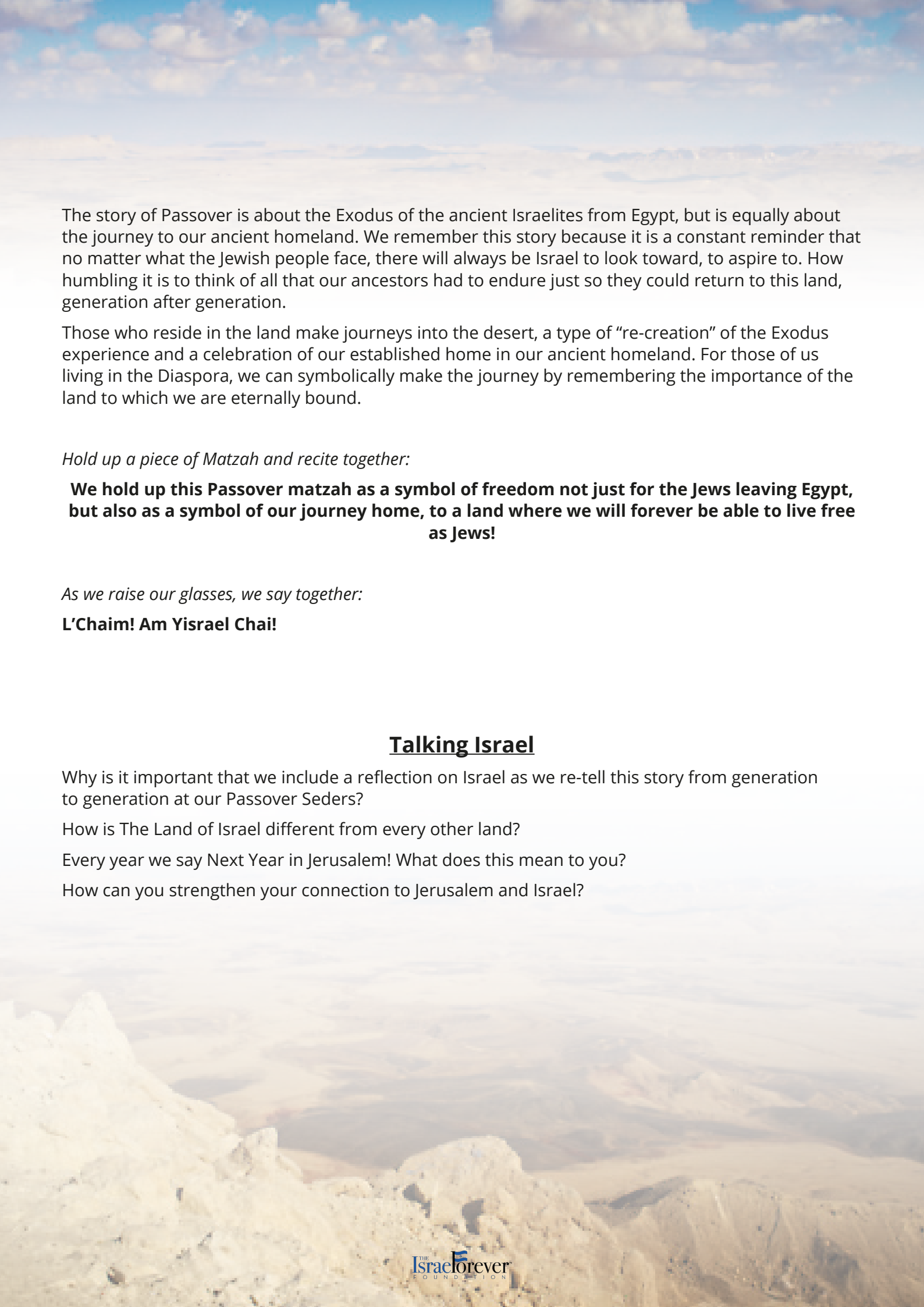
And the LORD said: I have surely seen the affliction of My people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their pains and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. (Exodus 3:7-8)

**Slavery, among the other dark chapters of our history, serves as a reminder of the fortitude of Am Yisrael, the Nation of Israel, while the goal - Israel - is the ultimate manifestation of our freedom.**

Thus said the Lord God: When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob. (Ezekiel 28:25)

Today, Israel is indeed a blossoming country. But ages ago, the land was little more than a desolate desert inhabited by nomadic tribes and other nations. It was the Nation of Israel who transformed the land into an important and meaningful place.

**As we honor the uniqueness of Passover, so, too, is it important that we incorporate a reflection on Israel as we pass this story from generation to generation.**



The story of Passover is about the Exodus of the ancient Israelites from Egypt, but is equally about the journey to our ancient homeland. We remember this story because it is a constant reminder that no matter what the Jewish people face, there will always be Israel to look toward, to aspire to. How humbling it is to think of all that our ancestors had to endure just so they could return to this land, generation after generation.

Those who reside in the land make journeys into the desert, a type of “re-creation” of the Exodus experience and a celebration of our established home in our ancient homeland. For those of us living in the Diaspora, we can symbolically make the journey by remembering the importance of the land to which we are eternally bound.

*Hold up a piece of Matzah and recite together:*

**We hold up this Passover matzah as a symbol of freedom not just for the Jews leaving Egypt, but also as a symbol of our journey home, to a land where we will forever be able to live free as Jews!**

*As we raise our glasses, we say together:*

**L'Chaim! Am Yisrael Chai!**

## **Talking Israel**

Why is it important that we include a reflection on Israel as we re-tell this story from generation to generation at our Passover Seders?

How is The Land of Israel different from every other land?

Every year we say Next Year in Jerusalem! What does this mean to you?

How can you strengthen your connection to Jerusalem and Israel?

## **Prayer for the State of Israel**

*This prayer was instituted in 1948 by both the Sephardic and Ashkenazic Chief Rabbis of the newly formed State of Israel, respectively Rabbis Ben-Zion Meir Hai Uziel and Yitzhak HaLevi Herzog. Read aloud together.*

Our Father in Heaven, Rock and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the first manifestation of the approach of our redemption. Shield it with Your lovingkindness, envelop it in Your peace, and bestow Your light and truth upon its leaders, ministers, and advisors, and grace them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land, grant them deliverance, and adorn them in a mantle of victory. Ordain peace in the land and grant its inhabitants eternal happiness. Lead them, swiftly and upright, to Your city Zion and to Jerusalem, the abode of Your Name, as is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses: "Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather you, from there He will fetch you. And the Lord your God will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will make you more prosperous and more numerous than your fathers." Draw our hearts together to revere and venerate Your name and to observe all the precepts of Your Torah, and send us quickly the Messiah, son of David, agent of Your vindication, to redeem those who await Your deliverance. Manifest yourself in the splendor of Your boldness before the eyes of all inhabitants of Your world, and may everyone endowed with a soul affirm that the Lord, God of Israel, is king and his dominion is absolute.

Amen forevermore.

אָבִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים, צוֹר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בְּרַךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלְתָּנוּ. הִגֵּן עֲלֶיהָ בְּאַבְרַת חֶסֶדְךָ, וּפְרֵשׁ עֲלֶיהָ סֶכֶת שְׁלוֹמְךָ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךָ וְאַמְתֵּךְ לְרֵאשִׁיָּהּ, שְׂרִיָּה וְיוֹעֲצִיָּהּ, וְתִקְנֶנָּם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ. חִזַּק אֶת יָדֵי מַגְנֵי אֶרֶץ קִדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהִנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה וְעֵטְרַת נֶצְחוֹן תְּעַטְרֵם, וְנִתַּת שְׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ וְשִׁמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ. וְאֶת אַחֵינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל פְּקֹד-נָא בְּכָל אֲרָצוֹת פְּזוּרֵיהֶם, וְתוֹלִיכֵם מִהֲרָה קוֹמְמִיּוֹת לְצִיּוֹן עִירְךָ וְלִירוּשָׁלַיִם מִשְׁכַּן שְׁמֶךָ, כְּכַתוּב בְּתוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה עֲבָדְךָ: "אִם יְהִיָּה נִדְחָךְ בְּקִצָּה הַשָּׁמַיִם, מִשָּׁם יִקְבְּצֶךָ ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ וּמִשָּׁם יִקְחֶךָ. וְהִבִּיאֶךָ ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶל הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יָרְשׁוּ אֲבֹתֶיךָ וִירְשָׁתָהּ, וְהִיטְבֶךָ וְהִרְבֶּךָ מֵאֲבֹתֶיךָ" (דברים ל, ד-ה). וַיַּחַד לְבַבְנוּ לְאַהֲבָה וּלְיִרְאָה אֶת שְׁמֶךָ, וְלִשְׁמֹר אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי תוֹרָתְךָ. וּשְׁלַח לָנוּ מִהֲרָה בֵּן דָּוִד מְשִׁיחַ צִדְקָךָ, לְפָדוֹת מַחְכֵי קֶץ יְשׁוּעָתְךָ. הוֹפֵעַ בְּהִדְר גְּאוֹן עֲזָרְךָ עַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵּבֵל אֶרֶץְךָ, וַיֹּאמֶר כָּל אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁמָה בְּאִפּוֹ: "ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מְלֶךְ, וּמַלְכוּתוֹ בְּכָל מְשָׁלָה". אָמֵן סְלָה.

## Prayer for the IDF

He Who blessed our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob -- may He bless the fighters of the Israel Defense Forces, who stand guard over our land and the cities of our God, from the border of the Lebanon to the desert of Egypt, and from the Great Sea unto the approach of the Aravah, on the land, in the air, and on the sea. May the Almighty cause the enemies who rise up against us to be struck down before them. May the Holy One, Blessed is He, preserve and rescue our fighters from every trouble and distress and from every plague and illness, and may He send blessing and success in their every endeavor. May He lead our enemies under our soldiers' sway and may He grant them salvation and crown them with victory. And may there be fulfilled for them the verse: For it is the Lord your God, Who goes with you to battle your enemies for you to save you.

Now let us respond: Amen.

מִי שְׁבִירָךְ אָבוֹתֵינוּ אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב, הוּא יְבִרְךָ אֶת חֵילֵי צְבָא הַהֲגָנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲנָשֵׁי כַחוֹת הַבְּטָחוֹן, הָעוֹמְדִים עַל מְשָׁמַר אֶרְצֵנוּ וְעִרֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מִגְּבוּל הַלְּבָנוֹן וְעַד מְדִבְרַי מִצְרַיִם, וּמִן הַיָּם הַגְּדוֹל עַד לְבוֹא הָעֶרְבָה, בִּיבֹשָׁה בְּאוֹר וּבַיָּם. יִתֵּן !! אֶת אוֹיְבֵינוּ הַקְּמִים עֲלֵינוּ נִגְפִים לְפָנֵיהֶם! הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁמַר וְיִצִּיל אֶת חֵילֵינוּ מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה, וּמִכָּל נֹגַע וּמַחֲלָה, וְיִשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם. יְדַבֵּר שׁוֹנְאֵינוּ תַחְתֵּיהֶם, וְיַעֲטֶרם בְּכֶתֶר יְשׁוּעָה וּבְעֶטְרַת נִצְחוֹן. וְיִקְרָם בָּהֶם הַכְּתוּב (דְּבָרִים כ,ד): "כִּי !! אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הֵהָלַךְ עִמָּכֶם, לְהַלְחִם לָכֶם עִם אוֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם".  
וְנֹאמַר: "אָמֵן".

## Hatikvah (The Hope)

As long as deep in the heart  
The soul of a Jew yearns  
And forward, to the East,  
to Zion, the eye looks  
Our hope will not be lost  
The Hope of 2000 years  
To be a free nation in our land  
The Land of Zion and Jerusalem

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְבֵי פְּנִימָה  
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה,  
וּלְפָאֲתֵי מִזְרַח קְדִימָה  
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה,  
עוֹד לֹא אֲבָדָה תְּקוּמָתֵנוּ,  
הַתְּקוּהָ בֵּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים  
לְהִיוֹת עִם חֶפְשֵׁי בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ,  
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם.