PASSOVER NIGHT(S)

PASSOVER NIGHT(S): MA'ARIV

Timing of Ma'ariv on Seder Night(s)

- *Ma'ariv* on the first night of *Passover* may begin at sunset. But since the *seder* may not be started until after dark, the custom is to begin *ma'ariv* a little before dark.
- The second *seder* may also not be started until after dark. *Ma'ariv* on the second night of *Passover* may be said from *plag ha'mincha*, 1 1/4 hours before sunset.
- *Ma'ariv* on the seventh and eighth days of *Passover* may be started as early as *plag ha'mincha*, 1 1/4 hours before sunset.

Hallel after Ma'ariv

People who have the custom of saying *hallel* after *ma'ariv* on the first night of *Passover* also say *hallel* on the second night (outside of *Eretz Yisrael*).

HaMapil on Passover

On the first two nights of *Passover*, before going to sleep, just say *shema* and the *ha'mapil* blessing.

REASON The first night (two nights outside of *Eretz Yisrael*) is considered to have special Divine protection, so we omit the extra paragraphs in the final parts of the prayer.

PASSOVER NIGHT(S): EATING MATZA

When Eating Matza Is Obligatory

The only time when *matza* must be eaten to fulfill the commandment of eating *matza* is on *seder* night(s).
There may be a *mitzva* to also eat *matza* on the other days of *Passover* (but there are conflicting opinions about that).
However, men must eat *matza* in order to fulfill the commandment of eating two meals a day on each of the festival days.

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