PASSOVER NIGHT(S)

PASSOVER NIGHT(S): MA'ARIV

Timing of Ma'ariv on Seder Night(s)

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

Hallel after Ma'ariv

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

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 <u>matza</u> must be eaten to fulfill the commandment of eating <u>matza</u> is on <u>seder</u> night(s). There may be a <u>mitzva</u> to also eat <u>matza</u> on the other days of <u>Passover</u> (but there are conflicting opinions about that).

However, men must eat <u>matza</u> in order to fulfill the commandment of eating two meals a day on each of the festival days.