

April 4, 2026
 Passover Love Song
 Song of Songs 2.8-11



I introduce to you Mr. & Mrs. Grady and Rachel Merritt, married Sunday evening, Mar. 29, 2026 by Rabbi Jeremy Walla.

7th Wedding Blessing:

Blessed are You, Adoni, our G-d, King of the universe, Who has created **joy and gladness**, bridegroom and bride, **mirth and exultation, pleasure and delight**, love, brotherhood, peace and **fellowship**. Adoni our G-d, soon may there be heard in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, and throughout Your kingdom among the nations, the voice of **joy and gladness**, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the **jubilant** voices of bridegrooms from their canopies, and of youths from their feasts of song.

[Some say this was part of the original blessing by G-d of Adam and Hava in the Garden.]

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
 בָּרָא שְׂשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה, חֵתָן וְכֵלָה, גִּילָה
 רִנָּה דִיצָה וְחִדּוּה, אֶהְבָּה וְאַחֲנֶה וְשִׁלּוּם
 וְרַעוּת. מִהֲרָה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׁמַע בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה
 וּבְחוּצוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם קוֹל שְׂשׂוֹן וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה,
 קוֹל חֵתָן וְקוֹל כֵּלָה, קוֹל מְצַהֲלוֹת חַתָּנִים
 מְחַפְּתִים וְנָעָרִים מְמַשְׁתֵּה נְגִינָתָם. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה
 יי, מִשְׁמַח חֵתָן עִם הַכֵּלָה.

COUNTING
THE OMER

S'fee-raht
Ha-oh-mehr

סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר



Lev 23.9-10 Adoni said to Moshe, "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'After you enter the land I am giving you and harvest its ripe crops, you are to bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the cohen.

Lev 23.11-12 He is to wave the sheaf before Adoni, so that you will be accepted; the cohen is to wave it on the day after the Shabbat. On the day that you wave the sheaf, you are to offer a male lamb without defect, in its first year, as a burnt offering for Adoni.

Lev 23.15-16 From the day after the day of rest — that is, from the day you bring the sheaf for waving — you are to

count seven full weeks, until the day after the seventh week; you are to **count fifty days**; and then you are to present a new grain offering to Adonai . ' "

The Counting of the Omer begins on the second day of Passover (the 16th of Nisan) for Rabbinic Jews (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform), April 2 in the evening or all day, April 3. and after the weekly Shabbat during Passover for Karaite, Samaritan, Sadducean Jews. [April 5]

[And Michael Rood.]

The counting is preferably done at night, at the beginning of the Jewish day. If one realizes the next morning or afternoon that they have not yet counted, the count may still be made, but [Rabbinic law] without a blessing. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counting_of_the_Omer]

Modern day wheat sheaves.

Counting during the Omer gathering

[Not actually counting the Omer, although this is the terminology. Most of us don't have any wheat to bundle into sheaves and count!]



OMER COUNTER
Make every day count!

Download our free
Omer counter app
and make every day count!

Omer counting app, available at the Google play store, iPhone App Store.

Some screenshots from my phone...



[Then you check off that you've counted to day, which reports to the Mossad that you are counted kosher.]

This is the second day
of the Omer count.

היום שני ימים לעומר: 2.

Ha-yom shnay ya-meem la-Omer.

PASSOVER LOVE SONG

Song of Songs 2:8-11

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld



April 4, 2026 | 17th of Nisan, 5786

י"ז בניסן תשפ"ו

OR HAOLAM
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

[As I was contemplating the message, I checked the parasha, the weekly reading, and I found something to my surprise that the Ruakh seemed to breathe on ...]

Passover Love Song

1. Hebrew organization of scripture
2. Song and Pesakh in the Spring
3. G-d has passionate love for Israel
4. Song, Pesakh, Yeshua Abduction and Rescue
5. Apple analogy
6. Current Rescue

[Like the Song of Songs is about passionate love]

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From Hebcal.com

Pesach III Saturday, April 4

Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Also called Hag HaMatzot (the Festival of Matzah), it commemorates the Exodus and **freedom** of the Israelites from ancient Egypt

Torah: Exodus 33:12-34:26; Numbers 28:19-25;

Song of Songs 1:1-8:14

[Hebcal.com]

Note:

1. *Passover = Unleavened bread 14th & 15th Nisan, because usually people will slaughter a lamb Nisan 14, before eating it Nisan 15.*
2. *2nd day of the Omer = 3rd day of Passover*
3. *Almost NOTHING that all Jews agree on, except the weekly readings. Any synagogue around the world. Reading Song of Songs]*

Passover is about FREEDOM

The ancient rabbis associated that Passover freedom with the Song of Songs !!??

Context:

The Hebrew Bible or Jewish Bible or Tanakh ,תנ"ך [acronym]:

the canonical collection of Hebrew scriptures, comprising

- the **Torah** (the five Books of Moses)
- the **Nevi'im** (the Books of the **Prophets**), and
- the **Ketuvim** ('**Writings**', eleven books).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Bible

Note T, N, K]

Yeshua understood and used this organization of the scriptures

Lk 24.27 Then beginning with [Torah] **Moshe** and all **the Prophets**, He explained to them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures.

The third and final section of the Hebrew Bible, Writings (Ketuvim), contains five scrolls called megillahs [megillot] that are read in synagogues on different Jewish holidays.

- Esther is read on Purim — it tells the Purim story
- Lamentations, is read on Tisha B'Av because describes the prophets Yermiyahu / Jeremiah's lament over the destruction of the Temple.
- Ruth is read on Shavuot and
- Ecclesiastes is read by some communities on Sukkot.

[<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/why-jews-read-the-song-of-songs-on-passover/>]

Perhaps the most elusive connection of all is the one between Song of Songs (Shir Hashirim in Hebrew) and Passover.

[Why is this megillah/scroll read on Passover week, and how can we apply this to our lives?]

Song of Songs is an erotic poem, Passover is a celebration of the freeing of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. So, what's the deep connection between the two, between passionate love, and Passover freedom?

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Song of Songs is set in springtime, just as Passover is.

Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs) 2:8

קוֹל דּוֹדִי הִנְהִיָּה בָּא מִדֶּלֶג עַל-הַהָרִים
 מִקַּפֵּץ עַל-הַגְּבָעוֹת:

The voice of the man I love!
 Here he comes, bounding over
 the mountains, skipping over the
 hills!

Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs) 2:9

דוֹמָה דּוֹדִי לְצִבִּי אֹו לְעֶפְר הָאֵילִים הִנְהִיָּה
 עוֹמֵד אַחַר כְּתֻלָּנוּ מִשְׁגִּיחַ מִרְהַחֲלָנוֹת
 מִצִּיץ מִרְהַחֲרָפִים:

My darling is like a gazelle or young stag.
 There he is, standing outside our wall,
 looking in through the windows, peering
 in through the lattice.

Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs) 2:10

עֲנֵה דּוֹדִי וְאָמַר לִי קוֹמִי לָךְ רַעֲיָתִי יַפְתִּי
 וּלְכִי לָךְ:

My darling speaks; he is saying to me,
 "Get up, my love! My beauty! Come away!

Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs) 2:11

כִּי-הִנֵּה הַסִּתּוֹ עָבַר הַגֶּשֶׁם חָלַף הַלֶּדֶךְ לוֹ:

"For you see that the winter has passed,
 the rain is finished and gone ... "

[Some say that this is a picture of the rapture of believers.]

Song of Songs 2.12-15 Blossoms appear in the land, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its early figs. The blossoming vines give off their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling, my pretty one, and come, come!
[\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Bible\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Bible)

Song of Songs 2.12-15 My dove, in the clefts of the rock, in a secret place along the steep path, let me see your form, let me hear your voice. For your voice is sweet and your form is lovely." Catch the foxes for us — the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.

So, Song of Songs is set in the Springtime:

- Winter has passed
- Doves are singing
- Early figs ripening
- Vines blossoming 2x

Passover is set in the Spring, the time of the barley harvest.

Shmot/Ex 9.31-33 The flax and barley were ruined, because the barley was ripe and the flax in bud. But the wheat and buckwheat were not ruined, because they come up later.

[Winter grains, come up in the Spring.

I'm a city boy, surprised to hear this, but grain harvest can be twice,

Fall planting → Spring harvest (biggest)

Spring planting → Fall harvest]

Shmot/Ex 9.31-33 Moshe went out of the city, away from Pharaoh, and spread out his hands to Adoni. The thunder and hail ended, and the rain stopped pouring down on the earth.

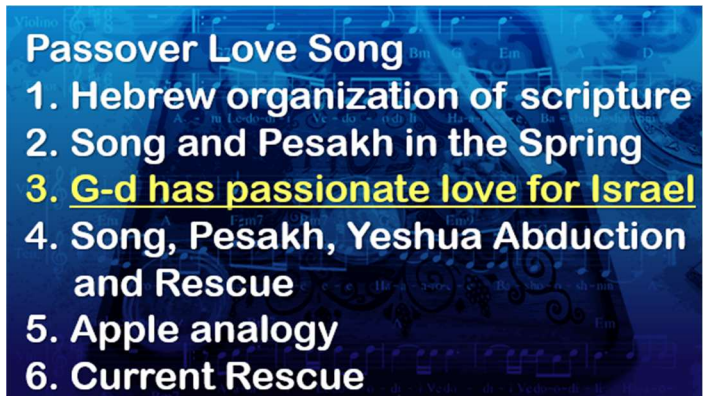
Passover is set in the Spring, the time new life and freedom from confinement and cabin fever.

Think of your seder and week of matzah as

Z'man herutenu זמן חרותנו

Time of our freedom

[Freedom in company of those you love. Rescue!]



Jews have never read Song of Songs simply as a love story. Rather, since ancient times it has been understood in religious terms as an expression of the ardent covenantal love between God and the Jewish people.

The marriage metaphor is found repeatedly in the Hebrew Bible, for example in Hosea (chapters 1–3), Ezekiel (chapter 16) and Jeremiah (especially chapter 2).

[<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/why-jews-read-the-song-of-songs-on-passover/>]

Hoshea 2.10, 15 **I** Myself gave her the grain, the wine and the fresh oil. I lavished on her silver, also gold...adorning herself with her rings and jewelry, going after her lovers — However, Me she forgot.” It is a declaration of Adoni.

Hoshea 2.16-18 “So then, I Myself will entice her, I will bring her into the wilderness and speak to her heart. I will give her back her vineyards from there and make the valley of Achor a door of hope. She will respond there—

[Love of G-d for Israel and all of us,

Hoshea for his errant wife Gomer, and all husbands]

Hoshea 2.16-18 as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of the land of Egypt. In that day—it is a declaration of Adoni— you will proclaim, ‘My husband,’ and never again call Me, ‘My Baal.’

Y'khezkael/Ezek 16.8 “‘Again I passed by you, looked at you and saw that your time had come, the time for love. So, I spread my cloak over you to cover your private parts and entered into a covenant with you,’ says Adoni Elohim, ‘and you became mine.

Y'khezkael/Ezek 16.10-11 I also clothed you with an embroidered gown, gave you fine leather sandals to wear, put a fine linen headband on your head and covered you with silk. I gave you jewelry to wear, bracelets for your hands, a necklace for your neck,

Y'khezkael/Ezek 16.13-4 Thus you were decked out in gold and silver; your clothing was of fine linen, silk and richly embroidered cloth; you ate the finest flour, honey and olive oil. You grew increasingly beautiful — you were fit to be queen. Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty, because it was perfect, due to my having bestowed my own splendor on you' says Adoni Elohim.

Yermiyahu/Jer 2.1-3 Again, the word of Adoni came to me, saying: “Go, and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, thus says ADONI: I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, and the way you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was kadosh to Adoni, the firstfruits of the harvest.

The saga of the Exodus from Egypt and the subsequent revelation at Mount Sinai is reminiscent of a larger-than-life love affair, G-d and His people, complete with

1. forced separation at the hands of a villain (Pharaoh),
2. gallant rescue (the Exodus) and
3. eventual marriage [Sinai covenant]

[<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/why-jews-read-the-song-of-songs-on-passover/>]

There is one place in the Song of Songs where there is a possible word picture of an abduction / seduction of the bride, and a rescue.

[He]

Song 6.10-12 “Who is this, shining forth like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun” — but formidable as an army marching under banners?

[She]

I had gone down to the nut orchard to see the fresh green plants in the valley, to see if the vine had budded, or if the pomegranate trees were in bloom. Before I knew it, I found myself in a chariot, and with me was a prince.

Song 7.1 Come back, come back, girl from Shulam! Come back, come back to where we can see you!

[He, after rescue]

Song 7.7 How beautiful you are, my love, how charming, how delightful!

1. forced separation at the hands of a villain (Pharaoh),
2. gallant rescue (the Exodus) and
3. eventual marriage (Sinai covenant)

[<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/why-jews-read-the-song-of-songs-on-passover/>]

These three aspects are certainly evident in the Messiah Yeshua's rescue of us.

1. **forced separation at the hands of a villain (Pharaoh),**
2. gallant rescue (the Exodus) and
3. eventual marriage (Sinai covenant)

¹ Kefa /Peter 5.8 Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour.

² Tim 2.24-26 The Lord's slave must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, tolerant. Let him give guidance with humility to those who are in opposition—**perhaps God may grant them a**

change of mind, leading to the knowledge of truth. Then they may regain their senses and **escape the devil's snare, in which they had been held captive by him to do his will.**

1. forced separation at the hands of a villain (Pharaoh),
2. gallant rescue (the Exodus) and
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*[<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/why-jews-read-the-song-of-songs-on-passover/>
G-d rescued us with the plagues that convinced Pharaoh, then the splitting of the Sea of Reed.]*

Ro 5.6-11 For while we were still helpless, at the right time, the Messiah died on behalf of ungodly people. Now it is a rare event when someone gives up his life even for the sake of somebody righteous, although possibly for a truly good person one might have the courage to die.

Ro 5.6-11 But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners. Therefore, since we have now come to be considered righteous by means of his bloody sacrificial death, how much more will we be delivered through him from the anger of God's judgment!

Ro 5.6-11 For if we were reconciled with God through his Son's death when we were enemies, how much more will we be delivered by his life, now that we are reconciled! And not only will we be delivered in the future,

Ro 5.6-11 but we are boasting about God right now, because he has acted through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, through whom we have already received that reconciliation.

1. forced separation at the hands of a villain (Pharaoh),
2. gallant rescue (the Exodus) and
3. eventual marriage (Sinai covenant)

Shmot/Ex 19.4-6 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my **covenant**, then you will be **my own treasure** from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you will be **a kingdom of cohanim** for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

[Israel's covenantal marriage with G-d at Mt Sinai]

Yn 14.19-21 In just a little while, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me. Because I live, you too will live. When that day comes, you will know that I am united with my Father, and you with me, and I with you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

Yn 14.26 Yeshua answered him, "If someone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Lk 22.14-15 When the hour came, Yeshua reclined at table, and the emissaries with Him. And He said to them, "I have **eagerly desired** to eat this Passover **with you** before I suffer.

[Passover is a love fest of family and friends. Exodus is like a Song of Songs betrothal.]

KJV "With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you
Said at the close of Yeshua's Last Seder

Yn 17.22-23 The glory that You have given to Me I have given to them, that they may be one just as We are one — I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them as You loved Me.

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6. **Current Rescue**

Song 2.3-6 **Like an apple tree among the other trees in the forest is my darling among the other men. I love to sit in his shadow; his fruit is sweet to my taste. He brings me to the banquet hall; his banner over me is love. Sustain me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.[I wish] his left arm [were] under my head, and his right arm around me.**

Just as an apple produces blossoms before leaves, so the Israelites at Mount Sinai undertook to do even before they had heard what they were supposed to do:

Shmot/Ex 19.7-8 **Moshe came, summoned the leaders of the people and presented them with all these words which Adoni had ordered him to say. All the people answered as one, "Everything Adoni has said, we will do."**
 [Hadn't heard yet.]

1 Kefa 1.6-9 **You rejoice in this greatly, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials. These trials are so that the true metal of your faith (far more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire) may come to light in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Messiah Yeshua. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. And even though you don't see Him now, you trust Him and are filled with a joy that is glorious beyond words, receiving the outcome of your faith—the salvation of your souls.**

An apple tree takes 50 days to ripen — just as the Israelites received the Torah 50 days after they left Egypt.

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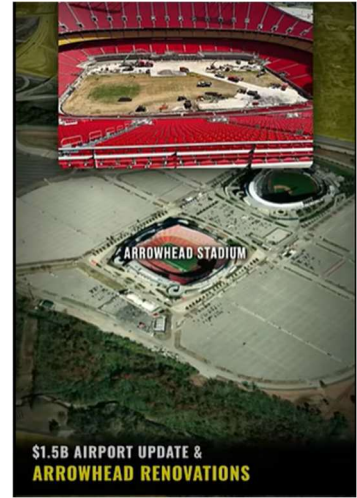
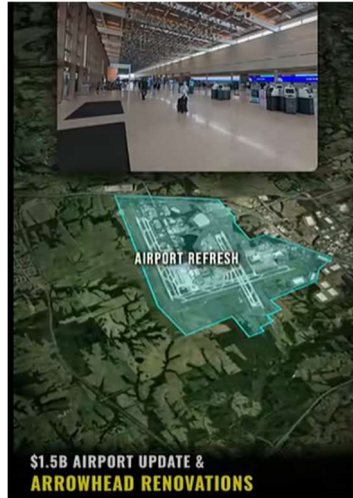
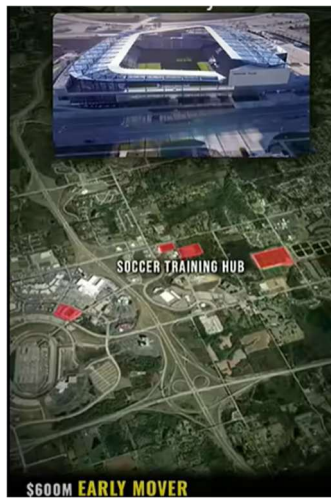
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We have hosted his mom, Carolyn Hyde, for a concert in our old building. We ALL ate in their home on a tour about 10 years ago.
<https://youtu.be/hZAPuOThXpw>
<https://youtu.be/olbG15GwNvw>

World Cup Spiritual Rescue

104 games will take place in the 2026 World Cup across the USA, Mexico, and Canada with 16 different host cities selected and the schedule confirmed.



| | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Jun 16 Tue, 8:00pm | GROUP J Argentina vs Algeria Kansas City, MO · GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | From \$851 |
| | Jun 20 Sat, 7:00pm | GROUP E Ecuador vs Curacao Kansas City, MO · GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | From \$392 |
| | Jun 25 Thu, 6:00pm | GROUP F Netherlands vs Tunisia Kansas City, MO · GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | From \$455 |
| | Jun 27 Sat, 9:00pm | GROUP J Austria vs Algeria Kansas City, MO · GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | From \$343 |
| | Jul 3 Fri, 8:30pm | ROUND OF 32 1K vs TBD Kansas City, MO · GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | From \$668 |
| | Jul 11 Sat, 8:00pm | QUARTERFINALS W95 vs W96 Kansas City, MO · GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium | From \$1,534 |

World Cup Schedule
~700,000 visitors to KC!

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& Or HaOlam Messianic Synagogue

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