A Passover Family Seder With

PAUL ZIM

Narrated by
Rabbi Sidney Zimelman

with the
Oscar Julius Choir

Executive Producer
Seymour Kleinman

Orchestra and Musical Direction
Moti Parnes
PASSOVER: THE EVER-NEW FESTIVAL

The Passover Seder is the oldest ceremony which has been continuously observed in the Western world. It dates back at least three-thousand years, and therefore antedates all other religious festivals and ceremonies in our civilization. It is a ritual which has captured the imagination, fired the enthusiasm, and deepened the inspiration of countless generations of Jewish men, women and children. The eternal message of Passover expressed in ritual, liturgy, and song, is that the Creator of the universe, desires above all, that all His children be free.

This revolutionary message which has fired the imagination of Jews and non-Jews throughout human history, is dramatized through the Passover Seder, a ritual geared to the retelling of the ancient story of the liberation from Egyptian bondage. In our own time, a time of turmoil and revolutionary change, the message of Passover seems to have taken on new and added meaning. There are still, unfortunately, millions and millions of human beings who suffer under the burden of tyranny, and are deprived of freedom by modern day Pharaohs and taskmasters. Passover has always been the inspiration for all oppressed men and women to throw off the shackles of their oppression, and to rely upon the G-d of Liberation to aid in their struggle to enjoy their inalienable human rights. Thus, Passover, the Festival of Freedom acquires a new dimension in every age. The ancient teachers of Judaism considered the message of Passover so central to the Jewish faith that in practically every liturgical formula of the Festivals and Sabbaths, we are instructed to mention that these rituals are "Zeicher Leetzeevat Mitzrayim," a remembrance of going out of Egypt. So the message of Judaism as reflected in the Seder is a universal message.

The music of the liturgy of Passover so beautifully interpreted on this record, not only moves the heart, stirs the emotion, but also stimulates the mind and the imagination, and inspires all who participate to dedicate their energy and strength to the perpetuation of the values of Judaism.

It is especially important from the point of view of Jewish tradition that this message, so vital for the progress of history and for the alleviation of the suffering of mankind, be transmitted to our children. This instruction is achieved through explanation, through song, and through ritual. A people which does not instruct its children loses hope for its own future, and therefore, the Seder, the Passover ritual, is designed especially to inspire the curiosity of children as to what is being done.

The Passover Seder culminates with the triumphant and inspiring hope, L'shana Haba'ah Biyeryushalayim Hab'nuyah, "Next year in Jerusalem Rebuilt." It is for us, a symbol of the hope that in the coming year, and in the years ahead, redemption will be realized and universal freedom will be fulfilled.

Paul Zim, one of the leading interpreters of Jewish liturgy of our time, magnificently portrays in this album the joy of Passover, as well as the inspiring hope for freedom and redemption which it arouses in the hearts of those who participate in the Seder. Young and old alike — children, grandchildren and parents are inspired and moved by the lilting melodies which Paul Zim so wonderfully interprets, and by the chants he so beautifully sings. His musical talent, and his Jewish soul which is mirrored through his singing are indispensable in bringing the fullness of the message of Passover to those who listen and participate with him, in this great and historic religious observance.

This record is dedicated to Cantor Samuel Zimelman, father of both the singer and narrator, whose Sederes served as the inspiration for this album.

CREDITS

Special thanks to Rabbi Sidney Zimelman (brother of Paul Zim)
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MENORAH RECORDS PRESENTS

PAUL ZIM

"A PASSOVER FAMILY SEDER"
Narration by Rabbi Sidney Zimelman

STEREO
Side A

1. KADEISH, URCHARTZ, and INTRO to KIDDUSH
2. KIDDUSH (Sanctification)
3. HA LACHMA ANYA
4. MA NISHTANA (4 Questions)
5. BARUCH HAMAKOM
6. TEN PLAGUES
7. DAYEINU (It Would Have Been Enough)
8. INTRO to GRACE After MEALS
9. SHIR HAMAALOT

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