

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.