

Purim

1. Talmud, Taanit 29a

Just as when Av enters we reduce joy, so when Adar enters we increase joy. Rav Pappa said: Therefore, a Jew who has litigation with a non-Jew should avoid him in Av, when one's *maza*/is weak, and make himself available in Adar, when his *maza*/is strong.

2. Talmud, Pesachim 109a

One is obligated to gladden his children and household for the holiday, as the Torah says, "And you shall rejoice on your holiday." With what does one gladden them? With wine. Rabbi Yehudah said: Men with that which suits them, and women with that which suits them – what suits men is wine, but what about women? Rav Yosef taught: In Babylon, coloured clothes; in Israel, pressed linen clothes.

3. Rabbi Avraham Price, Comments to Sefer Chasidim 286 (Vol. 1 pp. 180-181)

It appears, in my humble opinion, that there are two concepts. 1) One who is enveloped in sorrow and eats, and receives pleasure from eating, and 2) One who is hungry but is happy from the arrival of good news or hearing music and song. Pleasure is not prohibited for a mourner; he may eat and enjoy his eating. He is only prohibited from joy. Therefore he may not learn [Torah] while in mourning, because Torah gladdens the heart...

4. Rashi, Comment to Beitzah 16a נשמה יתירה – the 'extra soul' of Shabbat

Breadth of spirit for rest and joy, and to be open wide, to eat and drink without being repulsed.

5. Esther 10:1-2

And King Achashverosh levied a tax upon the land and the islands of the sea. And all of his deeds of strength and might, and the explication of the greatness of Mordechai, who was elevated by the king, are recorded in the book of the accounts of days of the kings of Medea and Persia.

6. Talmud, Megilah 14a

Rava said: It's fine [to sing Hallel for Passover] for there we could say, "Sing, servants of Gd," not of Pharaoh. But [for Purim], "Sing, servants of Gd" and not of Achashverosh? We are still servants of Achashverosh!

Passover

7. Responsa of the Gaonim (8th-9th century), Shaarei Teshuvah 337

Falling on one's face is always a time of pain, as in, "And they fell on their faces and declared: O Gd" "And Moses heard and fell on his face" "And Joshua fell on his face to the ground." And so, falling on one's face is always a time of pain. And the days of Nisan and Tishrei are times of joy...

8. Talmud, Rosh HaShanah 11a

Rabbi Yehoshua said: In Nisan the world was created, in Nisan the patriarchs were born, in Nisan the patriarchs died, on Passover Isaac was born... on Rosh HaShanah the slavery halted for our ancestors in Egypt, and in Nisan they were redeemed...

9. Genesis 48:16, Exodus 6:6, Leviticus 25:24, Leviticus 27:31, Numbers 35:12, Ruth 3:12

The angel who is *go'e*/me from all harm...

And I will be *go'e*/you with an outstretched arm, and great judgments.

And in all of the lands of your holdings, you shall give *geulah* to the land.

And if one shall be *go'e*/his tithe...

The *go'e*/of the blood shall execute the murderer...

And now, for in truth, I am a *go'e*/, but there is a *go'e*/closer than me.

10. Daniel 1:8, Malachi 1:7

And Daniel put into his heart not to be *ga'al* with the patibaga of the king.

You serve upon My altar bread that is *migo'al*...

11. The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Temple Scroll, Yadin edition

And on the day they will remove the corpse from there, they will sweep the house from all *tig'olet* of oil and wine...

12. Isaiah 4:4, with the standard Aramaic translation

If G-d would cleanse the filth (*tzo'ah*) of the daughters of Zion...

Aramaic: The *tig'olet* of the daughters of Zion

13. Exodus 6:6-8

And will take you out from beneath the suffering of Egypt, and I will save you from their labour, and I will redeem you from them with an outstretched arm, and great judgments. And I will take you to Me as a nation, and I will be your Gd, and you will know that I am Hashem your Gd, who took you out from beneath the suffering of Egypt. And I will bring you to the land...

14. Jerusalem Talmud, Pesachim 10:1

What is the source for the four cups? Rabbi Yochanan cited Rabbi Benayah: The four expressions of redemption...

15. Rabbi Moses Maimonides (12th century Egypt), Laws of Kings 5:7

One may dwell anywhere in the world, other than Egypt... Three times the Torah warned not to return to Egypt, as Deuteronomy 17:16 says, "Never again shall you return by this path," *ibid.* 28:68 says, "You would never again see her," and Exodus 14:13 says, "You shall not see them again, ever."...

16. Jeremiah 42:13-16, JPS 1985 edition

But if you say, 'We will not stay in this land'—thus disobeying the Lord your Gd, if you say, 'No! We will go to the land of Egypt, so that we may not see war or hear the sound of the horn, and so that we may not hunger for bread; there we will stay,' then hear the word of the Lord, O remnant of Judah! Thus said the Lord of Hosts, the Gd of Israel: If you turn your faces toward Egypt, and you go and sojourn there, the sword that you fear shall overtake you there, in the land of Egypt, and the famine you worry over shall follow at your heels in Egypt too; and there you shall die.

17. Isaiah 19:24-25

On that day Israel will be a triad with Egypt and Assyria, blessing in the midst of the land, as Gd has blessed it, saying, "Blessed is My nation Egypt, the work of My hand Assyria, My portion Israel."

18. Mishnah Pesachim 10:5

In every generation one must see himself as though he had left Egypt, as in, "And you shall tell your child on that day, saying: For this Gd acted for me, when I left Egypt."

19. Midrash, Bereishit Rabbah 30:8

Rabbi Levi said: Anyone regarding whom "he was" is stated, saw a new world. Rabbi Shemuel said: There are five of them [Noah, Joseph, Moses, Job, Mordechai]:

Moses: Yesterday he fled from Pharaoh, and now he sank him in the sea! But he saw a new world.

Mordechai: Yesterday he was designated for hanging, and now he hanged those who would have hanged him! But he saw a new world.

20. Talmud, Rosh HaShanah 11a

... And in Nisan we will be redeemed in the future.