

## Redemption in Dark Times

Prepared by Rabbis Aaron Potek and Avram Mlotek

### 1) Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Leavened and Unleavened Bread 7:3

On the first night of Passover, one should introduce some change at the table, so that the children who will notice it may ask, saying: “Why is this night different from all other nights?”

### 2) Exodus 12:22

None of you shall go outside the door of your house until morning.

### 3) Rashi on Exodus 12:22

This tells us that when once permission is given to destruction to damage, it makes no distinction between righteous and wicked. And nighttime is the domain of damaging forces...

### 4) Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Berachot 9a

Rabbi Abba said: Everyone agrees that when the children of Israel were redeemed from Egypt, they were redeemed only in the evening, as it is stated: “In the spring the Lord, your God, took you out from Egypt at night” (Deuteronomy 16:1). And when they actually left, they left only during the day, as it is stated: “On the fifteenth of the first month, on the day after the offering of the Paschal lamb, the children of Israel went out with a high hand before the eyes of Egypt” (Numbers 33:3)

### 5) In The Warsaw Ghetto, It’s Now The Month of Nissan By Binem Heller

*In Varshever geto iz itst khoydesh nishn  
Oyf koyses fun broyt un matses fun klayen  
Dertseylt men oyf snay di amolike nisim  
Vi s’yidische folk iz aroys fun mitsrayim.*

In the Warsaw Ghetto, it’s now the month of *Nissan*.

Over goblets of *borsh*, *matsah* of clay  
the people again sing of the miracles of old.  
How the Jewish people left Mitzrayim.

How old is the story, how ancient the melody.

Only now, by hidden windows does the *seder* continue, and truth and lie become blurred...

“*Kol dikhfin*, let all who are hungry” - by covered windows and doors..

“*Kol dikhfin*, let all who are hungry” - and the children scream from hunger.

....Elijah’s goblet is full...

As always- the German language of marching....

But no! The ghetto will not hear more of the curses of Nazis that are transporting Jews.

We will again wipe the doorposts—with blood of the free, with blood of the last!

**6) Ta-Nehisi Coates, [Interview](#) with Stephen Colbert, 10/3/2017, 5:15-3:35**

SC: Do you have any hope tonight...?

TC: No, but I'm not the person you should go to for that. You should go to your pastor. Your pastor provides you hope...

**7) Jerusalem Talmud Yoma 14a:2**

Rabbi Hiya Rubah and Rabbi Shimon ben Halafta were walking in the Arbel Valley at dawn. They saw the light of the morning star begin to shine. Rabbi Hiya Rubah said to Rabbi Shimon ben Halafta, "Just like this will Israel's redemption occur: a little bit at a time, gradually getting brighter as it goes on." From where do we know this? From the verse (Micah 7), "When I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light for me."

**8) Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Rosh Hashana 11b**

Rabbi Yehoshua says: In the month of Nisan we were redeemed and in the month of Nisan in the future we will be redeemed.

**9) Aish Kodesh ("the Piaseczner Rebbe"), Parshat Toldot, November 22, 1941, p. 203**

...for every redemption we must thank God and sing songs before God. For songs and gratitude elicit even more redemption...