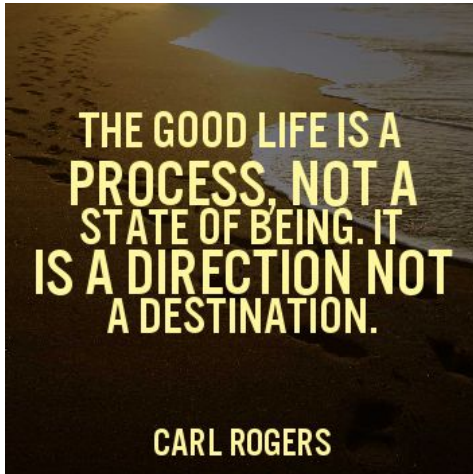


BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



Freedom in Quarantine

DAY 2 - KADESH



On the Seder night we drink four cups of wine (or grape juice). But why four cups? Seems a bit excessive, no?

When God first appears to Moshe at the burning, He explains that He will redeem the Jewish people. Here is what God told Moshe:

לֵךְ אָמַר לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנִי ה' וְהוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מִתַּחַת סְבֹלֹת מִצְרַיִם וְהִצַּלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם מֵעַבְדֹתָם וְגֵאלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם בְּזְרוּעַ נְטוּיָהּ וּבְשִׁפְטִים גְּדֹלִים: וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם לִי לְעָם וְהִיִּיתִי לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים וַיִּדְעֶתֶם כִּי אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַמּוֹצִיא אֶתְכֶם מִתַּחַת סְבֹלֹת מִצְרַיִם:

Therefore, say to the children of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will take you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will save you from

their labor, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. And I will take you to Me as a people, and I will be a God to you, and you will know that I am the Lord your God, Who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

God uses four different verbs to describe the redemption. Why? Rabbi Shlomo Luschnitz explains in his commentary Kli Yakar that **redemption is not binary, it is a process**. Redemption has several steps and each step along the way is purposeful and meaningful. Rabbi Luschnitz explains that for the Jewish people the steps were as follows: **removing** them from physical pain, **saving** them from slavery, **redeeming** them as converts able to connect, **taking** them as a nation.

At the seder we drink four cups of wine to celebrate the process of redemption. Freedom from oppression can come in an instant, but true redemption takes time and development.

As articulated by the Kli Yakar, each language corresponds to a different step in the process. The first two represent a freedom that removes a negative, while the final two words associated with redemption introduce a positive. The image to the side reflects the process of each of these terms.



Join the Conversation

What four words would you use to describe your redemption story?

Submit Your Answers

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