

# Elijah's Cup

Contributed by [Jessica Belding](#)

Source: Ela Rbn



We now refill our wine glasses one last time and open the front door to invite the prophet Elijah to join our Seder. In the Bible, Elijah was a fierce defender of God to a disbelieving people. At the end of his life, rather than dying, he was whisked away to heaven. Tradition holds that he will return in advance of messianic days to herald a new era of peace, so we set a place for Elijah at many joyous, hopeful Jewish occasions.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַנּוֹבֵיאַ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַתְּשׁוּבִי

אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ הַגִּלְעָדִי

בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ יָבוֹא אֱלֵינוּ

עִם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד

עִם מְשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד

*Eliyahu hanavi Eliyahu hatishbi Eliyahu, Eliyahu, Eliyahu hagiladi Bimheirah b'yameinu, yavo eileinu Im mashiach ben-David Im mashiach ben-David*

Elijah the prophet, the returning, the man of Gilad: return to us speedily, in our days with the messiah, son of David.

We place a cup of wine for the prophet Elijah at the center of the Seder table. We open the door to welcome this usually unseen guest into our homes in the hope that the final, messianic, redemption of all people is at hand. Our ancient traditions tell us that final redemption will come at the season of Israel's redemption from Egyptian bondage - on some Passover to come.