

## Kadesh - Sanctification - קִדְּשׁ

Contributed by [JQ International](#)

Source: JQ International GLBT Haggadah

The Candle lighting celebration begins by honoring light

We light the candles and say...

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב**

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha'Olam  
Asher Kidishanu B'Mitzvotav V'Tzivanu L'Hadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov.*

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who sanctifies us with commandments, and commands us to light the candles on this holiday.

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**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה**

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech Ha'Olam  
Sheche'hyanu V'Keymanu V'Higiyanu Lazman Ha'Zeh.*

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Traditionally Passover celebrates...

The Jewish people's freedom from Egyptian bondage that took place approximately 3,500 years ago, as told in the first 15 chapters of the Book of Exodus. Before the Jewish people were known as Jewish or Jews – names that were derived from the Kingdom of Judah where they lived from 922 BCE until 587 BCE – they were known as either Israelites or Hebrews. "Hebrews," "Israelites," or the "Children of Israel" were names that collectively described the descendants of the Hebrew patriarch Jacob (also known as Israel). The Hebrews and Israelites eventually established and lived in both the Kingdom of Judah and the Kingdom of Israel.

The events of Passover written about in the Book of Exodus occurred at a time before the Jewish people were known as Jewish or Jews, and so we refer to the Jewish people as either Hebrews or Israelites in the Passover story that follows. Interestingly, the Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitzrayim, and means either "constriction" or "narrow straits." This is in reference to the Israelites being in a state of constriction while toiling as slaves in the land of Goshen, an area of ancient Egypt. As slaves, the Israelites were building cities such as Pithom and Ra'amses which were used as supply centers for the Pharaohs of Egypt.