



Who Drinks the Four Cups?

Rabbi Drew Kaplan



While the fair assumption for who is involved in consuming the four cups of wine at the Passover Seder would be simply men, what about women and children? There is actually a very clear early text including them:

הכל תיבין בארבעה כוסות הללו, אחד אנשים, ואחד נשים, ואחד תינוקות
All are obligated in these four cups, including men, women, and children" (*Pesahim* 108b).

However, Rabbi Yehudah immediately questions the wisdom of providing four cups of wine to children:

אמר רבי יהודה: וכי מה תועלת יש לתינוקות בייין? אלא מחלקין להן קליית
ואגוזין בערב פסח כדי שלא ישנו, וישאלו

Rabbi Yehudah said: "What benefit do children receive from wine? Instead, one distributes to them roasted grains and nuts on Passover eve, so that they will not sleep and they will ask" (*Pesahim* 108b-109a).

Fortunately, we are no longer left with the dilemma of whether or not to provide children with multiple glasses of wine at the

Passover Seder due to the late 19th century invention of grape juice (using pasteurization), which we can provide to children.

As to women, there is a very explicit third century explication making sure they are included:

אמר ר' יהושע בן לוי נשים חייבות בארבעה כוסות הללו שאף הן היו באותו הנס
Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi said: "Women are obligated in the four cups since even they were part of that miracle" (*Pesahim* 108a-108b).

This is a standard for his way of thinking, as he also included women in Hanukah candle-lighting (*Shabbat* 23a) and Megillah-reading (*Megillah* 4a).

One curious inclusion of who should drink these four cups is someone whose drinking wine results in headaches (*Shulhan Arukh* OH 472:10), although perhaps grape juice could help in this matter if alcohol is the problem. L'chaim!

Cincinnati Event on Blessings over Wine at the Seder

With Passover approaching, Jewish Drinking is excited to announce an upcoming texts-and-tasting event. Alongside a wine-tasting at 8pm this coming Thursday, March 16th, Rabbi Drew will be leading an exploration of Jewish texts throughout time and place on blessings over wine at the Passover Seder. This event will be taking place at a private residence - please contact Drew@JewishDrinking.com for details.

Attendees are welcome to bring a bottle of kosher-certified wine to share with fellow attendees, as we begin to get our palates prepared for Passover. While there is no mandatory fee for this event, there is a suggested minimum donation of \$18 to Jewish Drinking: <https://PayPal.me/JewishDrinking>

Blessings of Wine at the Passover Seder

A texts-and-tasting event, led by Rabbi Drew Kaplan

Feel free to bring a bottle of kosher wine to share

3/16 at 8pm



Passover Episodes

While there was no episode published this past week, due to Purim, there is quite a lineup as we approach Passover. Here is a tentative schedule of episodes of *The Jewish Drinking Show* in the lead up to Passover:

- March 14th - Ari Klafter - Dead Drop Distilling
- March 21th - Rabbi Zac Kaminitz - Reb Nachman of Bratslav on Four Cups of Wine and Consciousness
- March 28th - Dan Rabinowitz - Whiskey as the Catalyst for Selling Hametz and Its Aftermath
- April 4th - Samuel Levine - Responsum on Four Cups for the Passover in the Holocaust



The Jewish Drinking Show is available on YouTube, as well as wherever you listen to podcasts



As we prepare for the Passover season, here is a listing of all previously published episodes of *The Jewish Drinking Show* on Passover:

- Ep. #24: Whiskey As the Catalyst for the Selling of Chametz with Dr. Joshua Kulp
- Ep. #25: Demons and the Four Cups of Wine at the Passover Seder with Rabbi Alana Suskin
- Ep. #62: Why Four Cups in Rabbinic Literature? with Rabbi David Polsky
- Ep. #63: Women and the Four Cups of Wine at the Passover Seder with Miriam Gedweiser
- Ep. #64: The Origin of Dropping Wine at the Passover Seder with Rabbi Dr. Zev Farber
- Ep. #65: Distilleries Selling Their Hametz with Rabbi Chaim Litvin
- Ep. #97: Suggestions for Four Cups Of Wine At The Passover Seder with Brad Du Plessis
- Ep. #98: Wine in Medieval Haggadah Art with Professor Marc Michael Epstein
- Ep. #99: Demons And The Four Cups Of Wine At The Passover Seder [Redux] with Prof. Sara Ronis

For Passover episodes and other resources, you can visit JewishDrinking.com/Passover

If you are, or know of someone, who struggles with alcohol abuse, alcoholism, or other substance abuse, there are resources out there to help, which are available at JewishDrinking.com/AlcoholAbuse