

7th DAY PESACH 1982
Rabbi Joseph Radinsky

On the 7th day of Pesach we say the Shira. The Jewish people, after being saved from the Egyptian army, sang a song of thanks to G-d. Unfortunately, in our day and age people forget to say thank you. They think everything is coming to them. They do not feel that they should thank anyone. Too many people concentrate only on what is wrong. They never think to praise or thank somebody for doing things 99% right. They just take that for granted. You do not have to have things 100% right in order to give thanks. The Jewish people, immediately after they left the Red Sea, suffered from thirst and they complained. It did not mean, though, that they should not be thankful for what G-d had given them before. Not being able to give thanks warps a person's personality and the Rabbis tell us it can even delay the coming of the Messiah. According to the Rabbis, King Hezekiah was supposed to be the Messiah. A great Assyrian army had surrounded Jerusalem and it looked like Jerusalem's fate was sealed. But something happened one night and the army ran away. Either a plague of rats hit them or disease or some astrological event so they ran away. King Hezekiah did not offer thanks to G-d for this event. The Rabbis say because he did not offer a Shira he was denied becoming the Messiah. It is important to recognize and to give thanks even if things are not perfect. In our day with the extraordinary events and the rebirth of Israel, we should all give thanks. Unfortunately, many people fail to realize that something unusual has happened. They fail to give thanks. In Judaism it is more important to say a blessing after you eat than before. To recognize after you have become rich and famous and satisfied that you need G-d it is necessary to be a religious person. The story about a man who went up to heaven and he was ushered into G-d's heavenly palace and at dinner time he was given a can of tuna fish. The next morning G-d opened a package of cereal for him and told him to eat. At lunch G-d opened a can of sardines and again at dinner He gave him a can of tuna fish. He asked, though, if he could go down below to see some of his friends. It was very very hot but they had wonderful steaks and barbecue. When he came back to heaven he got the same food. He looked at G-d and said, "How come down below they have such wonderful food and up here all we have is tuna fish, etc.?" G-d said, "Well, you see, it does not pay to cook for just two." That fellow was not thankful for what he had. We should all be thankful for what we have because if we do not we are liable to lose them on foolishness.