



Four More Questions

J Street's Passover Haggadah Insert

2009 won't be the first year that cynicism about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will likely outweigh hope at Passover seder tables around the world.

However, just as the ancient Israelites left Egypt in search of freedom, we must continue to hope that all people – including those in Israel and the Palestinian territories – will have the chance to choose their own destinies in true peace and security in the coming months and years.

About J Street

We are the political voice of the pro-Israel, pro-peace movement.

We support Israel's security as a Jewish, democratic homeland, as well as the right of the Palestinians to a sovereign state of their own – two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

Visit us at JStreet.org

As we enter a new year of pushing for peace and security, the following “Four More Questions” provide an opportunity to talk at the seder about the prospects for peace in the coming year and some reasons to be hopeful in the face of cynicism.

1. Why is this year of US-Israel relations different from all other years?

[Note: Remember to allow others the chance to answer first!]

J Street's answer:

We have a new American President in Barack Obama who is committed to active American leadership to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution. We also have a new Israeli government that has not yet fully committed to the two-state solution framework.

It's also different because time is running out on the viability of the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endangering Israel's future as a Jewish, democratic homeland. As the previous Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert said, “the day that the two-state solution collapses... the State of Israel is finished.”

2. Do you think you can be “pro-Israel” and still criticize Israel's government or actions?

J Street's answer:

Our relationship with Israel should be like the ones we have with our closest friends – loving, honest, and candid.

We feel compelled to air our criticism with Israeli government policy when necessary in order to help Israel to realize the vision of a Jewish, democratic homeland and refuge set out by its founders.



According to a poll we conducted in March 2009, 58% of American Jews are not bothered when “American Jews disagree publicly with Israeli government policy.”

3. What do you hope your children and grandchildren will know and learn about Israel?

J Street's answer:

We want to take that long plane ride to Israel with our children and grandchildren to show them a country that is a light unto the nations.

We want to show them a secure and proud Israel that had the strength to make peace. We want to show them a country with world-class food, arts, music, culture, technology, science, and education. We want to show them how the Jewish people formed and maintain a government based on democracy, justice, equality, and with full rights for all its minorities.

We want to take our children and grandchildren to a promised land.

4. Do you think President Obama can lead us to a promised land of a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and finally provide real peace and security to Israel, the Palestinians, and the whole region?

J Street's answer:

Of course President Obama can't solve the conflict all by himself! He'll need lots of help from people like you to make sure that he has the political support to push for the tough compromises a resolution will require. That's what J Street is all about – I hope you'll join us at JStreet.org

The road to freedom and peace won't be easy; but as Rabbi Tarfon said, “It is not incumbent upon you to complete the task. But neither are you free to desist from it.”

More info on J Street

For more information about J Street and what we're up to, sign up to receive email updates on our website at JStreet.org.

If you want to learn more about how we conducted our poll of American Jews, visit JStreet.org/Poll