

ליל שמרים הוא לה' להוציאם מארץ מצרים הוא הלילה הזה לה' שמרים לכל בני ישראל (יב:מב)

"It was a night of watching for G-d to bring them out of Egypt. This same night is a night of watching for G-d for all of the children of Israel." (Shemot 12:42)

Rabbi Eliezer Dessler (Michtav M'Eliyahu) asked why is this phrase of a "night of watching" used, not only once but twice? Rashi explains this phrase as a night of anticipation, for G-d to fulfill His promise of Exodus for the Israelites.

The Midrash Yalkut Shimoni (Shemot 210) relates this to a double redemption- a redemption for the Israelites and a redemption for G-d. That is why the word "watching" is in the plural form "Shemurim". When we are in exile, so is G-d, with us.

Another explanation is that this night is and will be a night of future redemptions, like by the deliverance of King Chizkiyahu from the hands of Sancherev's army, Doniel from the lion's den and the future arrival of the Mashiach, on this night for all generations.

Rabbi Yosef Karo (1488-1575) stated in his Shulchan Aruch (Pesach 481) that one need not recite the whole Shema on this night because it is deemed a "night of watching" by G-d against all threats and attacks.

Shabbat Shalom V'Chag Sameach