

Bite Size Bible Study

Dayenu #259

By Lee Logue

During this last Passover season I ran across this old traditional song that is sung during the Passover seder. It is called the Dayenu {**die-YEN-oo**}, meaning "It Would Have Been Enough". The song lists a series of kindnesses God performed for the Jewish people during and after the Exodus.

Each stanza is in the form of "If He had provided this first kindness and not the second kindness then concludes with *dayenu* – (Meaning) 'it would have been enough'".

Then second kindness and adds a third kindness and so on.

Here is an English translation of the song:

If He had taken us out of Egypt and had not made judgements on them; **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for us*)

If He had made judgments on them and had not made [them] on their gods; **dayenu**.

If He had made [judgments] on their gods and had not killed their firstborn; **dayenu**.

If He had killed their firstborn and had not given us their money; **dayenu**.

If He had given us their money and had not split the Sea for us; **dayenu**.

If He had split the Sea for us and had not taken us through it on dry land; **dayenu**.

If He had taken us through it on dry land and had not pushed down our enemies in [the Sea]; **dayenu**.

If He had pushed down our enemies in [the Sea] and had not supplied our needs in the wilderness for forty years; **dayenu**.

If He had supplied our needs in the wilderness for forty years and had not fed us the manna; **dayenu**.

If He had fed us the manna and had not given us the Shabbat; **dayenu**.

If He had given us the Shabbat and had not brought us close to Mount Sinai; **dayenu**

If He had brought us close to Mount Sinai and had not given us the Torah; **dayenu**.

If He had given us the Torah and had not brought us into the land of Israel; **dayenu**.

If He had brought us into the land of Israel and had not built us the Temple; **dayenu**.

In the Psalms there are three verses that speak of God's unending blessings for anyone who would listen to Him.

1. Psalm 21:3 *You (God) came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head*
2. Psalm 21:6 *Surely you (God) have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.*
3. Psalm 128:2 *You (God) will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.*

Surely, as followers of God's instructions we can expect to receive these blessings and more.

Reading this made me more aware of all the many kindnesses and blessings God has provided me, so I started a **dayenu** of my own.

Here is the beginning of my version. It will go on forever.

If Jesus had only provided my salvation and not the Holy Spirit who consistently guides and teaches me. **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for me*)

If He had only provided Holy Spirit and not my parents who set me on the right path. **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for me*)

If He had only provided my parents and not my wife who is my companion and best friend. **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for me*)

If He had only provided my wife and not my children who bring me great joy. **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for me*)

If He had only provided my children and not the country and community in which I live. **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for me*)

If He had only provided the country and community in which I live and not provided all of what I have and enjoy. **dayenu**. (*it would have been enough for me*)

I invite you to develop your own dayenu.
(it would have been enough for you).

Reread and add to it from time to time.