

Shadows Of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #16

Journey Continues: Feast On Unleavened Bread

May 1, 2024

Key: The Feasts are fixed appointments of God specifying what He will perform and the exact time He will perform it.

Exodus 12: Institution of Passover which marks the redemption of Israel from bondage of sin.

1. God instituted the religious calendar to begin at Nisan. [new beginning]

Nisan 10: Choose a lamb; inspect it for 4 days. [Nisan 11, 12, 13] [Ex. 12:5-6a]

Nisan 14: Offer your lamb [your substitute] to be slain at twilight [3:00 pm]

- Each family was to individually apply the blood of their lamb to the doorposts of their own home as a visible sign of their faith in the Lord. [Nisan 14]
- At that moment, the innocent lamb became their substitute, making it possible for the LORD'S judgment to PASS OVER them.

Israel's 2nd feast, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, a 7-day feast period from Nisan 15-21, is named after the bread which is required to be eaten during this time. [Lev. 23:6]

Nisan 15: Feast of Unleavened Bread begins at 6:00 pm. [Their new day starts at 6:00 pm.]

- This feast was an integral part of the Passover Feast and a continuation of it.
- A reminder of God's miraculous deliverance from Egyptian bondage

1. Each family ate the Passover meal that night in their home. [Feast of Unleavened Bread]

The main emphasis with Passover was not merely the passing over of God's judgment when He saw the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the house. The people of Israel also had to prepare and eat the flesh of the entire lamb with the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs so that they would be inwardly supplied for the journey and to fulfill God's purpose.

Key: The Eating Of The Whole Lamb Was For Their Life Supply. Ready For Their Journey.

When Israel fled from Egypt in the night, there was no time for bread dough to rise.

- As redeemed people, their diet MUST CHANGE.

Ex. 12:39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any food.

Ex. 13:7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

The number 7 speaks of fullness and completion.

- Believers who "keep this feast" keep it fully unto the Lord and sets himself aside completely to the Lord.

The 7-day feast speaks of complete separation from all things that are leavened to "Feed Upon Christ," who is the believer's bread. The primary theme is the purging out of leaven, sin.

Leaven = 98x in Bible = Chametz = Sour = Essence by which things decay; a process of death

Yeast is an image of sin: it's hidden; it works silently and secretly; it spreads and pollutes; it causes dough to rise, puffed up. Jesus referred to the leaven of 3 different groups of people.

1. Leaven of the Pharisees Matt. 16:6-12; 23:1-3; Luke 11:37-44; 12:1 Hypocrisy
Legalism = form of godliness without the power; pretending to be something you are not, pretending to a status before God which you don't actually possess, being phony, putting on an outward garb of religiosity but inwardly still having the same old evil thoughts and angry moods and bitter attitudes.

How To Become A Legalist

1. Make rules outside the Bible.
2. Push yourself to try and keep your rules.
3. Castigate yourself when you don't keep your rules.
4. Become proud when you do keep your rules.
5. Appoint yourself as judge over other people.
6. Get angry with people who break your rules or have different rules.
7. "Beat" the losers.

2. Leaven of the Sadducees Matt. 16:6-12; Acts 23:6-8 False Doctrine
Skepticism = denial of the resurrection of the body; There is neither angel or spirit. Life consists only of what you can taste, see, touch, smell, hear and think about. No supernatural activity of God in life, no resurrection, no angels, no life after death.

3. Leaven of Herod Mark 8:15 False Doctrine
Materialism = mixture of religion and worldliness; shameful self-indulgence in worldly desires; great value in life is to be wealthy and powerful

Leaven of Corinth = Malice And Wickedness which is contrary to sincerity and truth
I Cor. 5:6-8 [Man was living in incest with his father's wife. Paul said sexual immorality is leaven within the church and destroys its fellowship.] Your boasting [pride - leaven only puffs up].

is not good. You know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough, don't you?
⁷ Get rid of [purge out] the old yeast so that you may be a new batch of dough, since you are to be free from yeast. For the Messiah, our Passover, has been sacrificed.

⁸ So let's keep celebrating the festival, neither with old yeast nor with yeast that is evil and wicked, but with yeast-free bread that is both sincere and true.

Leaven of Galatia = Legalism: Trying to put people under the Law, under a set of rules by which to live and expecting they will have the power to obey simply by their own effort.

Paul's Warning: Do you want to live in the fullness of Jesus Christ? Don't complicate and distort the Gospel message by adding man's additions and traditions to our worship.

A. Danger of Legalism

- Human nature thrives in "religious duties."
- The flesh is weak when it comes to doing spiritual things [Matt. 26:41], but it is very strong when it comes to practicing religious rules and regulations.

Gal. 5:7-9 You were running the race beautifully. Who cut in on you and stopped you from obeying the truth? ⁸ Such influence does not come from the one who calls you.

⁹ A little yeast [leaven] spreads through the whole batch of dough.

The very secret of the gospel is that Christ has come to set us free from that. Every effort to obey a rule and thus to satisfy God even with internal obedience, let alone external, is doomed to failure before it begins if you are depending upon yourself for the necessary power. That way of life is called leaven. It too destroys the fellowship of God's people.

Scripture reveals the "character" of the Leaven.

II Tim. 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will Not Endure Sound Doctrine, but according to their Own Desires [Lusts], because they have Itching Ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away From The Truth, and be turned aside to Fables.

II Pet. 2:1-2 But there were False Prophets also among the people, even as there shall be False Teachers among you, who privily [like hiding the leaven in the meal] shall bring in Damnable Heresies, even Denying The Lord That Bought Them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And Many Shall Follow Their Pernicious Ways; by reason of whom the WAY OF TRUTH SHALL BE EVIL SPOKEN OF.

Truth: Pursuing sound doctrine is not just an issue of "knowledge" but spiritual protection from sin.

In Deut. 16:3, the unleavened bread is referred to as "the bread of affliction."

You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, *that is*, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

Isa. 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Matzah bread used by Jews in celebrating Passover is filled with piercings and wounds.

- Matzah bread is covered in small, pierced holes.
 - Pierced and wounded for our transgressions.
 - Pierced for our sorrows which includes our grief, sadness and broken hearts.

- Bruised and crushed for our sins, iniquities.
 - Dark brown areas resemble bruises.
- Whipped and stripped for our peace - our reconciliation - spiritual healing.

Partaking of this bread means humbly identifying with the suffering and afflictions that Jesus performed on your behalf.

Matzah reminds Israel of the terrible but hopeful night when they ate the sacrificial lamb and the unleavened bread in obedience to God's command.

Matzah became a symbol of slavery that God transformed into freedom by His marvelous redemptive act at the Exodus.

Preparing & Eating The Lamb

Ex. 12:8 - 10 AND they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs, they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance [inward parts; intestines] thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remains of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

Key Point: The blood of the lamb had to be sprinkled on the doorposts AND the flesh had to be roasted and eaten by the people for their life supply. We need to not only apply the blood of Christ to be spared from God's judgment, but also Eat Christ [Word] To Be Supplied With Life.

John 6:53, 55-57 the Lord Jesus told us that unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man, we have no life within ourselves, and that His flesh is true food and His blood true drink.

This means the Lord's life is for us to eat and drink [partake of] so that we may be inwardly supplied. Thus, our Christian life is a life of eating the Lamb of God.

The blood of Christ opened a new and living way for us to come in and enjoy the Lamb of God; the blood is the procedure, and the feeding on Christ is the goal.

Eating Christ As The Lamb Of God Who Was Roasted By The Fire Of God's Judgment

1. The whole body of the lamb must be eaten.

Matt. 26:26-28 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

²⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

²⁸ For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

a. We spiritually eat the body of the Lamb when we observe the Lord's Supper.

His body is spiritually the Word of God. Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Matt. 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

2. Body of the lamb must be eaten the SAME night.

a. Jesus was crucified, suffered and died the same night.

b. When we are born again, [delivered from bondage], we are to begin feasting on

The Word immediately to begin walking in newness of life.

3. It must be eaten with unleavened [without sin] bread. Leaven speaks of sin.

I Cor. 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.

For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Unconfessed sin [leaven] hinders fellowship with the Lord.

We are instructed to live holy [unleavened] lives before God.

I Pet. 1:15-16 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

4. It Must Be Eaten With Bitter Herbs.

a. Bitter herbs were a reminder of the bitterness of slavery and suffering in Egypt.

b. Remind us of our bondage while living in this world [type of Egypt] before we accepted The Lamb of God into our lives.

c. It is also a reminder of our sin. It is symbolic of the reason that Jesus had to die.

d. We partake of Christ, the slain Lamb as we remember the bitterness of Gethsemane and Calvary's sufferings and His death.

What do you see in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

- The wickedness of sinful man
- The suffering of the sinless Son of God
- The love of God for sinful man
- Sinful man's only Hope

5. The Lamb Must Be Roasted In Fire.

a. God forbids that we eat the lamb "raw" or "boiled."

- Eating Christ "raw" is to take Christ as our example and try to imitate Him.
- Eating Christ "boiled" means regarding His death as persecution and martyrdom.

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

- Christ was judged by God on the cross for our redemption.

b. Fire signifies God's holy wrath. Jesus bore the sins of the world.

c. Fire speaks of judgment, refining and purification.

d. Our faith is judged and tested by fire so it can be refined and purified and come forth as gold. [Job 23:10; Zech. 13:9; James 1:12; I Pet. 1:7; Rev. 3:18]

Fascinating Historical Evidence: The Crowned Sacrifice

1. Following the Passover lamb being killed, it was prepared to be cooked.

The tractate *Pesahim* in the *Mishnah* details how the lamb is traditionally prepared for cooking.

a. In preparing the lamb, the intestines are removed and wrapped around the lamb's head so everything could be roasted evenly without boiling. The lamb is called the "crowned sacrifice."

2. In preparing the meal, not one bone of the lamb was to be broken. [Ex. 12:46]

Note: When Jesus was crucified, not one of His bones was broken. [John 19:31-34]

- When the soldiers came to break His legs to hasten His death, they found He was already dead, so they pierced His side with a spear.
- John says, "These things happened so Scripture would be fulfilled. [John 19:36]

3. This required the lamb to be roasted on a spit like a crossbar so its body could be spread open.

4. There is historical evidence that the Passover lamb was roasted upright on a pomegranate pole with a crossbar through its shoulders.

- The historical observation of the lamb sacrificed upright on a pole as Christ was sacrificed upright on a cross, paints a meaningful picture.

5. The pomegranate pole was used, because as a dry wood it would not boil.

Boiling was prohibited in preparing the lamb.

6. Tradition says: pomegranate is symbolic of royalty and the priesthood.

[Article by Joseph Tabory for *Jewish Quarterly Review*;

also *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services* by Alfred Edersheim; see chapter 12]

6. The Lamb Must Not Be Sodden With Water.

The gospel of Jesus Christ must not be watered down.

Campbell: A watered down Gospel may get many people in the pews,

But it won't get anyone to the cross.

When we water down the meaning of sin, we water down the sacrifice which paid for it.

Mark 7:9, 13a And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God,

that ye may keep your own tradition.

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered:

II Tim. 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Kidnapped Convert ➤ Col. 2:8-10 BEWARE lest any man cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, after the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not after the teachings Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

You are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.

Warning: Do NOT let your hunger for a more fulfilling Christian experience cause you to trust in a teacher, a group or a system of thought more than in Jesus Christ.

- He is your hope and your true source of wisdom.

Truth: Only by being connected with Christ through faith can anyone have eternal life.

Only through a CONTINUING connection with Him can anyone have power for living.

Andrew Murray: The believer can each day be pleasing to God only in that which he does through the power of Christ dwelling in him.

Nisan 15: Feast Of Unleavened Bread

1. The Burial of Jesus Christ, our "Passover Lamb"

Jewish law prevented a crucified person from hanging on the cross during a Sabbath.

A dead body had to be removed and buried before day's end at 6:00 pm.

The Jews had to hurry to put the Lord's body in the tomb because the Feast of Unleavened Bread was about to begin on Nisan 15 [6:00 pm]. It was a High non-Saturday Sabbath.

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, [for that sabbath day was an high day,] besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

So as the Feast of Unleavened Bread [a high holy non-Saturday Sabbath; Nisan 15] drew near, the Roman guards considered breaking the legs of Jesus and the two thieves hanging next to him, to hasten their deaths.

Finding Jesus already dead, they removed his body from the cross upon Pilate's order.

- [John 19:33] This fulfilled a prophecy of Moses in 1400 BC.

Ex. 12:46 In one house it [lamb] shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.

Jesus was buried, just in time for the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- Leaven, a type of sin, causes decay and corruption.

After He was buried, Jesus did not suffer the natural process of corruption, decomposition of the body. His body did not "return to dust" which was the very curse given to Adam and Eve in Gen.3:19; Psalm 16:10. As the last Adam, His death 'killed the power of death' by putting away sin through the sacrifice of Himself. [Heb 9:26]

The sinless unleavened 'Bread of Heaven' was revealed as the long-awaited perfect sacrifice for sin. His body lay in the grave like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the "Bread of Life." [John 6:35-61] Jesus Christ fulfilled the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The reason leaven was associated with sin is due to its corrupting nature. When yeast is added, the bread will decay in a very short period of time. Unleavened bread, by contrast has an incredibly long shelf life.

John 12:23-26 Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. ²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

²⁵ He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. ²⁶ If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

Consider: Jesus says: Be prepared to become like me. Be prepared to follow the road I take. The Son of Man will be glorified by the grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying. Jesus is going to bear much fruit. How? Hating His life in this world, suffering and dying for us. Jesus says: Follow me; Die with me; Hate your life in this world. Serve me.

Spurgeon: This was Christ's way to glory, and it must be our way to glory too. The grain of wheat must fall into the ground, and die, or else it cannot bring forth fruit. Just so must it be with you and with me, and in proportion as we learn to die to self we shall live to the glory of God. If you keep yourself to yourself, you will lose yourself. If we are really to glorify Christ on the earth, we must be willing to lose our reputation, our good name, our comfort, and indeed everything that we have, for Christ's sake. This is the only way truly to live. If, for your own sake, you begin to keep back anything from Christ, that is the way to die. You would then be like the grain of wheat that is laid by, and preserved, and which, therefore, can never grow or multiply. Surrender yourself; be willing to be nothing; be willing to die if only the truth may live. Care nothing about honor and glory for yourself; care only about the honor and glory of your Master. As you bury yourself, you will multiply yourself. As you are put out of sight, like a grain of wheat that is sown in the ground, you have your only opportunity of growth and increase; heavily-laden ears of corn shall spring up from the grain which has been buried in the earth.

Jesus Christ is our unleavened bread: We are to replace the sin in our life with The Bread of Life. We are to "eat the whole lamb." We are to be overcomers and possess our inheritance in Christ - His fullness = an abundant, fruitful, victorious life.

Truth: What we lay down for Christ, He will put in our hands again with glory.
You cannot out-sacrifice His resurrection generosity.