

## Unleavened Bread

### Exodus 12:15-19

**15** You shall eat unleavened *bread* seven days. Indeed, on the first day you shall cause leaven to cease from your houses. For anyone eating any leaven, that soul shall be cut off from Israel, from the first day until the seventh day.

**16** And on the first day *shall be* a holy assembly, and in the seventh day a holy assembly, shall be to you. Not any work may be done on them. Only what must be eaten by each soul that alone may be done by you.

**17** And you shall observe the unleavened *bread* for on this very day I brought out your armies from the land of Egypt. And you shall observe this day for your generations, a statute forever.

**18** In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening you shall eat unleavened *bread*, until the twenty-first day of the month, at evening.

**19** For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses. For anyone eating *any* leaven, that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, among the foreigners, and among the natives of the land.

During the Passover meal Israel was to eat unleavened bread with the Passover meal. The Passover lamb they were to eat one night, the evening of the Passover, anything of the lamb left over was to be burned with fire until it was all incinerated, nothing of the Passover lamb was to be left.

That is not the same with the unleavened bread. For a week after the Passover they were to eat unleavened bread, no leaven was even to be found in the house at all. For seven days after the Passover they were to eat bread without leaven in the bread.

Recap: They ate the Passover lamb only one evening, it represents the sacrificed Lamb of God; Jesus Christ. It is only to be eaten one evening. Why then eat unleavened bread for seven days after the Passover? How can it seem to be more important than the Lamb of God?

If you were to ask virtually any pastor what is so significant about unleavened bread that Israel must eat it for seven days after the Passover?

The answer would no doubt be that Israel did not have time to let the bread rise before they had to leave Egypt, which it is a valid point during that physical day and you can find scripture to support that conclusion, because they did have to be ready at a moment's notice. But that is only touching on the physical side of it. Remember, the entire Bible is a parable so that seeing, you can see and still not spiritually understand.

### Psalms 49:1-4

1 Hear this, all peoples, give ear, all those living in the world,

2 both sons of mankind and sons of man together, rich and poor:

3 My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be of understanding.

4 I will bow down my ear to a parable; I will open my dark saying on the harp.

To understand the spiritual side, we must first understand what the bread is.

We find in the gospel of John.

John 6:35

35 Yahshua said to them, "I AM the Bread of life; the one coming to Me will not at all hunger, and the one believing into Me will not thirst, never!

John 6:50-51

50 This is the Bread coming down out of Heaven that anyone may eat of it and not die.

51 I AM the Living Bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever. And indeed, the bread which I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

We see from John that Jesus is the bread, He is the true bread from heaven. We have the words of Jesus recorded in the Bible, His words are life; eternal life for those who believe in Him. That does not mean for those who believe that there is a God or that there is a Jesus, or even that they are one and the same, because even the demons believe He is.

James 2:19

19 You believe that Elohim is One. You do well; even the demons believe and shudder.

The word believe goes deeper than believing He is or believing in Him in the same way a person believes He is. The belief in Jesus is to know Him, to love with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind. To eat of Jesus; the bread is to read the Word of God, His gospel and doctrine, to make Him the most important one in your life.

This gives you a pretty good picture of the bread of God that we must eat. To understand about unleavened bread, I think it would first be helpful to see how the Bible describes leaven and see if it fits with what we are looking at. We will begin in the gospel of Matthew and see how Jesus describes leaven.

Matthew 16:5-12

5 And His disciples coming to the other side, they forgot to take loaves.

6 And Yahshua said to them, "Watch and take heed from the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "Because we did not take loaves."

8 And knowing, Yahshua said to them, "Why do you reason among yourselves because you took no loaves, little-faiths?

9 Do you not perceive nor recall the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many hand baskets you took up?

10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many lunch baskets you took up?

11 How do you not perceive that it was not about loaves that I said to you to take heed from the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?"

12 Then they knew that He did not say to take heed from the leaven of bread, but from the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Leaven is used spiritually by Jesus to equate as wrong teaching or doctrine. After Malachi God has been silent toward Israel. There has not been a prophet to guide and teach Israel for four hundred years after Malachi.

Over the years, having only the scrolls to guide them the Jewish leaders incorporated into their beliefs false doctrines as Jesus labeled leaven. The false doctrine would be added to the Word of God as one would add leaven to bread.

It only takes a little leaven to expand through the entire loaf of bread. This is what the Bible teaches will happen to the true gospel toward the end.

Matthew 13:33

33 He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of Heaven is compared to leaven, which taking, a woman hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened."

Also, looking at (2 Thessalonians) as it describes the leaven working through the Word of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 And, brothers, we entreat you, by the coming of our Master Yahshua Messiah, and of our gathering together to Him,

2 that you not let your mind be hastily excited or troubled, neither by word, nor by spirit, nor by prophecy of the spirit, nor by an epistle, supposedly coming from us, stating that the day of our Master is at hand.

3 Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, because that Day will not come unless first there comes a great defection from truth (*leaven*), and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

It may start out meaningless; a little twisting of the truth, but like the snowball rolling in the snow; as it rolls it gets bigger by picking up more snow. There are certain things people want to believe and they will pick certain verses to have the Bible appear to show their point and soon there is a large defection from the truth. There are also things I have heard taught that people like to boast about as being scripturally true but, are not even in the Bible, it has been taught to people in their denomination for so long; that it is now looked at as biblically true.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens all the lump?

7 Then clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are unleavened. For our Passover is Messiah who was sacrificed for our sake.

8 Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of malice and of evil, but with unleavened bread of purity and holiness.

Therefore, Unleavened bread is so important that it is eaten for seven days straight. There is NO leaven to be added for the complete time until the LORD's return.

A lot of this defective teaching comes because the church leaders don't know their Bible well and the denomination they attend provides literature as a teaching aid they will trust to be biblically accurate and the literature will be a main source for their learning in place of the Bible.

I remember back when I was first starting to preach, I had a full-time job, a family my wife and I were responsible for and the church family. I rarely had alone time to myself, I was always going somewhere so, I got some sermon outline books, thinking it would be easier finding things to preach. But it wasn't long before I was complaining to my wife that the sermon outline books didn't help much because I wasn't going to blindly trust what the outlines taught, my

responsibility to God to teach the people correctly He has entrusted to me was far more important to me than a quick sermon you just add prayer to and it's ready, as a result, I spent just as much, if not more time checking to make sure the outline points were biblically correct. I eventually stopped using them and trusting in God and a lot of prayer and study it began to come easier. I can't stress enough the importance to know the Bible, especially if you are a church leader. Remember, they are not your people, they are people entrusted to you by God. And Pastoring a church is not a game of king on the mountain.

Throughout the old testament, after God's people were given kings for Israel; the king led the people; if the kings were right in the eyes of the LORD the people were right in the eyes of the LORD. If the kings were not right in the eyes of the LORD; the people were not right in the eyes of the LORD.

In the United States we do not have one country serving one belief; we have many different denominations which have Pastors, Priest's etc. However, if the church leaders do not have a good understanding of God's Word, the people they lead may never grasp a good understanding of God's Word. They will have leaven added to the bread, there is to be nothing added to God's Word. Just look at the number of denominations we have, each with their own beliefs. Many serving false god's. One may say we are a nation with many false gods and many idols.

I like the freedom of religion we have because we are free to believe in the one true God even if all others have a belief in another way. But, it can be a two-edged sword, punishing all who are following a false god when they thought they were following the truth.

It said after the Passover the people were to eat unleavened bread for seven days.

The number seven is the number that represents complete, that is the complete time from the time Jesus was crucified to the time he returns that complete time we are not to add anything to God's Word that would be adding leaven to the bread. This shows the importance of the church leader knowing the Bible and rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Because all the people's spiritual lives depend on them being lead correctly. The souls of the people they are leading are on the church leader's head. God will bring the leaders of the churches to account for them.

It also shows how important it is for each person to have a good grasp on his or her Bible, and not be to dependent on any literature or person.

By Mark W Chamberlain  
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