



Christian Ambassadors

UNLEAVENED BREAD PICTURES CHRIST IN US

God gives us symbols to picture a reality. The Days of Unleavened Bread is the second of seven symbols God gives us in the 7 Annual Feast Days. Unleavened Bread is the symbol, but what is the reality?

Unleavened Bread Pictures Christ In Us!

The first of the seven symbols found in the 7 Annual Feast Days is the Passover. The Passover symbolizes the reality that Jesus, our Passover Lamb, shed His blood and died for the remission of our sins, thereby saving us from eternal death. So if someone asks you if you have been saved the answer is yes in that sense. Two other terms you might be familiar with are reconciliation and justification, which means brought back into good standing with God. Being saved, reconciled and justified are all accomplished in the symbol and reality of the Passover when we accept by faith the SACRIFICIAL DEATH OF JESUS.

As I said before, the second of seven symbols God gives us in the 7 Annual Feast Days is The Days of Unleavened Bread. The Days of Unleavened Bread symbolizes the reality that Jesus, our Bread of Life, lives in us to make us righteous, thereby guaranteeing our eternal life. So if someone asks you if you've been born again the answer is yes in that sense. Another term you might be familiar with is sanctification, which means set apart for holy use. Being born again and sanctified are both accomplished in the symbol and reality of The Days of Unleavened Bread when we accept by faith the SINLESS LIFE OF JESUS.

So after we are *saved from* sin, pictured by the Passover, we are *saved to* righteousness, pictured by The Days of Unleavened Bread. Let's see this perfect picture in Ephesians 2:8-10. "[This first part is Passover language] For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. [This second part is Days of Unleavened Bread language] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of doing good works, which God has ordained for us to do." Does it make sense that after we have been *saved from* sin we *go back into* sin? Of course not!

Let's take a closer look at seven Biblical clues God gives us regarding the symbolism of The Days of Unleavened Bread. When we unlock the meaning of these clues it will really open your eyes to the richness of the reality.

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In Exodus 12:15-20 God introduces the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Israel through Moses. “Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel. In the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, except that which every man must eat. On the first day of the feast of unleavened bread I will bring your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore you shall observe this feast in your generations by an ordinance forever. In the first month, at the end of the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the end of twenty-first day of the month at evening. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whoever eats that which is leavened shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall you eat unleavened bread.”

Did you find the seven clues? Let’s enumerate them.

- 1) For seven days unleavened bread was to be eaten.
- 2) Leavening was to be eliminated from their homes prior to the first day, and kept out during the 7 days of the Feast.
- 3) Anyone who ate leavening during the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread was to die.
- 4) On the 1st and 7th days they were to have congregational worship services.
- 5) On the 1st and 7th days they were to rest from their works, except meal preparation.
- 6) On the 1st day they were delivered from Egypt into a new land and life.
- 7) Israel was to keep this feast forever.

Before we reveal the meaning of the seven clues, let’s ask the bigger question: what is unleavened bread? The English word “unleavened” comes from the Hebrew word “matstsah”. According to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible “matstsah” means hastily devouring for sweetness (i.e. not soured, or bittered, or fermented with yeast). Now let’s unlock the meaning of the seven clues.

- 1) For seven days unleavened bread was to be eaten.
 - 7 is the number of perfection, e.g. 7 days of creation in Gen 1,2; 7 Annual Feast Days in Lev 23.
 - Unleavened bread is sweet and unfermented; leavening sours and puffs up (Mat 16:6-11 Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees; then the disciples understood that Jesus wasn’t talking about the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. I Cor 5:1-8 Your glorying is not good. Don’t you know that a little leaven puffs up the whole lump? Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you 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).
 - Bread is often used to connote our main source of sustenance (Mat 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone; Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread).

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- The meaning is clear: **Unleavened Bread** = we are sustained through the perfect sinless “Bread of Life” dwelling in us; **7 days** = we become perfect in the process (Mat 26:26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread and gave it to the disciples, saying, eat this bread for it represents my body. John 6:48-54 I am that bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and are dead. I am the living bread that came down from heaven: if any man eats this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I give represents my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Whoever eats my flesh has eternal life; and I will resurrect him at the last day).
- 2) Leavening was to be eliminated from their homes prior to the first day and kept out during the 7 days.
- Prior to the Feast all leavening was to be removed from homes. Why?
 - The meaning is clear: **eliminating leavening** = eliminating sin from our lives. As we saw in 1 Cor. 5:1-8 leavening is a symbol for sin. The reality is that sin is removed from our lives through repentance and the cleansing blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, as pictured by the Passover. Only after leavening has been eliminated can Christ, the Unleavened Bread, be received into our lives.
 - During the Feast leavened bread was to be kept out of their homes. Why?
 - The meaning is clear: **keeping leavening out** = keeping sin out of our lives. Sin is so deceitful it can creep back into our lives; we have to be vigilant to keep it out. I want you to think about the process of leavening for a moment. Dough, left in the open, can become leavened by simply attracting yeast spores floating in the air. Satan, the prince of the power of the air, constantly seeks to leaven us (Ephesians 2:1-2). He did this to Adam and Eve when he injected into their minds thoughts contrary to God’s command not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. Every sin starts as a lustful thought contrary to God; if it is dwelled upon it gives rise to sinful actions (James 1:14-15). God exhorts us to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
 - Here are some examples of leavening that must be removed from our lives.
 - Self-righteous judgment = judging others without judging myself first; judging according to my standards instead of God’s standards (Mat 7:1-5 Judge not, that you be not judged. For with whatever judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with whatever measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again. How can you say to your brother, “Let me pull the mote out of your eye”, when there is a beam in your own eye? You hypocrite, first cast out the beam from your own eye; and then you can see clearly enough to pull the mote out of your brother's eye. John 7:24 Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment).

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- Malice/Maliciousness = having an ill will towards someone; the desire to hurt someone without just cause (Acts 8:18-23 When Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said to him "Your money perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. You have neither part nor lot in this matter: for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent of this maliciousness, and pray that God forgives the thought of your heart. For I perceive that you are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, evil speaking, and malice be put away from you: be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.)
- An unforgiving spirit = a heart that is not willing to cancel a debt someone owes us. God sent his Son to die for us so that our sin could be atoned for completely. God wants us to imitate Him and cultivate the forgiving spirit. When Jesus gave His disciple the pattern of prayer one of the highlights was "forgive us our debts [sins] as we forgive our debtors". Jesus also gave a parable about a man with an unforgiving heart. (Mat 18:21-35 Then came Peter to Jesus and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? seven times? Jesus said to him, not just seven times: but seventy times seven. The kingdom of heaven likened to a king taking account of his servants. When one was brought to him that owed ten thousand talents but couldn't pay, the king commanded that the servant, his wife, children and all that he had be sold so that payment could be made. The servant begged the king to have patience with him, promising to pay the entire debt. Then the king was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his coworkers, which owed him a hundred pence: and he took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe. And his coworker begged him, saying, have patience with me, and I will pay you all. But he would not, instead casting his coworker into prison until the debt was paid off. So when witnesses saw what was done, they were very upset, and told the king. Then the king called the wicked servant saying, I forgave you all that debt, because you begged me: Shouldn't you also have had compassion on your coworker? And the king was angry, and delivered the wicked servant to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due to him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do to you, if you from your heart do not forgive every one of your brothers).
- Hypocrisy = pretending to be what one is not; for example, a man sows half an acre of corn and brags to his friend that he has five acres of corn on his farm because he wants to appear as a big shot. But that man will only reap a half-acre of corn because God is not mocked; whatever we sow we shall reap. (Contrast the hypocritical Pharisees with Nathaniel, who had no guile --- Mat 23:1-31; John 1:47).

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- Gossip/backbiting = speaking harmful words, especially behind someone's back. Our goal should be to say in public only what we would say to a person face to face. Bad news travels faster than good news so we should be careful what we say. King David asked a thought-provoking question about who will dwell in the tabernacle of God. God's answer is: "He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart. He that doesn't backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor (Ps 15:2-3). It is always good to apply the rotary four-way test to what seems to be gossip: Is it the truth? Is it fair? Will it build goodwill and friendship? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? If we view every one we come in contact with as our neighbor we ought to treat them right and be mindful of what we say. Our speech should be seasoned with grace for the edification of others and not to degrade others.

3) Anyone who ate leavening during the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread was to die. Why?

- The meaning is clear: **eating leavening** = rejecting Messiah and returning to a sinful way of life. Heb 10:26-39 If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but instead a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has rejected the Spirit of grace? For we know the Lord has said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, I shall have no pleasure in him. Please do not draw back and bring upon yourself destruction.

4) On the 1st and 7th days they were to have congregational worship services. Why?

- The meaning will become clear: **congregation** = an assemblage of people at an appointed time. It is derived from two uses: a) the people who assemble, as in Exo 12:19 where the Hebrew word for congregation is "edah", and b) the place and time when people assemble, as in Exo 29:42 where the Hebrew word for congregation is "mow'ed". To get a fuller sense of how "mow'ed" is used, let's look at Gen 18:14. "Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the **time appointed** [mow'ed] I will return to you, and Sarah shall have a son." Skip to Gen 21:2. "Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son, at the **set time** [mow'ed] of which God had spoken to him." Now it should be clear: God makes appointments on His calendar to assemble with His people. We should make sure that we assemble at those set times.

5) On the 1st and 7th days they were to rest from their works, except meal preparation. Why?

- The meaning is clear: **resting on these holy days** proves they are annual Sabbaths --- times when special attention is paid to all that God is and is doing (Gen. 2:2-3; Lev 23:2-8).

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6) On the 1st day they were delivered from Egypt into a new land and life.

- Ex 13:8-9 When the time comes say this to your son: "I keep this Feast because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt; for with a strong hand the LORD brought me out of Egypt, that the Lord's law may be in my mouth." Col 1:13, 10 God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son ... that we might walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work.
- The meaning is clear: *we are delivered from kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God*, not by our own strength, but by the miraculous power of God, for the purpose of living according to God's Law. It's no mere coincidence that Messiah died on the Passover and was resurrected during The Feast of Unleavened Bread. Heb 2:14-15 The Son of God became flesh and blood that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 1 Cor 15:3-22 Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again three days later according to the scriptures. Therefore, as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

7) Israel was to keep this feast forever.

- The Israelites in Moses' time kept the Feast.
- The Israelites in Jesus' time --- as well as Jesus and His disciples --- kept the Feast (Mat 26:17-19 The day before the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover? And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover).
- The apostle Paul and Christians of his time kept the Feast (1 Cor 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new unleavened lump. After all, that's why 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).
- The whole world will keep the all of the 7 Annual Feast Days when Yeshua returns to the earth to establish God's Kingdom (Zec 14:9-19 The LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoever does not come up of all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles).

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In Conclusion, we've seen that Unleavened Bread pictures Christ in us. Jesus is the Bread of Life; we need to derive our daily strength to overcome sin by making this unleavened bread the mainstay of our diet through daily prayer and Bible study.