



Preparing for Passover & the Spring Festivals

I. DOING THE FESTIVALS FOR YHWH

A. Festival Observance: There are multiple times in Israel's history when YHWH was not pleased with Israel's festival observance

13Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. 14Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. 15When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

16“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18“Come now, and let us reason together,” says YHWH, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:13-18

⁵Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: “When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me? ⁶When you eat and when you drink [the annual feasts], do you not eat and drink for yourselves? ⁷Should you not have obeyed the words which YHWH proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous?” Zechariah 7:5-7

21“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. 22Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. 23Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. 24But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. Amos 5:21-24

B. Pleasing YHWH: How would I/we please You in observing the festivals this year?

1. First Commandment: we are to love Him with all of our heart, soul mind, and strength (our everything)
 - a. Grace: there's grace to be wholehearted in loving God.
 - i. There's grace for a wholehearted, zealous, radical love for and pursuit of God
 - ii. There's grace for this! Is there a radical God-loving desire in your heart? There's grace for that!
 - iii. There's grace to ask God what changes are necessary in our life at this time.
 - iv. He wouldn't have called us to love Him with all of our heart if it wasn't within reach.
 - v. Grace gives you a greater ability to press in towards God, but grace doesn't give you the ability to shrink back from a wholehearted pursuit of Him.
 - vi. We are saved by grace and kept by grace; we have His grace to be steadfast and firm to the end.
 - b. Non-grace: Does it take any grace to eat junk food or to binge watch Netflix? No, we don't need any help to do that or other largely unedifying things. There's mercy available when we blow it with a focus on superfluous or inconsequential things, but God doesn't give us grace to do those things.
 - c. Unbelief: We often struggle with unbelief that wholehearted obedience to God is within reach; He's called us to a wholehearted response towards Him.
 - d. Refusing to Hear: “But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Zechariah 7:11
 - i. Yeshua says quite often that we are to take heed how we hear.
 2. Thank You: we can grow in our practice of thanking YHWH for what He's done. In fact we are commanded to be thankful as we present our petitions to Him (Philippians 4:6).
 3. Repent: we need to be honest about the times that we fall short, acknowledge it, ask His forgiveness, and then make any necessary changes. We can boldly come to His throne to receive needed mercy (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 1:9-10).
 4. Second Commandment: we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
- C. Loving Our Neighbor as Ourselves in the Festivals:** Usually YHWH uses the expressions of mercy and justice to our fellow man (particularly those most in need) as barometers of our love for Him.

27Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself **if he does not judge the body rightly**. 30For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

1. The Rebuke: The Corinthian ekklesia was rebuked by the Lord because of their divisions, their selfishness, and their unwillingness to share their food and include the poorer members of the Body.
2. Recognize the Body Rightly: What would recognizing the Body rightly involve? It would certainly involve avoiding negative connotations like what the Corinthians were doing. But, on a higher plane, I believe it would involve serving, celebrating, expressing love, and appreciation to the members of the Body congregating around the Passover tables as we observe this festival.

II. PASSOVER LOGISTICS

A. Power of Covenant

1. Threshold Covenant

- a. a host would pour blood of animal on the threshold, and the visitor would step over and find protection in the house (the more prestigious the guest, the more costly the animal sacrificed). There would be a basin in the threshold to store the blood
- b. A king would visit the land; if in allegiance to the king, a family would put blood on the doorposts of their dwelling.
 - i. This practice would be used if a king was trying to extend his territory.
 - ii. The king would send messengers through the land; the messengers would go in to those houses where the blood was shed to work out final covenantal details.
 - iii. For those who didn't have the blood on the doorposts, the king would send in the army.
 - iv. Later custom to make it clearer was that the host would dip their hand (later a bush) into the blood and "paint" the blood on the doorpost

c. Two Hebrew words:

- i. Abar **יעבר**: pass by or pass over
- ii. Pesach (**פסח**): to step across a threshold where blood has been poured out—and have fellowship with those people

12For I will **go through** (abar) the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am YHWH. 13The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will **pass over** (pesach) you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

21Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb. 22You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.

23For YHWH will **pass through** (abar) to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, YHWH will **pass over** (pesach) the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you. 24And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. 25When you enter the land which YHWH will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. 26And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' 27you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to YHWH who **passed over** (pesach) the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshiped. Exodus 12:12-13; 21-27

- d. Passover was God coming in covenant with Israel and skipping over the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:11)

2. God's Mark: Observing Passover depicts God's mark. (Exodus 13:9)

9And it (Passover) shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of YHWH may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand YHWH brought you out of Egypt.

10Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year. Exodus 13:9-10

a. The devil has a counterfeit mark (Rev. 13:16, 14:9; 20:4)

b. A mark is a mark: whether we are overwhelmingly impacted and inspired or not as we observe that Passover from year to year, God's mark is still efficacious.

3. Second Passover: If the Israelites missed this festival, they were to observe it a month later in the second month.

a. 9Then YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, 10"Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If any one of you or of your generations becomes unclean because of a dead person, or is on a distant journey, he may, however, observe the Passover to YHWH. 11In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall observe it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 12They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it. Numbers 9:9-12

B. Married to YHWH: The overarching metaphor for all the festivals is that of a wedding where God is marrying His people.

C. Focus on Yeshua (Not on Your sins)

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the First day you shall remove leaven from your houses.

Exodus 12:15

1. We are to remove the leaven *after* the Passover (on the first day of unleavened bread)

D. Descriptors of the Day

1. YHWH's Passover: God says that it is His day (Leviticus 23:5)

5In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is YHWH's Passover. Leviticus 23:5

2. Scriptural Descriptions: Exodus 12 & 13; Leviticus 23:4-22; Numbers 9; Deuteronomy 16

E. Overview of the Original Story

1. God's Five Promises (Exodus 6:6-8) traditionally, the first four promises correspond to the four cups traditionally drunk at the Passover meal. But actually there are five promises here, and we would be remiss if we didn't give attention to all five promises

6Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am YHWH, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am YHWH your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am YHWH.' " 9So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage. Exodus 6:6-9

a. *I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians*

i. personally what burdens do you need to be delivered of in this season?

ii. are you boldly asking God to deliver you from these burdens?

b. *I will deliver you from their bondage*

i. personally in what areas does God want you to see yourself (and thus walk) differently?

c. *I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments*

i. personally will you renew your "mark" with God this year?

d. *I will take you for My people, and I will be your God*

i. personally are you living differently because of your connection with God?

ii. personally are you looking for (and living in light of) Yeshua's return?

e. *I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession*

i. personally what *land* has God promised you?

ii. personally what are you presently doing in light of these promises?

2. Themes: freedom, deliverance, atonement, covenant, the land

F. Preparation/Regulations:

1. No Foreigner to Eat of It (Exodus 12:43, 48)

- a. Only those in covenant with YHWH
- b. Messianic Believers are grafted in and thus are welcome to partake of a Messianic Passover meal (Colossians 2:11-13)
 - i. Reinforced from the Tanakh (Jeremiah 4:3-4)
 - ii. Israel to become jealous through Gentile observance (Romans 11:13-14)
 - iii. The Passover festival points to Yeshua (John 1:29)
 - iv. Yeshua is knocking at our door; He wants fellowship with us (Revelation 3:20)

2. Everyone is to Partake within a Messianic Community

- a. A lamb for every house; enough for everyone
 - b. Individual salvation is found within the context of family/community
3. It is a permanent ordinance (Exodus 12:14)
 4. It starts the seven day festival of Unleavened Bread

G. Overview of the Gospel Story

1. Yeshua is the Passover Lamb of God (John 1:29)
2. Yeshua's Last Supper: this meal was a Passover meal with His disciples (Luke 22:15-16)
3. Communion: The communion ordinance was *pulled out* of the Passover meal. The third cup in the traditional Passover meal represents the cup of redemption. This is the cup of communion. The afikomen is the hidden matzah that has been found during the Passover meal. This is the bread of communion. The "communion" covenant partaking is the culmination of the Passover meal.

H. Personal Preparation

1. Prepare Your Heart: for the renewal of the vows for your Bridegroom
2. Suffering Leads to Breakthrough: just as the children of Israel suffered prior to their breakthrough, so too we will suffer before breakthroughs on a micro-level and certainly on the macro-level before our ultimate breakthrough of being with Yeshua forever.
3. The Rewards of God: God promises to reward those who are in covenant with Him and diligently seek Him.
4. Don't Give Up: We are to hold fast and not to give up

I. Keeping Vigil: Part of the biblical requirement for Passover is to stay up and keep a vigil with YHWH during the night of Passover.

And: "Because YHWH kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor YHWH for the generations to come." Exodus 12:42

J. How Do I Become Redeemed?

1. Apply God's Truths: persistently and consistently apply the truths of God's Word to your own life.
 - a. *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.* Romans 3:23
Personal Affirmation: God, I acknowledge that I am a sinner who has fallen short of Your glorious standard. I am in great need before You.
 - b. *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Messiah Yeshua our Lord.* Romans 6:23
Personal Affirmation: God, I acknowledge that it is only through Your free gift of righteousness through Yeshua's shed blood that my sins are covered. I freely receive anew Your gift through Yeshua's sacrifice today.
 - c. *9If you openly declare that Yeshua is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."* Romans 10:9-11
Personal Affirmation: Yeshua, I affirm that You are YHWH and that You rose from the dead. I declare You to be the Lord of my life, I hand over the control of my life to You, and I commit to obey You.
2. Talk to God (About these truths and how you are feeling)
3. Actively Believe God's Word: *Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible (not necessarily my feelings) tells me so.*

K. As Redeemed Persons...

1. We “Feast On” Yeshua: We talk to Him and have relationship with Him, and He through the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit’s activity communes with us and brings greater light to the things in our life that are not like Him.
2. We Focus on Him: We realize our sin most effectively as a by-product of realizing Who He is
 - a. we realize our need
 - b. sanctification is a life-long process
3. We Repent (a consistent process), place our sin on Yeshua, and commit to walk differently
 - a. *more repentance as we grow*: Spiritual maturity should be expressed by more holiness, less sin, but not by less repentance. As we grow in holiness, our awareness and sensitivity to sin increases. The Holy Spirit sheds more light in our souls, and we see sins which we didn't see before or which we ignored. We feel the gravity of sins which may have previously seemed small or insignificant...Paradoxically, the less we sin, the more we repent. Gil Afriat
4. We Talk to Him: We need God to be with us and help us in this process; we consistently commune with the Holy Spirit, talk to Him, and ask Him for help.
5. We Read His Word: We pray-read His Word and apply His teachings to our lives.

III. WHO YESHUA IS

A. Lesser Messianic Truths Related to the Spring Festivals: Although I have specific beliefs related to all the items below, the following Messianic Spring Festival “discussions” can be used by the enemy to bring dissension and contention and ultimately steal and obscure our focus on beholding the Lamb:

1. Is it a literal three days and three nights that Yeshua spent in the tomb?
2. Was it a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday crucifixion?
3. How do you reckon the counting of the omer—is it after the weekly Sabbath or the festival Sabbath? And so when is the festival of Firstfruits...on Sunday every year or does it vary?
4. Should we meet corporately to celebrate Yeshua’s resurrection? If it’s not a holy convocation, how should we (or even should we) publicly commemorate this?
5. Was Yeshua’s Last Supper with His disciples a Passover meal or something else?
6. Should we keep the Passover meal biblically “simple” or do we include traditional Jewish elements? Do we include the egg on the seder plate and if so, where did that come from?
7. Should we be diligent to biblically enact the Israelite’s first Passover meal in Egypt? If so, what type of staff should I hold in my hand? Should we eat reclining as Yeshua and His disciples did?
8. Should we serve lamb at the Passover meal? If so, how would one “biblically” cook it?
9. Should we get rid of the excess lamb after the Passover meal? If so, how do you dispose of it? Should it be burned in the fire?
10. Should we have the Passover meal in the homes or in a larger venue?
11. What about keeping a vigil on the night of Passover? If so, how would one do that?
12. Was Yeshua crucified on a cross or a tree?
13. Should you incorporate the Name of God within the Passover meal? If so, how do you “correctly” pronounce His Name? What if you mispronounce it or say it “wrong.”
14. What about the Gentiles? Should they (and can they) be included in the Passover meal? If a male, do they have to be circumcised as the Scriptures seem to indicate? If important, how would one appropriately and discretely “check” the males before the Passover meal to make sure no one is in violation?
15. Do we remove the leaven *before* the Passover meal or *after* it?
16. Should we drink wine or grape juice and do we need to drink every one of the four cups completely each time?
17. Do we partake of “communion” only once a year at Passover or is it ok to partake of this at other times throughout the year?
18. Was Yeshua born at Passover or during one of the fall festivals?

B. Focus on Yeshua: we are to meditate on Him; think about Who the Bible says He is; agree with Who the Bible says He is; and ask for greater revelation of Who He is

1. Worship: We naturally worship when we “see” Him.
2. Transformation: We are changed from glory to glory by just a dim glimpse of Who He is.
18But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror (dimly) the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - a. We would be overwhelmed and undone by a focused view of Him. We would all like a more clearly focused vision of Him, but thankfully we don’t need this in order to be transformed

C. Yeshua: Yeshua implicitly claimed deity in at least twelve ways.

He claimed three divine rights:

1. The Judge: to judge mankind,
2. The Forgiver: to forgive sins, and
3. The Giver of Eternal Life: to grant eternal life.

He declared that:

4. His presence was God's presence as well as the presence of God's kingdom and that
5. The attitude people took toward Him would determine their eternal destiny.
6. He identified His actions with God's actions,
7. He taught the truth on His own authority, and
8. He performed miracles on His own authority.
9. He appeared to receive worship or obeisance.
10. He assumed that His life was a pattern for others, a ‘divinely authoritative form of life.’
11. He applied to Himself OT texts that describe God; and
12. In several parables indirectly identified Himself with a father or king who represents God.”

Daniel Doriani, "The Deity of Christ in the Synoptic Gospels," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 37:3 (September 1994): 339-40.

IV. WHAT HE DID: YESHUA’S REDEMPTIVE WORK

A. Why Look at This?

1. God’s Emphasis in This Season (Leviticus 23)
2. Greatest Proof of God’s Love: The cross of Yeshua is the greatest proof of God’s love and goodness extended to us.
3. Produces Greater Love for Yeshua: Meditating on this story will produce greater thankfulness and love in our hearts for God.
4. Gives Perspective in Our Suffering: Our suffering gains greater perspective if we realize anew that we serve a God Who suffered the world’s greatest suffering to procure our redemption and to provide for a connection with Him.

B. Setting the Narrative

1. A Hidden Rescue Plan

6Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1 Corinthians 2:6-8

2. Crucifixion Was Prophesied of Before (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; John 3:14-15)

25Then Yeshua said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His glory?” 27Then Yeshua took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:25-27

3. Yeshua Gave His Life (It wasn’t taken from Him) John 10:18

No one can take My life from Me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.” John 10:18

4. Yeshua Didn’t Want to Do This: Yeshua didn’t want to do go to the cross and asked the Father to take this cup from Him (Luke 22:42). The primary reason for His reticence was not due to the physical pain of the

crucifixion but in experiencing the only break in relationship with His Father because of our sin being placed upon Him.

5. Yeshua's Motivation: For the joy before Him He endured the cross

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2We do this by keeping our eyes on Yeshua, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Hebrews 12:1-2

C. Declaring His Death Until He Comes

23For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Yeshua in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. Why Death?

- a. Yeshua's death purchased our salvation: Without His death, our atonement could not have been procured.
- b. Following His example and using the strength He provides, we are to "take up our cross" and supernaturally live out God's upside-down kingdom.

23Then [Yeshua] said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. 24If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." Luke 9:23-24

D. Conclusions

1. No Other Way of Salvation (Acts 4:12) Yeshua is the only means of forgiveness and salvation
2. Meditate on Yeshua's Death: Especially in this season, there is great relevance and benefit at looking afresh at this story. Talk to Yeshua as you read about this story. Ask Him questions, declare your love for Him, ask Him for a greater revelation of the love He has for You, and ask Him for a greater love to grow in your heart for Him.

V. UNLEAVENED BREAD OVERVIEW

A. What Did the Hebrews Leave Behind in Egypt?

"Exo 12:34 And the people *took* [possibly can be translated as cast or burned] their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their garments on their shoulders. They took (possibly cast out or burned) their dough, which was in the process of leavening, but remember that dough from this ancient type of leaven took **a long time** to rise, not like today when bread made from "instant yeast" can rise in a much shorter time. Notice it says they had their kneading troughs packed up to go. They were ready for the journey of the Exodus, they had their troughs packed, their sandals on their feet, their hips girded, and they ate in haste. Where did they keep their sourdough starter? In their kneading troughs. They had their troughs packed up there was no other place to store the sticky gooey leaven, they had to leave it behind! It would be a while before they could start a new batch of leaven. But I ask you...what else were they to leave behind in Egypt? Was it just their literal leaven, or was it also **ideas** that had been passed down to them while in Egypt, that had been nourished and fed for hundreds of years, ideas that had strayed from the truth that Abraham knew, and had developed into new different and foreign ideas?" (originally accessed from <http://cyclesofyah.com/2013/11/06/understanding-leaven/>)

B. Important Terms & Definitions

1. Hebrew terms:

- a. *Matzah*: refers to unleavened bread.
- b. *Se'or*: refers to a lump of leavened dough or leavened starter dough.
- c. *Chamets*: refers to all finished leavened bread products.

Seven days you shall eat **unleavened bread** [*matzah*]; on the very first day you shall remove **leaven** [*se'or*] from your houses, for whoever eats **leavened bread** [*chamets*] from the first day to the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel (Exodus 12:15). (Jewish Publication Society)

2. Leaven: “1. An agent, such as yeast, that causes batter or dough to rise, especially by fermentation. 2. An element, influence, or agent that works subtly to lighten, enliven, or modify a whole.” *American Heritage Dictionary*

C. Application: What are we to remove & what are we not to remove? Please note that these are the Lighthouse elders recommendations based on the text. As always, read your Bible and please honor your own convictions based on your understanding of the text.

1. What Do We Remove?

- a. *Se'or*: Leavened dough/starter dough using yeast; chemical leavening agents (such as baking power, baking soda [sodium bicarbonate], or potassium bicarbonate; and honey when used as a rising agent.
- b. *Chamets*: All finished leavened bread/grain products using yeast, baking power, baking soda, or honey as the rising agent. This includes but is not limited to the following:
 - i. any leavened bread/grain products made from wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye.
 - ii. buns, muffins, cakes, doughnuts, pizza, bagels, croutons, corn dogs, crackers, etc.

2. What Do We Not Need to Remove?

- a. *Alcoholic beverages*
 - b. *Bags of leavening agents*: yeasts, baking soda, or baking powder
 - c. *Fermented foods*
 - d. *Items sometimes confused as leavening ingredients*: Other ingredients that are sometimes confused with leaven include brewer's yeast, yeast extract, torula yeast, autolyzed yeast, cream of tartar and cornstarch. These are *not* leavening agents.
 - e. *Various food products* like soup mixes or bullion
3. What Are We Commanded to Eat? Not only are we commanded to remove leaven and leavened products from our homes and not to eat leavened food during this seven day festival, but we are actually commanded to eat matzah (unleavened bread) [*Seven days you shall eat matzah* – Exodus 12:15a]; Yeshua is the ultimate representation of the matzah. In the physical application of eating matzah I believe it is to be a reminder that in this life-long journey of sanctification that we will only grow in this process by “feasting on Yeshua.” He is the Bread come down from heaven and He is the One we need to stay continually connected to in order to grow in this sanctification process

D. What Does Leaven Represent? Leaven traditionally represents sin but also represents teaching

1. Leaven Representing Sin:

⁶Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
(1 Corinthians 5:6-8)

2. Leaven Representing Teaching: Yeshua told his disciples to be wary of the “leaven (teaching) of the Pharisees.” (Matthew 16:6-12) In this light we are removing the leavened lump of the “teachings” and ways of Egypt. As redeemed Believers in covenant with YHWH, we are leaving these ways behind. We are then to follow the teachings of our new Deliverer and King. We then allow a new starter lump of dough to form with His teaching as the foundation. He (and no longer the teachings of Egypt) is to be our new teacher and be the One who forms the foundations of our new life. As we immerse ourselves in His Word and increase in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, we are learning to follow YHWH as our teacher.

E. Get the Leaven Out...When?

14'Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to YHWH; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance. 15Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16On the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and another holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you. 17You shall also observe the Feast

of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance. 18In 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. 19Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land. Exodus 12:14-19

1. *After the Passover Meal:* We get the leaven out on Nisan 15 *after* the Passover meal
 2. *Provides an Accurate Picture of Sanctification:* We, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, begin the process of sanctification only *after* we are justified. We don't "get cleaned up to take a bath." While we don't eat any leavened products at the Passover meal, I believe this is the main part of the reason that the leaven is removed from the homes *after* the Passover meal on the first day of Unleavened Bread.
- F. The Festival Meaning:** While the Passover depicts our deliverance and salvation through Yeshua, Unleavened Bread represents our sanctification through Yeshua. It is a seven day festival that helps to communicate that this sanctification process will be a life-long process which will not be completed until our life is over.
- G. Holy Convocations:** While the Passover meal is not a holy convocation (as the fullest intended application of this festival is in the homes), there are two convocations during the seven day festival of Unleavened Bread.
1. *1st Day Unleavened Bread Holy Convocation:* On the first day of Unleavened Bread (after the Passover meal) there is to be a corporate holy convocation where the community of Believers gathers together for joyful fellowship, worship, prayer, and instruction.
 2. *7th day Unleavened Bread Solemn Assembly Convocation:* On the seventh day of Unleavened Bread there is to be a solemn assembly corporate holy convocation where the community of Believers gathers together for fellowship, worship, prayer, and instruction.

VII. FIRSTFRUITS OVERVIEW

For greater depth and understanding related to Firstfruits and Yeshua's resurrection, can refer to the notes & sermon: *Firstfruits– Yeshua's Resurrection* found at www.lighthousecolorado.org given on April 19, 2014

A. The Timing of Firstfruits

5In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is YHWH's Passover. 6Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. 7On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. 8But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to YHWH. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work." 9Then YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, 10"Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. 11He shall wave the sheaf before YHWH for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it....15'You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. 16You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to YHWH. Leviticus 23:5-11, 15-16

B. Yeshua Our Firstfruits: Yeshua (as well as the resurrected saints listed in Matthew 27:51-53) was waived before the Father in the heavenly temple on the Firstfruits 2000 years ago.

17and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished. 19If we have hoped in Messiah in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 20But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:17-21

51And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. 52The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:51-53

17Yeshua said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" 18Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her. John 20:17-18

