

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#13 Eat The Whole Lamb

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 to fulfill God's purpose.

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

Israel's 2nd feast, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, is named after the bread which is required to be eaten during this time.

1. This feast is a reminder of God's miraculous deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
2. When Israel fled in haste from Egypt in the middle of the night, there was no time for bread dough to rise.

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.

3. This feast was an integral part of the Passover Feast and a continuation of it.

a. Chose their lamb on 10th of Nisan. Passover was on the 14th of Nisan.

Christ died and said, "It is finished," at the 9th hour or 3:00 pm.

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

b. They were to begin the preparation and cooking of the lamb before 6:00 pm.

c. Unleavened Bread began at 6:00 pm which was the beginning of Day 15 of Nisan.

- The Exodus Journey beginning from Egypt [Ex. 12:41] will begin after midnight on Day 15 of Nisan.
- In Deut. 16:3, the unleavened bread is referred to as "the bread of affliction."
- Jesus Christ, without sin, is the Bread of Life. [John 6:35]

d. 15th Nisan marks the beginning of a 7 day feast period which lasted until Day 21 of Nisan.

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.

e. 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

4. 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.

5. 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
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.

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 remaineth 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.

Mat. 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.

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.
- 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. This image brings to mind the cross.

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]

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

6. The Lamb Must Not Be Sodden With Water.

The gospel of Jesus Christ must not be watered down

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.

R. A. Torrey: "The Bible has been attacked by many people of great ability and power, using all the intellectual, scientific, philosophical, political, and physical forces they could command. Emperors tried to burn it. Scholars tried to discredit it. Critics tried to bury it.

The world has tried to ignore it. But it's still the best-selling book of all time. While human governments have fallen, while human philosophies have faltered, the Bible still stands.

7. Eat The Whole Lamb: Head, Legs & Inward Parts [Ex. 12:9]

We must take Christ in His entirety: The Complete Word Of God

a. Head Of The Lamb

I Cor. 1:24 Christ the power of God, and the Wisdom Of God.

- Christians must feed on the mind of Jesus Christ.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

I Cor. 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

Rom. 12:2a And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, [Also see: Eph. 4:21-23; Heb. 8:10]

b. Legs Of The Lamb: Speak of Our Walk

Col. 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

II Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight:

[Also see: Gal. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; Eph. 5:2, 8; Col. 1:10; Col. 4:5; I Thess. 4:1; I John 1:7;

II John 1:6; III John 1:4]

c. Inward Parts Of The Lamb

Phil. 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

d. We cannot just pick out the aspects of Christ that we like.

e. If we "eat" Christ as the roasted Lamb of God we will live because of Him. [John 6:57]

Problem: There are MANY believers who have experienced Passover but did not begin to "Feed on Christ." They can be called: A Passover Christian.

Question: When was the Feast of Unleavened Bread to begin? Immediately after Passover!

1. You are now born again. It is time to get the sin, leaven, out of your life.

2. Sanctification [setting apart; growing in Christ] was to start then -----not years later!

I did not understand the significance of "getting into the Feast of Unleavened Bread."

I am a testimony of the experience of wasted years.

I understood: Work for the Lord and try real hard not to sin and be like Jesus.

This WILL NOT WORK! God never told His people to TRY REAL HARD to be like Him.

a. He tells us to present a blood sacrifice, Jesus, for our Justification AND our Sanctification.

b. It has always been and will always be about Jesus and His BLOOD SACRIFICE.

Consider: What can the wasted years look like? Active in church; teaching Sunday School;

Playing the Piano; Working in VBS; Going on Outreach; etc. --- feeling guilty because I felt like a failure even though I was trying hard. Burnout -- then rededicate --- failure---rededicate!!!

Where is the abundant life? It is found by keeping The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Truth: Passover is not a camping ground. It is the BEGINNING of a journey as a pilgrim.

Christ is our Passover: He is the Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world and becoming our Life Supply for us to fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

We must feed on Christ to have strength for our daily pilgrim journey.

As we worship, meditate on the Word, pray and believe, we appropriate the spiritual nourishment of Jesus Christ and grow in grace and knowledge.