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Beacon



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The Passover Emblems



The Fruit of the Vine
Grape Juice
Yahshua's Blood



Unleavened Bread
Yahshua's Body

YAIY



Beacon



Volume 3

Number 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION

STATEMENT



Passover **3**
Passover is a night to be much remembered.
by Elder Donald R. Mansager

Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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The First Feast Season **7**
The first block of Yahweh's Holy Days follows Passover and is called the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
by Elder John Fisher

Be Not Deceived! - Part 3 - This Is Not It! **11**
Don't let Satan make you believe that this world has all the answers you need to achieve a place in Yahweh's Kingdom.
by Elder Buel Hallpike



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Fruit of the Vine and the Passover Cup **14**
What is used as the emblem representing the blood which Yahshua shed at Passover?
by the late Elder Ralph Henrie



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QUESTION & ANSWER

20

Revealing the Truth TV Broadcast

23

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Passover

A Night to be Much Remembered



Many are familiar with the first Passover observed in Egypt by Israel, Exodus 12. Even before this memorable event, however, presageful incidents carrying gems of truth heralded the actual event as far back as Genesis 4. Bible truths taught here and continuing up to the point of the Exodus (chapter 12) give us deeper insight into the significance of Passover and the ceremonies connected with it.

In spite of the direct command not to eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, both Adam and Eve ate of it and were driven out of the garden.

Passover Offering in Genesis

Yahweh made known to Adam and his progeny that they could please Him through sacrifices. Now, outside the garden, the two sons brought special sacrifices:

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Yahweh. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And Yahweh had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And Yahweh said unto Cain, Why are you wroth? And why is your countenance fallen? If you do well, shall you not be accepted? And if you do not well, sin lies at the door. And unto you [shall be] his desire, and you shall rule over him. (Gen. 4:3-7)

Notice the account starts with the statement, "In the process of time it came to pass..." The Hebrew reads, "At the end of days." The sense is that time went along and suddenly a special event arrived. Something important was about to take place that some Bible scholars maintain was the time of the first Passover.

Notice that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, crops that he had raised and harvested. His offering was the works of his hands. Abel, on the other hand, brought of the firstlings of his flock. Not only did he bring firstlings but he also brought something extra: the fat of the animals, which was really not required.

Abel brought the proper sacrifices above what apparently Yahweh required. Notice the difference: Cain brought what he had harvested, the works of his own hands. Abel approached Yahweh through the blood of the lamb, a sacrificial animal! Obviously this pointed toward the Passover sacrifice, and ultimately to the death of Yahshua the Messiah. Blood was shed in Abel's sacrifice as he came before Yahweh. No wonder we read the following commendation in the faith chapter:

By faith Abel offered unto Elohim a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, Elohim testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks. (Heb. 11:4)

In his human effort to reconcile himself to Yahweh, Abel acted out the Passover sacrifice by offering a sacrificial lamb. Cain perhaps arrogantly brought a harvest or Feast of Tabernacles offering, the last feast of the year, ignoring all other annual Feasts.

It should also be pointed out that Yahweh Himself made garments of skins of animals whereby He clothed Adam and Eve after they had made themselves aprons of fig leaves to cover themselves. Thus, Yahweh sacrificed animals, shedding their blood, to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness with animal skins.

This is a type, indicating that Yahweh will ultimately provide His people with special garments acceptable to Him. Yahweh clothes His saints with the garments of salvation:

I will greatly rejoice in Yahweh, my soul shall be joyful in my Elohim; for He has clothed me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Isa. 61:10)

Note the “garments of salvation” are also described as “robes of righteousness,” which are put on those who obey Yahweh’s laws and accept His Son as the propitiation for our sins.

And I said unto him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 7:14)

Leaving the Sin of Egypt

Each Passover we celebrate the salvation of Israel from Egyptian bondage. It was a time of joy as the slaves were given their freedom and loaded down with gifts from their former masters. They were starting on their way to the Promised Land.

What a beautiful picture! Just as ancient Israel was spared in the first Passover’s slaying of the firstborn, we accept the blood of the Lamb as a sacrifice for our past sins. In answering the high calling we have in Yahshua the Messiah, we realize we are a type of the firstfruits, and because of the great promises given us, we strive the more to be in that first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6)

With our past sins forgiven, we are determined, with Yahweh’s help, to repent and turn our life around and follow the Savior’s example of right living. Israel left Egypt, a

sophisticated, worldly, cosmopolitan society, to seek the Promised Land. We, also, are leaving our old, worldly ways and bad habits behind as we begin our trek toward the Kingdom. We are careful to make our calling and election sure.

Israel had the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night to guide them. We have Yahweh’s promise and His guidebook in the Old and the New Testaments to direct us and give us instruction for every facet of life. We are also given the promise by the Savior that He would never leave us nor forsake us. The Holy Spirit from Yahweh continues to guide and keep us in the narrow way.

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Mini-Study

The Passover Cup Should it Contain Wine or Grape Juice?

Many assume from their experience with “communion” that wine is the proper liquid to represent the memorial shedding of the Savior’s blood. But is it? Have you ever really investigated the meaning of the cup and its symbolic contents?

Blood Atones for Sin

A basic principle in the Bible is that the only possible atonement for the act of sin is a giving up of life. And the only way we can be free of sin’s death penalty, which we have all earned because of our sins, is through blood, which contains life, Leviticus 17:11.

Israel’s sins were covered under an elaborate system of sacrifices in which animal blood was shed. That system gave way to a better sacrifice in the New Testament. Yahshua shed His blood on the torture stake as the perfect sacrifice. His blood paid the death penalty for our sins, just as the blood of animals was shed under the Old Covenant merely to cover Israel’s sins (but not take them away, Heb. 9:13-15).

Contrary to what many believe, the principle of sacrifice remains, only now it is the sacrifice of the Savior and the shedding of His blood that we trust in.

What Represents Blood?

Our Savior instituted a new symbol at that New Covenant Passover—the cup. This symbol represented the blood of the perfect Lamb, which was Himself.

The question is, what was the liquid in that Passover cup which represented His pure, sinless life? Wine? Grape juice? Water? Is there any way we can know? Yes, there is! Does it really matter? It certainly does!

Upon accepting our Savior’s sacrifice, our walk will seem at times to be a lonely one. Many obstacles will be ahead of us, and we can expect to be tried. Yahweh does not want us to “play church.” He is looking for those who, like Abraham, obediently left Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 12:1-3), being uncertain what was in store for him.

Abraham believed the promises of Yahweh even to the point of being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, whom he loved (Gen. 22). Just as Yahweh so loved the world that He sacrificed His only begotten Son, Abraham also was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, if need be, thus proving his faith by willing obedience. Are we willing to prove our faith by being obedient in keeping His Passover?

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide you here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. (Gen. 22:5)

Abraham showed that he believed in the resurrection by telling the young men that he and Isaac would return from Mount Moriah. Abraham passed a most stringent test and continued in faithful obedience. To this day Abraham is known as “the father of the faithful.” We need the same faith and obedience Abraham had.

Isaac a Type of Messiah

Tradition has it that Abraham left Ur at the season of the Passover. His faith in Yahweh was tested many times. He was tested first to leave his homeland, forsaking his relatives and friends. He then had to live among the Canaanites who were totally absorbed in heathen culture and worship.

He had to separate from his nephew Lot. For 25 years after coming into Canaan he awaited the birth of Isaac until he and Sarah were beyond the prime of life. He apparently was fond of Ishmael, but had to send him

away. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, his "only" son Isaac, was surely the most difficult of all tests.

"Only" means only in the sense of unique, one-of-a-kind, and special. Abraham's only hope of fulfillment of the salvation-promise was Isaac. Interestingly, Hebrews 11:17 refers to this by the Greek word *monogenes*, the same word use for Yahshua in John 3:16. Isaac was clearly a type of Yahweh's beloved Son (Matt. 3:17), Yahshua, the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Passover at Year's Start

The Passover, we learn, is to be on the fourteenth of the month of Abib (Hebrew, meaning "green ears"). It is in the spring when the earth again comes to life in the northern hemisphere. The spring rains have ceased. The warming sun brings on green grass, while the fragrance of flowers and budding trees again fills the air. The birds return for the summer and the earth is bursting with renewal.

Abib is the true beginning of the new year with its new growth.

January, which falls in the dead of winter in the northern hemisphere when snow covers the ground and cold north winds sweep the land, is not the proper time to start a new year. Yahweh said to us through Moses: *This month [Abib] shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.* (Ex. 12:2)

Not only is this month the beginning of the religious year in Yahweh's calendar, but it also brings us Passover, a renewal of the Covenant that we have made with Yahweh. When our hearts and minds have been opened to the truth of Yahweh's word and we understand that we are called and set apart for a special purpose, we have an inner

desire to be immersed into the saving Name of Yahshua.

Being baptized into Yahshua's saving Name means that we are sorry for our sins and want to be forgiven of them. When we are baptized into His saving Name, all past sins are washed away, and we stand before Yahweh justified, just as if we had never sinned.

We are now cleansed from our past and can start over in a new life. Once purged of our reprobate past, we determine to walk in a new life of obedience to Yahweh's Commandments. It is this willing obedience to Yahweh's Commandments that sanctifies us and

gives us the garments of righteousness.

Making a New Commitment

Passover is Yahweh's call to the new convert to accept the salvation He has made available through His Son Yahshua. We accept His shed blood as the atonement or ransom price for our sins that are past because we accept Yahweh's sacrifice of His Son, the "Lamb that takes away the sins of the world." *Whom Elohim has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of Elohim.* (Rom. 3:25)

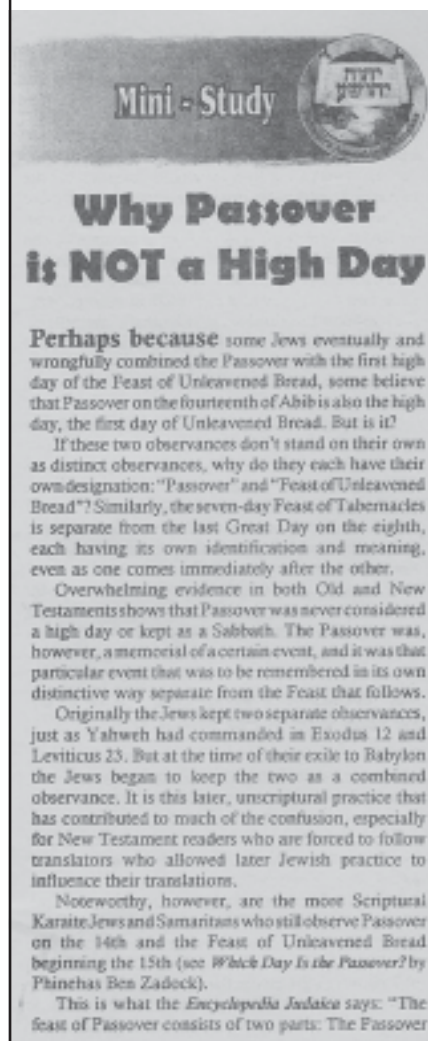
Just as ancient Israel left Egypt and headed for the Promised Land, so we make a commitment each year at Passover when we remember the cruel beatings and impalement of our Savior. We meditate on Yahweh's plan for mankind and realize that one day soon He will send His Son back to this earth to end the madness and corruption that is rampant today. Yahshua will rule with a rod of iron, and will put a stop to wars, hunger, disease, calamities, crime and murders, and finally bring us peace.

He is seeking a group of people who are also seeking real answers to our present world problems. Conditions will degenerate and worsen as problems grow and intensify.

He wants those who are willing to follow Yahweh's Commandments and learn of Him. He wants those who are teachable and of a willing heart to be in that first resurrection:

Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has not power, but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:60)

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Mini-Study

Why Passover is NOT a High Day

Perhaps because some Jews eventually and wrongfully combined the Passover with the first high day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, some believe that Passover on the fourteenth of Abib is also the high day, the first day of Unleavened Bread. But is it? If these two observances don't stand on their own as distinct observances, why do they each have their own designation: "Passover" and "Feast of Unleavened Bread"? Similarly, the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles is separate from the last Great Day on the eighth, each having its own identification and meaning, even as one comes immediately after the other.

Overwhelming evidence in both Old and New Testaments shows that Passover was never considered a high day or kept as a Sabbath. The Passover was, however, a memorial of a certain event, and it was that particular event that was to be remembered in its own distinctive way separate from the Feast that follows.

Originally the Jews kept two separate observances, just as Yahweh had commanded in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23. But at the time of their exile to Babylon the Jews began to keep the two as a combined observance. It is this later, unscriptural practice that has contributed to much of the confusion, especially for New Testament readers who are forced to follow translators who allowed later Jewish practice to influence their translations.

Noteworthy, however, are the more Scriptural Karaites Jews and Samaritans who still observe Passover on the 14th and the Feast of Unleavened Bread beginning the 15th (see *Which Day Is the Passover?* by Phinehas Ben Zadock).

This is what the *Encyclopedia Judaica* says: "The feast of Passover consists of two parts: The Passover

Doctrinal Housecleaning

After we have accepted the sacrifice of Yahshua for our sins, then we are to have a “spring housecleaning” of Ur doctrines, seeking only those truths the Bible teaches. We are to have a fervent desire to stop sinning, to stop doing those things for which our Savior died. This attitude is central to the Feast that immediately follows Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Paul tells us that once we accept Yahshua’s Passover sacrifice of His life for our sins that we are to clean up our thinking, to have new goals, new attitudes, new aspirations. We are to leave our old ways and bad habits behind. Because we have accepted the sacrifice of the Savior we are to turn from the old “leaven,” old teachings, false doctrines, corrupt habits. Now we are to follow the example of Yahshua and become pure in our thinking, our attitude, and set proper goals for this life:

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Messiah 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. (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

The Passover is followed by a special seven days in which we desist from eating anything leavened, but seek the pure bread of life, the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. We strive to be obedient in physically not eating leavened products, so that we will be more deeply impressed with spiritual truth.

The Savior Kept the Passover

Passover precedes the first of the seven annual Feasts of Yahweh.

Passover and the following days of Unleavened Bread were observed by the Savior through His childhood and young adult years and His three-year ministry.

Because He is the true Passover, which all previous observances pointed to, we would be wise to hold that memorial service as He instructed His disciples. This includes the footwashing as given in John chapter 13 and the other Passover accounts in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

There is no doubt that just before His death the Savior kept the Passover and did so with His disciples at the right time. He directed them to prepare the Passover, saying, “I will

keep the Passover at your house with My disciples,” Matt. 26:18 and other places. Nowhere do we find the disciples questioning His intentions.

Peter said we are to do what He did, when He did it, 1 Peter 2:21. Yahshua kept the Passover the same night in which He was betrayed, according to Paul, 1 Cor. 11:23. He died on the tree about the time the Jews, who were following the Pharisees’ teaching, were belatedly killing their Passover lambs. They were keeping Passover at the end of the fourteenth (one day late), just as they continue doing in our time.

To this day Rabbinic Jews continue to follow the Pharisees, who merged Passover with the days of Unleavened Bread. This is admitted in the **Encyclopedia Judaica**, Vol. 13, article: Passover, page 169,

“The feast of Passover consists of two parts: the Passover ceremony, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Originally, both parts existed separately; but at the beginning of the exile they were combined.”

Consider what Yahweh says about these special times:

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and you shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever. (Ex. 12:14)

Take special note: it is “this day” which is to be kept for a memorial, not the exact manner of observance. We may not keep it precisely as did the Israelites anciently by sacrificing an animal. But the day itself is to be kept as a memorial. It is to be observed as a feast, a special gathering. It is to be observed forever!

Throughout the Book of Leviticus we read of the command, “It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations!” These

<Passover see page 19>

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Mini Study



Our Savior's Resurrection

Try as you may, you simply cannot fit three days and three nights into a Friday afternoon impalement to Sunday morning resurrection. Yet, the three days and nights are the only sign given that the Savior was the true Messiah (Matt. 12:40). Here's the answer to this paradox!

One of the most perplexing problems faced by many Bible students is the question of how Friday could be the day our Savior was put to death. Let us check carefully what the Bible teaches. Note the following Bible passage:

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master, we would see a sign from You.

“But He answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the fish's belly; so shall the Son of man be three day and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Matthew 12:38-40.

Note carefully the “as” and “so” in verse 40. Yahshua definitely states, “Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” In no way can three full days and three full nights be squeezed into a period from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. (Yahshua was quoting Jonah 1:17.)

Yet, the argument by those contending for a Friday-Sunday teaching is that the Jews counted a part of a day as a whole day. This supposedly allows “three days and three nights” to somehow be sandwiched into the time period from Friday to Sunday.

Those arguing the point show certain examples in the Old Testament where parts of days are counted as whole days. In Hebrew idiom this may be true. But in Hebrew, when the word “nights” is

The First Feast Season



Last year, 2008, was an interesting year in terms of the difference between Yahweh's Calendar of His Appointed Times and the disparate calendar of Christendom. The Christian calendar held fast to the pagan tradition of the equinox determination of the celebration of the goddess, Easter, for which their celebration is named. Ironically, here in Fulton, Missouri, (as well as elsewhere in this nation) it snowed that Sunday, obliterating any notion that "spring has arrived." Several friends commented to me about it. A Christian friend, with whom I have shared the true and startling facts about Scripture, e-mailed me and asked, "Do you know anything about this?" She was referring to an article that stated, "This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives!" The article also stated, "This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar." ... I don't think so. Number one, Easter is pre-determined by the Roman Catholic Church, based on the FULL moon, not the NEW moon, and it doesn't "move around;" at least not in the way that Yahweh determines His Feasts. They celebrated Easter in March. On Yahweh's Scriptural Calendar, the New Year, that is "the Beginning of Months," began on April 7, and Passover was celebrated on April 20, a month after the Christian rites of spring. I wrote a long e-mail back to the individual who had asked me, "Do you know anything about this?" You can read my response in our April 2008 YAIY News Newsletter. Basically, I rolled out the Scripture for her as it pertains to Yahweh's Feasts.

Also, I was startled at a luncheon in March, when a Catholic friend, to whom I've shared much of my beliefs, asked me out of the blue, "John, I have a question; and, I know that you'll have the correct answer." I couldn't imagine what she was going to ask me. She said, "Did Easter come too early this year?" If her first statement wasn't startling enough, this one caused me to drop my fork. You know, we don't often have opportunities like this to enlighten our friends, and it wasn't until the next day that it dawned on me what the perfect answer might have been. I should have

answered her question about Easter coming early with another question, "What does Scripture say?" As much as that may have been the "right" answer, perhaps it was Yahweh's Spirit that prevented me from saying that, as it may have been taken as condemnation, especially in front of her friends, since there is clearly nothing in Scripture about the celebration of Easter. What I said to her was, "Well, of course it's correct! After all, the Catholic Church created it." I'm not sure anyone there understood the sarcasm in my answer. After all, by the definition of "Holy", who among us of the flesh has the right to make up their own "Holy Days"?

Is Easter Scriptural?

When Jeremiah was confronting the people on their wicked ways, we read in Jeremiah 44:16-29,

As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Yahweh, we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine. The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?" (In other words, the women were saying, "Why are you talking to us? Talk to our husbands; they know what we're doing! Who do you think is teaching us these things!") Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people – the men, the women, and all the people who had given him that answer – saying: "The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land – did not Yahweh remember them, and did it not

come into His mind? So Yahweh could no longer bear it, because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you committed. [That's why] your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day. Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against Yahweh, and have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as at this day." Moreover Jeremiah (or YirmehYah, whose name means, "Yah Will Rise") said to all the people and to all the women, "Hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt! Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the Elohi of Israel, saying: 'You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, "We will surely keep our vows that we have made, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her." You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!" Therefore hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: "Behold, I have sworn by My great name," says Yahweh, "that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, 'The Sovereign Yahweh lives. Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them. Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs. And this shall be a sign to you,' says Yahweh, 'that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity.'"

Queen of Heaven

Now, THAT is a righteous and harsh judgment! And why were they judged

so harshly? Why was Yahweh so angry? The reason was they went "to the land of Egypt to dwell there." They took up the worship of false deities, and the men were fully aware that their wives were worshipping "the Queen of Heaven." And, exactly who is this Queen of Heaven? None other than Easter, the goddess of springtime, heralded in at the time of the spring equinox. In keeping with the pagan tradition of changing the names of deities, while keeping the holiday of Easter, the Catholic Church has found a new Queen of Heaven. Who is she? She is none other than "Mary." I was, in fact, startled to discover on the internet, the "Queen of Heaven Parish" in Erlanger, Kentucky. Hello! How many sermons do you think you'll hear

Yahweh; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

Tammuz is a Babylonian deity, the son of the sun god, Nimrod, husband to Semiramis, who deified herself as the Queen of Heaven. The story of this "holy" family is too long to explain in detail here. Let it be simply said that this story lives on, but with other names like Ashterah (Easter, the fertile one), Zeus (the mighty king), Mithra (the son) and so on. It is a story that attempts to replace the true plan of salvation with fraudulence in order to lead many astray from the true Elohim, Yahweh Almighty, and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah.

Venerable Day of the Sun

Continuing with Ezekiel 8:15-16,

Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." So He brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house; and there, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.

"Sol Invictus," the "Unconquered Sun," was the Roman sun god created by the emperor Aurelian in 274. It overshadowed other Eastern cults in importance, until the abolition of paganism under Theodosius I. The Romans held a festival on December 25 of *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti*, "the birthday of the unconquered sun," the date after the winter solstice with the first detectable lengthening of daylight hours.

The Israelites, the Greeks and the Romans submitted to the false teachings originating from Babylon. It seems that, without the presence of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh working in the hearts and minds of men, there is little strength to endure the call of the flesh.

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he

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in that church that quote the 44th chapter of Jeremiah – with any respect at all to Yahweh? I would not want to be in that building when Yahshua returns.

Son of the Queen of Heaven

In Ezekiel 8:12-14, we read,

Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'Yahweh does not see us, Yahweh has forsaken the land.' And He said to me, 'Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing'." So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the House of

cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury," Revelation 18:1-3.

It should be noted here that, in the phrase "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird," the word "fallen" does not mean destroyed, at least in this present time. How can it? Babylon IS

a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird. The word, fallen, is the Greek word, *pipto*, and means "alighting, to light upon, to fly or to fall". In other words, the eagle, a symbol of Babylon, has landed! Babylon is here, right in front of our eyes.

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and Yahweh has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow (in other words, "I have many rich and powerful lovers, none of whom do I respect or commit my life to"), and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day – death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong

is the Sovereign Yahweh who judges her, Revelation 18:4-8.

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy one is understanding, Proverbs 9:10.

Similarities and Differences of True and False Holy Days

Years ago, as I remember looking through the newsletter where I work, I saw the annual announcements for the "holy season schedule." I was not surprised to see Easter, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday on the schedule; but I **was** somewhat surprised to see "Holy (or Maundy



Rabbits, eggs and hot cross buns are symbols associated with the pagan Easter

Thursday" and "Pentecost" on the schedule. My attention to the article grew stronger when I compared their calendar with Yahweh's Calendar posted on the wall of my office, upon which was noted: the first day of the Scriptural new year, Passover, the 1st and last days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost). What struck me was that their schedule had designated "holy days" which corresponded directly to the timing of some of the Scriptural set-apart days. What I mean is they matched the same **days**, but not the same purpose or meaning. They would be celebrating

"Holy Thursday" and "Good Friday" when we will be celebrating Passover and the 1st Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The only day that had a mutual time AND name was Pentecost. There was no comparable day on their calendar for the Scriptural first day of the new year or the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. Interestingly, on the Christian calendar the First and Last Day of Unleavened Bread is equivalent to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday; both are **8 days** long. When we consider this, though, we realize that any **apparent** similarity that might be seen between churchianity's "holy days" and the Scriptural Set-Apart days is, purely, coincidental. In fact, if we compare these two 8-day festivals, they were 6

days apart from one another that year, in spite of the apparent alignment of Passover, First Day of Unleavened Bread and the Sheaf Wave Offering. Ironically, the only direct correlation between our faith and Christianity is Pentecost, called Shavuot or Feast of Weeks. And, even with that, from year-to-year the days do not always line up, due to their unscriptural doctrine of determining the dates (the equinox, Sunday and full-moon instead of

the Scriptural sighting of the new moon and the ripeness of the barley harvest in Jerusalem).

Most people know that the disciples received the set-apart Spirit on the day of Pentecost; however, most people don't know that it was the "anniversary" of the day that Moses went up to receive, for the Israelites, the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, after walking 7 weeks in the wilderness of Sinai.

The Sheaf Wave Offering

In Leviticus 23, beginning at verse 10, we read about another Holy day. Yahweh is speaking to Moses:

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," Leviticus 23:10.

Yahshua was THE FIRST of the firstfruits.

He shall wave the **sheaf** before Yahweh for you to be accepted; **on the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it, Leviticus 23:11.

The sheaf wave (symbolically, Yahshua), is offered on the 1st day of the week, which today is called 'Sunday.' It's important to know, though, that this CANNOT be symbolic of the **resurrection**. Yahshua arose prior to sunset, on the weekly Sabbath, "as the first day of the week was 'dawning' – not dawn, but at sunset," when the new day began in Biblical times! The clearest translation that I have found was written in 1890 by J. N. Darby.

Now **late on Sabbath**, as it was the **dusk of the next day after Sabbath**, came Mary of Magdala and the other Mary to look at the sepulcher, Matthew 28:1 John N. Darby, Translation 1890.

Just a note: John Darby was born in 1800 and died in 1882. His biography includes this statement: "As occasion arose he would throw off religious conventionality. Darby, constrained by the **Scriptural** view of the Church as **independent** of the State, relinquished his parochial position in 1827, and in the next year completed his separation from the Establishment by 'breaking bread' in Dublin with" ... like-minded "associates." I think we might have gotten along well with John Darby, simply because he seems to be searching Scripture, not tradition, when seeking truth.

The Greek word for "dusk" (which is most commonly translated in English as "dawn" in this verse), is *epiphosko*, which is used to mean either physical or intellectual illumination; and as Darby translates it, he is undoubtedly making a reference to a Hebrew idiom which is translated, "between the evenings,"

meaning the time in-between the setting of the sun and when darkness has fully come. It resembles, if not duplicates, our English term, "twilight," which is probably a derivative of the possible phrase, "**betwixt** the **light** of the day and the **light** of the night." Now, the words "light" here do not necessarily refer to the aspect of "lightness," but to the two lights described in Genesis 1:16 – "And Elohim made two great lights; the greater **light** to rule the day, and the lesser **light** to rule the night" This makes even more sense to us who search for the new moon each month. We know, by experience, that after the light of the day (the sun gone down), there is a brief period of time in which neither the moon or the sun are visible.



Then we see the moon! It's still exciting for me. The conclusion to Matthew 28:1 is this: The two women came to the sepulcher at **sundown**, **late** on Sabbath – NOT at **sunrise** the next day! Yahshua therefore rose from the grave on the day before Sunday.

The English word *late* is the Greek word *opse*, meaning, "late in the day," and by extension, "after the close of the day." It is used in the King James Version as "at even" and "in the end."

I'd love to expand on this theme, but it would require more space than we have here; however, the first question leading into such a discussion would be, "What is the ONE sign that the Messiah gave that He was indeed the Messiah?" The answer is, of course, the sign of Jonah, that Yahshua would be in the belly of the

earth for 3 days **and** 3 nights, making a Friday afternoon burial to Sunday morning resurrection impossible.

Yahshua rose from the grave on Shabbat, the 7th day Sabbath of Yahweh. On the first day of the week He ascended into heaven as the Sheaf Wave Offering. He then returned from heaven to earth to meet with His Disciples for the next 40 days, at which time, He again ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of His Father, Yahweh. Ten days after His ascension, His disciples received the Set-Apart Spirit of Yahweh and performed mighty miracles.

In 2008 the sheaf wave offering on the day **after** the weekly Sabbath in the midst of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is an Appointed Time of Yahweh, but is not one of the annual High Sabbaths of Yahweh. It symbolizes the ascent of Yahshua into heaven as the Sheaf Wave Offering. It is not a day for convocation. And, it IS a day that Yahweh says "is to be a **perpetual statute** throughout our generations in all our dwelling places," the same designation that is given to each of the High or Annual Sabbaths given by Yahweh.

Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a **male lamb one year old without defect** for a burnt offering to Yahweh. Its grain offering shall then be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to Yahweh for a soothing aroma, with its drink offering, a fourth of a hin of wine. Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your Elohim, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a **perpetual statute** throughout your generations in all your dwelling places, Leviticus 23:12 –14.

Pentecost

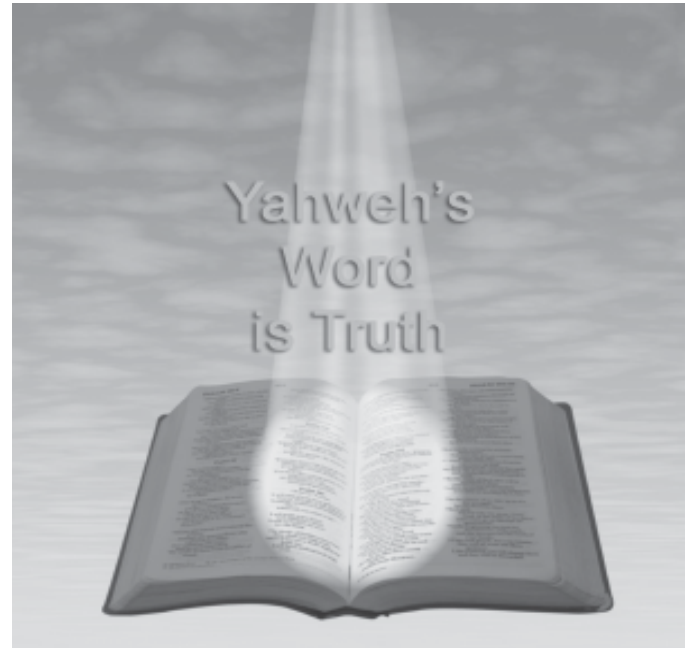
The day of the sheaf wave offering is used to count towards Pentecost, which means "fiftieth day" in Greek.

You shall also **count** for yourselves **from the day after the Sabbath**, from the day when you brought in the sheaf

<First Season see page 19>

Be Not Deceived!

Part 3 This Is Not It!



(Note: Except where otherwise stated all Bible references are taken from the New King James Version – NKJV with the Holy Names inserted.)

Introduction

In the previous parts of this series we had shown how, by ignoring the commands of Yahweh, many persons have been deceived and have wandered farther from Him. If you delved deeper to find the fundamental reasons why man chooses the wrong paths, perhaps you would agree that ignorance and obsession with self are the two main contenders. In this part we shall consider that man's overriding desire to satisfy his needs and wants, when combined with his attachment to and fascination with things pertaining to this transitory life, obscures the true purposes of life and deprives him of his heritage.

Any decision to disobey Yahweh is always preceded by an irresistible craving to satisfy or pander to self. This intense desire to indulge self is perhaps the greatest single cause of errors of judgment that have ever been made. One will always be deluded when the fixation with the glitter, glamour or even the necessity of the moment veils the underlying pitfalls.

Examples of Egocentric Delusion

Eve made this mistake when she was tempted in the Garden of Eden and ate of the forbidden fruit. She was thinking only of satisfying her senses. The here and now rather than the hereafter was what really mattered to her. She had made this decision even though she knew she would have displeased Yahweh by violating His command, and was aware of the consequences Yahweh had said would follow such disobedience. As she gazed upon that enticing fruit before her, and listened to the seductive words of the serpent, the words of Yahweh faded almost to the point of peaceful oblivion. There was only one compelling thought:

"If I could just touch it, and taste it...now!" Her fingers responded to the irresistible wave of temptation that had captivated her mind and body and shut down any contrary consideration. She touched and tasted that which she had thought was unobtainable. Her curiosity was appeased, and her desire satisfied, but she did not know the unending price all future generations would pay for her one moment of folly.

Esau did the same thing. When overcome by intense hunger he sacrificed his birthright that promised a secure future, just for a bowl of stew. He said to Jacob,

Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me? (Gen 25:32)

Judas did likewise when he betrayed the Saviour. He surrendered the highest and unique privilege of being in Yahshua's inner circle of twelve disciples and of spending eternity with Him, for the sake of the paltry and incomparable sum of thirty pieces of silver. The prodigal son made the same choice when he collected his inheritance from his father and walked away from the security and privileges of his father's house, for the freedom to be a man on his own, and to 'do his own thing' with lots of money jangling in his pocket, but ended up eating the left-overs of pigs.

Like Eve, Esau, Judas and the prodigal son, many persons today are so preoccupied with the dazzling things of this present world and the immediate satisfaction of their fleshy appetites, that they have no time or inclination to please Yahweh or to prepare for their future eternal home. For ages Satan has continually led people astray from their everlasting Father by causing them to focus their minds upon and to form close bonds with transient things of this world as though this present life were all that mattered. He has always presented the objects of his distractions as

possessing such surpassing benefits that they demand instant selection. Like the proverbial dog dropping its bone to snap at its shadow, so too this world has dropped what really matters for the delusion of instant gratification.

Where Are We Today?

Today, Satan, *“the ruler of this world,”* John 12:31, is filled with *“great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time,”* Rev 12:12, and that the day is fast approaching when in accordance with Yahweh’s time clock he will no longer have the freedom to deceive people. In his remaining time, Satan is employing the same self-indulgent appeal that he used so effectively in the Garden of Eden to lead people away from Yahweh and eternal life, to death and destruction.

He has launched an all-out assault that targets man’s strongest negative emotions and arouses the most passionate responses. Feelings such as lust, pride, fear, hatred, selfishness and greed are being sumptuously fed and encouraged to grow in a conducive environment. In this massive final thrust to wreak havoc, Satan is playing an active role in destabilizing the world and causing many to focus even more on their self-interests.

Worldwide terrorism is spreading the wildfire of hatred and fear. Evil deeds like an active volcanic chain are erupting, causing disruption, suffering and grief with unceasing regularity, and expanding in scope and age range to surpass anything the world has ever known. Through the influence of media and internet communication subtle and explicit suggestions that pander to the elevation and obsession of self are being manufactured globally and thrown at us in total violation of our right to control the gateways of our mind. Sensuality in all of its many devious forms is being promoted. Depravity is rampant.

The appealing trap of greed and selfishness that has wooed the whole world is now inflicting its deadliest wound on all. The world’s strongest and largest economies have begun to collapse, trapping and crushing the

poorest countries that lie helplessly beneath this monstrous debacle. The hopes of many are being shattered with the disintegration of the safety nets they had so carefully devised. They have properties that have depreciated in value and which they cannot sell, debts that cannot be repaid, investments that have crumbled, and jobs that were deemed to be secure but are either lost or are like fragile props that are inadequate to sustain them. Dreams and ambitions are daily being wrecked.

Now at last we can fully understand the potential for the fulfilment of the prophecies in the book of Revelation:

Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, Rev 14:8.

“Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.” “For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance.” “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate’,” Rev 18:10, 17 and 19.

In spite of the global evidence of the fragility of this world’s fortune and the futility of man’s best endeavours, minds are still deceived and people are not yet turning to the only One who offers unending security. Instead of awakening to the folly of an attachment to perishable things, people are allowing their emotions and health to suffer a downturn that is far greater than the economic one. They cannot bear the thought of the threat that lies ahead, yet they will not turn from their idolatrous ways to Yahweh who can calm the storms, make a way where there is no way, and give to them eternal life where no moth and rust can corrupt.

They are still obsessed with the here and now even though it offers little or no hope.

“Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches,

none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to Yahweh a ransom for him.” “Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts that perish,” Psa 49:5-7, 10-12.

The global deterioration is a rude but necessary reminder and stimulus to those who believe that this world is not our home or the reason for our hope. Paul wrote:

If in this life only we have hope in [the Messiah], we are of all men the most pitiable, 1 Cor 15:19.

The demise of the foundations upon which man had built his hopes is an essential prelude to the day when *“the elements will melt with fervent heat”* and *“the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”*... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells,” 2 Pet 3:10,13.

The curtain is closing to end this transitory Scene in order that the final Act will begin in which the true and faithful will enter their long awaited eternal home and the unrighteous will be punished. Meanwhile, the majority of spectators are dazed by the unfolding events and cannot think beyond the threat of this present life. They are duped by their fascination with self and their preoccupation with the here and now.

Materialistic Doctrines

Man does not need help or encouragement to be egocentric. Nevertheless, amidst the global collapse, many religious denominations are still unwittingly fostering materialism and the aggrandizement of self, by their over-emphasis on the natural benefits of serving Yahweh.

They take verses out of context such as *“Yahweh will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath,”* without quoting the conditions

attached to promises such as, *“if you heed the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them,”* Deut 28:13. Pre-eminence is given to receiving from Yahweh rather than on honouring, serving, loving and obeying Him. It is as if the prodigal son thought he could continue to eat from his father’s house while he was away from him.

Be not deluded by the law-breaking ministries that will entice you to give money to their causes and promise that in return Yahweh will bless you. They often freely misquote Deuteronomy 28 that *“All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of Yahweh your Elohim: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. Yahweh will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. Yahweh will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you,”* Deut 28:2-8.

The misquotation comes as before by taking these verses out of context and ignoring that such blessings will come, not by bribing Yahweh with gifts, but by *“Diligently [obeying] the voice of Yahweh your Elohim, to observe carefully all His commandments,”* Deut 28:1.

It is a misuse and abuse of the Scriptures for preachers to substitute the conditional clause in a passage with their own and still promise the same results that Yahweh had promised. Such ‘cut-and-paste’ theology is false. The self-centered or optimistic commands of men do not guarantee Yahweh’s blessings. They

only serve to keep self-interest on the throne that should be occupied by Yahweh. Such misleading teachings, instead of enhancing a love of Yahweh, encourages a love of one’s self. In giving, their followers are not truly investing in Yahweh’s cause, but in their own. They are giving merely because they have been persuaded that they will be blessed if they give. Their motivation is not Yahweh but selfishness.

Yahshua’s teaching was quite different. He taught self-denial. He said, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his [yoke], and follow Me,”* Matt 16:24.

He said,

“Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you,” John 6:27.

He taught we should not *“Lay up for [ourselves] treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,”* Matt 6:19-21.

His priority for us is to *“Seek first the kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you,”* Matt 6:31-33.

You do not put Yahweh first when you make token gestures designed to attract His attention while your eyes are firmly riveted on receiving from His hands the benefits that you really desire more earnestly than Him. You are deceived if you think that by taking one half-hearted step towards Yahweh He will take note and gratefully open the windows of heaven to pour out blessings upon you. This is self-centered theology dressed up with some convenient supporting verses taken from the Bible. You cannot bribe Yahweh with gifts that are purported to be to Him, but are in fact down-payments on the rewards you seek.

Whilst claiming Yahweh’s laws are abolished, preachers highlighting the theme of prosperity audaciously draw very heavily on the law of tithing. Without any qualms of conscience,

they quote freely from Malachi 3 that Yahweh will bless you if you pay tithes to their assemblies, even though according to their own teachings, tithes should have been lumped together with the other laws and dumped when grace appeared! It is strange how conveniently and shamelessly they forsake their favourite doctrine that Yahweh’s laws are abolished in order to gain financial sustenance for their organizations. They gladly rummage in the rubbish bins in which Yahweh’s laws are supposed to be confined, in order to salvage the means for their financial upkeep. Necessity is no excuse or basis for compromising one’s beliefs or for selectively observing some of Yahweh’s commands.

The promoters and adherents of such teachings give priority to their own interests and are deceived in thinking that Yahweh is hoodwinked by their hypocrisy. These convenient doctrines are subtle satanic deceptions comparable with the strategy used in the Garden of Eden of putting self-interest first. Although Yahweh can and is willing to bless us here and now, we were created for a purpose that far exceeds His choicest blessings in this life. The things in this world are destined only for destruction. They cannot last forever. It is not Yahweh’s material or physical blessings that are most important but our eternal heritage, and He Himself. His most abundant blessings now are like light sprinkles of rain when compared to the heavy unending showers that await us in His Kingdom.

Beware of all materialistic doctrines. They are deeply anchored on SELF and not upon Yahweh. Yahshua, when asked which is the first commandment, replied *“You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these,”* Mark 12:30 and 31.

As self-interest increases, the love towards Yahweh and our fellowmen

declines. Yahshua warned that *"Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold,"* Matt 24:12.

The evangel that Yahshua and His disciples proclaimed was of a coming Kingdom and of the urgent need to repent. Their message was the exact opposite of the popular doctrines that are being emphasized in an already materialistic and self-centered world. The important teachings of Yahshua are virtually silenced by the materialistic sermons and motivational lectures that flow incessantly from many of today's pulpits. Self-enhancement has its place in our society, but cannot replace the fundamental messages of salvation and righteousness that are vital for inheriting eternal life. Yahshua did not come to repair this old world or to put His *"new wine into old wineskins,"* Matt 9:17. In answer to today's over-worked self-improvement 'sermons' He would say, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh,"* however much we may try to refine it. A swine will continue to be a swine though dressed in costliest apparel in a king's palace.

Yahshua's mission was for those of us who believe on Him and obey Him to have eternal life. He said that His way involves death to self and leaving all in this world to follow Him, not following Him in order to gain everything in this life. Real life comes by dying to self. Death comes by living for self.

Get Your Priorities Right

The world and the cherished things in it will pass away. Eve, Esau, Judas and the prodigal son selected the instant perishable commodities. Their record would have been quite different if, instead of giving in to their impulses, they had been determined to satisfy their long-term interest rather than a fleeting attraction. The reality is that when for whatever reasons a self-centered alternative dominates, there is hardly a choice. The tendency then is for one to yield to self rather than struggle against one's will. The root cause of our preferences is much deeper than the momentary selection.

The underlying reason for the choice we make is dependent on who or what has priority in our lives. Yahshua said,

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other, Matt 6:24.

If 'self' is predominant, it will be your master.

Many persons are still hankering after the corruptible goods of this life, which are disintegrating. They still prefer the diminishing gifts to the Giver. Few persons make a conscious effort to choose Satan and not Yahweh. But many, by seeking mostly to gratify themselves, leave an open door for the enemy to enter.

Meanwhile Satan continues to bombard and poison the minds of people causing them to focus on things that will not last. In good times they are preoccupied with gaining more of this world's goods. In hard times they worry about losing it all.

The 'world, the flesh and the devil' thus form a triple force, which is irresistible except we are fully yielded to the over-riding power of Yahweh's Spirit.

Without Yahweh's help we are defenceless and can be blinded and deluded when tempted by tangible and temporary rewards that for a moment may seem more desirable than the inestimable glory that is to be revealed by following Yahshua! As Satan beguiled Eve by a fruit, so he is busy deceiving people with the glittering or even fading things of this world.

If, as Yahshua said, we should seek first the kingdom of Yahweh, then this world with all of its attractions would not have any strong hold on us. Wherever and whenever Yahweh is not uppermost in our thoughts, we are vulnerable to Satan's duplicity. Our *"kingdom is not of this world,"* John 18:36. By contrast to the expected demise of this world's kingdoms, the kingdom of Yahweh is *"An everlasting kingdom, and [His] dominion endures throughout all generations,"* Psa 145:13.

The present time is too serious for us to be focussed on things of no eternal value. While Satanic forces are

intensifying their efforts to lead the world astray, those whose hearts are in tune with Yahweh should desire, now more than ever, to put Yahweh first and to *"always do those things that please Him,"* John 8:29. The Bridegroom is almost here. It is time to awake from deluded slumber, throw off the cosy coverings of self-interest and go forth blazing our torches of truth to shine the path that leads to Him.

The greatest splendour in this world cannot in any way be compared with the glory that awaits us.

Our eternal heritage is too important to sacrifice it for the temporary appeasement of our fleshly appetites.

Conclusion

The time referred to in Revelation chapters 14 and 18 is surely coming. Nothing and no one will prevent it. The big calamity is on its way. Now is not the time to *"spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy."* Instead, it is the time to *"Listen carefully to [Yahweh], and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in [His] abundance,"* Isa 55:2.

Worldly goods and pleasures have lured many from the narrow and straight paths of righteousness into the broad road that leads to destruction.

John wrote in his first epistle:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 1 John 2:15.

When self-centeredness and the pursuits and cares of this life are one's first priority, other more important things are squeezed out.

True believers do not have to be deceived by *"The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things,"* Mark 4:19.

This tottering world is not our final destination. We are travellers and not residents. Hebrews 11:13, 14 and 16 show that we are *"Strangers and pilgrims on the earth... [seeking] a homeland and ... desire a better, that*

<Deceived see page 18>

Fruit of the Vine and the Passover Cup



Each year as Passover approaches, the question is debated: does wine or grape juice symbolize the blood of the New Covenant?

Many papers contending for one or the other substance appear each year and a few even argue that the cup contained water. (Yahshua specifically called the contents of the cup “fruit of the vine.” How can water be considered fruit of the vine?)

Some congregations use grape juice because of a fear of alcohol rather than because they have Scriptural proof for grape juice.

Perfect love casts out fear, John 4:18.

Therefore, if Scriptures indicate wine is the right choice, why fear the alcohol it contains? Technically, both are fruit of the vine. Surely, though, Scriptures verify one or the other and even though Yahshua’s reference to “fruit of the vine” is ambiguous, a Bible student should be able to determine which is the right choice.

Nave’s **Topical Bible** refers to Matthew 26:27-29 as proof that wine symbolizes Yahshua’s blood. These Scriptures read:

Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, “Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

This doesn’t prove that the cup contained wine. It just proves the content of cup was fruit of the vine which could either be wine or grape juice. The belief that Matthew 26:27-29 proves that the cup contained wine is a traditional belief. The unreliability of tradition as a basis of belief is illustrated by the following anecdote:

A man’s wife always cuts off the ends of a steak before

cooking it, so one day he asked, “Why do you always cut the ends off a steak before you cook it?”

She replied, “I learned to cook from my mother and she always cut the ends off a steak before cooking it. She must have had a reason, so I do it, too.”

The man went to his mother-in-law and asked her why she always cut the ends off a steak before she cooked it.

“I learned to cook from my mother and she always cut the ends off a steak before she cooked it. She didn’t tell me the reason, and I didn’t ask her. I just do it because I believe she had a good reason.”

Because his wife’s grandmother was still living, he went to her with the same question.

The elderly lady told him that when she was cooking for the family she seldom could buy a steak that fit the small pan she had, so she cut it down to fit the pan.

Wine: Yahweh’s Wrath

Red wine has been considered a symbol of blood since ancient times. It is a traditional belief that originated in Babylon and was passed down from generation to generation as unthinkingly as the woman who blindly repeated the culinary routine of her mother.

No doubt many people use wine at Passover because that is what their fathers traditionally used. Let’s not stand on tradition. We must base our belief and practice on what we can verify in Yahweh’s Word.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10:21,

You cannot drink the cup of Yahweh, and the cup of devils: you cannot be partakers of Yahweh’s table, and the table of devils.

Paul refers to the cup that Yahshua gave to His disciples as the cup of blessing. Psalm 23:5 says,

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of

mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Overflows with what? The cup Yahweh gives to the righteous overflows with blessings, but to the wicked He gives the cup of wrath.

In Psalm 75:8 we read,

In the hand of Yahweh is a cup full of foaming wine [red wine, KJV] mixed with spices; he pours it out, and all the wicked drink it down to the very dregs.

Jeremiah 25:15-16 says,

The Mighty One of Israel said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they drink it they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send them."

Wine is the symbol of Yahweh's wrath! Would Yahshua be contradicting His Heavenly Father if He used wine in the cup of blessing as the symbol of the blood of the covenant? Job 19:29 tells us wrath brings punishment by the sword. The sword is a symbol of war! The sword makes blood flow and Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:6 that it will be the blood of the disobedient (wicked) that will flow when Yahweh pours out His wrath.

Isaiah the prophet describes the end-time fury of a returning Savior:

I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and stained all my clothing. For the day of my vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. I looked but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drink and poured their blood on the ground, Isaiah 63:3-6.

'Wine'press and Grapes

"Winepress" is merely a figure of speech in these verses. The blood that

spattered His garments flowed from the people upon whom His wrath fell, not from the winepress.

This indicates that the juice of the trampled grapes symbolizes the blood of the sin-tainted people, not Yahshua's sinless blood. The winepress (more properly, grape juice press) represents His fury and judgment, Revelation 19:11-16. His vesture is dipped in blood, verse 13, the juice of the grape.

He makes grass grow for cattle, and plants for man to cultivate bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart, Psalm 104:14-15.

Here wine is listed among the good things Yahweh provides from the earth. Paul could not say, "Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine for the stomach" (1Tim. 5:23) if wine was considered bad in itself. But, he does warn us not to drink too much wine.

Excessive Wine Disrupts

Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, Ephesians 5:18.

And He says a drunkard will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

The dangers of alcohol are many, even in Scriptures. We are told in Genesis 9:20-21 that Noah planted a vineyard after the flood and got drunk on the wine produced from it.

Proverbs 4:14-17 says,

Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. For they cannot sleep until they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall. They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

The Bread of Life is symbolized by unleavened bread. Is the opposite, bread of wickedness, symbolized by leavened bread? Aren't wrath and violence the opposite of the peace of Yahweh?

In the Scriptures we have

considered, wine is used as a symbol of the opposite of peace. Is it reasonable to assume Yahshua would use wine as a symbol of the blood of the covenant?

Noah was not a drunkard. He slipped up once after the flood and lost control of himself, but the fact that he was saved from Yahweh's wrath and counted among the righteous in Hebrews 11 is proof that Noah did not walk in the way of evil men and eat the bread of wickedness.

Grapes are Firstfruits

Fermentation of grape juice is caused by the same enzyme in grapes that is in yeast that leavens bread. Yahshua is sinless and is symbolized by the first fruits of the spring grain harvest. He is represented by the wave sheaf of maturing, unleavened grain cut from the field before the harvest begins. His body is sinless. Therefore, it is symbolized by unleavened bread eaten at Passover- bread unchanged by the fermenting process.

Pure, unfermented, unchanged grape juice is the first product obtained from crushing the fruit of the vine. It is the "firstfruit" of the process.

Wine is a byproduct. It is used in Scripture in reference to wrath and violence that causes sinful human blood to flow. In light of these facts alone, the correct Scriptural symbol for Yahshua's sinless blood of the covenant must be grape juice.

Fermenting Grapes

In Luke 12:1, Yahshua likens hypocrisy of the Pharisees to leaven and in 1 Corinthians 5:8, Paul refers to the leaven of malice and wickedness. Both are references to the influence of beliefs and practices that cause a change in the spiritual nature of people.

The dictionary defines leaven as an agent that acts in or upon something to produce a gradual change in the thing acted upon. Leavening is referred to as the fermentation of a new batch of dough. That fermentation is caused by the same agent, yeast, that induces

fermentation in liquids during the production of alcoholic beverages.

In other words, fermentation of grape juice is the same change from its original purity that occurs in the leavening of dough.

This last is a reference to a non scriptural authority that is given to show that the conclusion drawn from the Scriptures can be verified by observation of things in this world that were made by Yahweh. A congregation that uses wine as a symbol of Yahshua's blood is not demonstrating understanding of the hidden wisdom in Yahweh's use of symbols!

Priestly Abstention

The Bible is full of warnings against overindulgence of wine or strong drink, but Yahweh does not advocate total abstinence from either. True, a person who has a problem with physical addiction or emotional dependence must exercise the self-control necessary to abstain from any use of alcoholic beverages at all times under all circumstances.

There are two occasions upon which normal people are to abstain from wine or strong drink and one occasion upon which we are not to drink even grape juice. The two Scriptures are Lev 10:8-10 and Numbers 6:1-4.

Then Yahweh said to Aaron, "You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the Tent of Meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You must distinguish between the holy and the unholy and between the unclean and the clean," Lev 10:8-10.

Are we not told that everyone in the New Covenant is or will be a priest or king? Are we not in Yahweh's presence when we gather with brethren to partake of Passover? Wouldn't Yahshua have transgressed this commandment if He had given His disciples wine to drink at His last Passover with them?

Yahweh said to Moses, "Speak to

the Israelites and say to them: If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of separation to Yahweh as a Nazarite, he must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or from other fermented drink. He must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. As long as he is a Nazarite, he must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins," Number 6:1-4.

A person partaking of Passover is in Yahweh's presence, but he is not taking a Nazarite vow in the Old Covenant sense. Therefore, drinking grape juice at Passover would not be breaking this commandment. But drinking wine would break the commandment not to drink wine in His presence.

Symbolism in Worship

The New Testament mentions five things from which total abstinence is commanded and neither wine nor strong drinks are among them. Acts 15:29 gives three of them: food sacrificed to idols, blood, and sexual immorality.

We are literally to abstain from food sacrificed to idols and figuratively not to feed our minds on false doctrines of paganism.

We must literally abstain from eating or drinking blood of animals. What about symbolically drinking the blood of human "animals"?

Yes, literal sexual immorality. And Yahweh calls any worship not directed to Him adultery. In a spiritual sense, then, any worship borrowed from paganism is not directed to Him and is not pleasing to Him. It would be spiritual immorality and Yahweh emphatically tells us in Deuteronomy 12:30-31 not to worship Him in ways the pagans worshiped their idols.

Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their idols, saying, How did these nations

serve their idols? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hateth, have they done unto their idols; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their idols.

The fourth thing from which we are to abstain is mentioned in 1Peter 2:11 and that is sinful desires. The King James calls sinful desires lust of the flesh, meaning inordinate and perverse sexual desire, literally, and figuratively meaning the lusts of a carnal mind for worldly pleasures, treasures, and creature comforts.

We are told the fifth thing from which we are to abstain in 1Thessalonians 5:22. This verse says to avoid every kind of evil. The King James says to "abstain from all appearance of evil."

Obedying this commandment can put a person in a real bind to decide what is really evil and what only appears to be evil. When people are confronted with this decision, the action they choose is generally determined, whether they realize it or not, by whose eyes they wish to appear good in - Yahweh's or man's. They decide on the basis of what they believe appears good to Yahweh and evil to man and what appears evil to Yahweh and good to man.

Yahweh says: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil," Isaiah 5:20.

Babylonian Corruption

Isaiah 29:1-8 is a veiled prophecy of Armageddon and what will happen to Jerusalem, poetically called Ariel. "Ariel" is a Hebrew word that means "altar of El" and is translated "altar hearth" in verse 2 of the NIV translation. Continuing from verse 9 to verse 12 we read:

Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless; be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer. Yahweh has brought over

you a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the prophets); He has covered your heads (the seers). For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read."

This is not talking about literal drunkenness resulting from drinking too much wine or strong drink. It refers to a spiritual stupor that results from drinking (figuratively speaking) from the cup in the hand of Babylon the Great.

Most people who have a Bible can read, but John tells us the words of the book are shut and sealed until the time of the end.

The seal is broken and the mind is opened to understanding for only those to whom Yahweh has given His Holy Spirit because they believe His Son, Yahshua, is the Messiah and are willing to abide by every truth the Spirit reveals to them.

A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great. Which has made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."... With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries. I saw the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore the testimony of Yahshua, Revelation 14:8; 17: 2-6.

Would wine or grape juice best symbolize the contents of the cup in the hand of Babylon the Great, the corrupted system?

What would be the best symbol for the blood of the saints (none of whom were without sin) - wine or grape juice?

Can there be any question on the basis of what Scriptures tell us about wine that the answer to both questions must be wine?

Erroneous Traditions

Some may use wine at Passover because the Jews do. Yahweh's Word was committed to Israel and wine has been used at Passover for centuries before Yahshua was born. Since the Jews use wine at Passover is wine what we should use also?

Drinking wine at Passover is a Jewish tradition that traces back through rabbinical teachings to long before Yahshua's birth. Red wine is used in most Jewish Passover services because of its quality. Jews are required to drink four full goblets during the ceremony at the risk even of intoxication. The wine is drunk at four prescribed points during the service in commemoration of the four expressions of redemption found in the Book of Exodus.

The symbol of the paschal lamb in the Jewish Seder plate is a roasted shankbone. The Hebrew word for shankbone literally means "forearm" and the bone commemorates the fact that Yahweh said He brought Israel out of Egypt with an outstretched arm. Nothing in the Jewish Passover relates to Yahshua's sacrifice for sin and the change in the Covenant that occurred on the Passover day He died. They ignore the Savior's first coming, and so it is useless to look to the Jews for clues in choosing the Scriptural symbol for the blood of the New Covenant.

How can anyone who has given any thought to symbolism in Yahweh's Word use wine as a symbol of Yahshua's sinless blood of the covenant at Passover?

Elder Ralph Henrie, deceased

<Deceived from page 14>

is, a heavenly country ... where Yahweh has prepared a city for [us].

Our deepest longing must be for our eternal home. We are commanded

to "Seek first the kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness," Matt 6:33.

The end of all things is at hand, 1 Peter 4:7.

Now is the time for us to practice what the Bible teaches while we wait expectantly to enter our eternal inheritance. It is not time to be deceived and weighed down with the cares of this world.

Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven, Prov 23:5.

The world will continue to reap the full harvest of the seeds of disobedience to Yahweh that they had sown and nurtured for countless generations. For those of us who have resolved to put Yahweh first, though we may go through this night of darkest gloom, there is no need or room for pessimism. Our day will dawn when we will enter "*the city of the great King*," Psa 48:2. While we wait, if we are faithful to Him and put our trust in Him, He "*will never leave [us] nor forsake [us]*," Heb 13:5.

There is no hope in man, who does not have the answer and cannot help, or in your crumbling possessions, or in some egocentric deluded doctrine that promises much in this life without the authority and ability to deliver. Our safest hope is not in a change in our circumstances. Our hope is in Yahweh alone. We do not look for a new city from the pile of this world's rubble. We look for the "*new heaven and a new earth, ... and ...the holy city, New Jerusalem*," which will come "*down out of heaven from Yahweh, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*," Rev 21:1-3.

Be not deceived! This world is not it!

Elder Buel Hallpike

<**First Season** from page 10>
of the wave offering; there shall be **seven complete Sabbaths**. You shall **count fifty days** to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to Yahweh. You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked **with leaven as first fruits to Yahweh**, Leviticus 23:15-17.

This is very interesting. **Two** loaves, **leavened**, which may (and, I suspect does) symbolize two groups of peoples, the House of **Judah** and the House of **Israel**. Leavening is, symbolically, sin; that's why the Feast of Unleavened Bread is about "coming out of Egypt" (where Egypt is, metaphorically, "sinfulness"). If you look in Malachi, you will discover that the 12 **unleavened** cakes (symbolizing the entire 12 Tribes of Israel), the Showbread, which means the "Bread of the Presence" of Yahweh, points to a **future** time, a time in which the righteous **will** stand before the Creator.

Malachi 1:11 says,

*For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and **a grain offering that is pure**; for My name **WILL BE** great among the nations, says Yahweh of hosts.*

Until that time, perhaps our leavened selves, as either a member of the House of Judah or the House of Israel, remain as a grain offering to Yahweh.

In spite of the fact that the Sheaf Wave Offering is not designated as an Annual High Day, it remains an Appointed Time, and is to be a **perpetual statute in all our dwelling places throughout our generations**. I feel compelled to at least remember this day as a day of praise to Yahweh. It is an eternal statute that Yahweh has put into place, and though animal sacrifice has been replaced by Yahshua's sacrifice,

we are still compelled to offer up our praises to Yahweh.

May we come to know Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, in Spirit and in Truth. HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher

<**Passover** from page 6>

appointed times (which, in the Hebrew, is *moed*) are to be kept forever by Yahweh's faithful people. These days were given to Israel as a part of the Covenant Yahweh made with them, and were written down as a continual reminder for us.

The New Testament shows that Yahshua kept the Passover and the Feast days. His disciples kept the Passover. Paul kept them (Acts 18:21) and encouraged the Corinthian converts to observe them:

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Messiah 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. (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

Feasts in the Coming Kingdom

Yahshua said that He would again keep the Passover anew in the Kingdom. See Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, and Luke 22:18.

The Old Testament prophets tell of the Feasts being held in the Kingdom:

In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. (Ezek. 45:21)

In the seventh month, in the fifteenth day of the month, shall he do the like in the feast of the seven days, according to the sin offering, according

to the burnt offering, and according to the meat offering, and according to the oil. (Ezek. 45:25)

Isaiah spoke of the worship being from Sabbath to Sabbath:

And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, says Yahweh. (Isa. 66:23)

Other Bible verses confirm that the Feasts will be observed in the Kingdom. Yahweh said that His Feast would be kept by an ordinance forever.

We on this side of Golgatha observe Passover as a memorial of the Savior's having given His life for the sins of the world. Passover is not a Feast day (Hebrew = *chag*, joyous, happy time), but along with the annual Feasts it will be observed again, but likely with a deeper and new meaning.

They will likely recall the Savior's return to this earth where He will gather the remnant of His flock and bring them to Zion. There He will establish His rulership and rule this earth with a rod of iron, Rev. 2:26-27.

We are being called now to become a priest and teacher in that Kingdom. It is up to us to learn all we can of these *moedim* (appointed times) of Yahweh so that we can help others now in this life as we prepare for our role in the Kingdom:

Blessed and holy [is] he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6)

When we come to a knowledge of the fantastic future in store for those who are faithfully keeping Yahweh's New Covenant through the grace given us by Yahshua, our zeal increases in hope!

Elder Donald R. Mansager

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q

My Bible clearly says that on the “first day” of Unleavened Bread (Ex 12:15) we are to remove leaven from our dwelling, but you take it out before then. Why do you go against what the Bible clearly teaches?

A

There is misunderstanding of Scripture when it is taken out of context. Though this is not readily evident in this particular verse, i.e., in most all translations, it is when we look at the original Hebrew wording.

The one word we must take a close look at is the word “first.” It is Strong’s Hebrew word #7223 “*rishon*” which has two very different meanings depending on the context in which it is used:

“The suffix *ōn* makes this term an adjective or adverb as determined by context... First, the word can refer to the first of two or more items. In this capacity, it also occurs in a series as an ordinal number. Second, it functions as an adverb, ‘before,’ ‘formerly,’ and is often used with words pertaining to time,” *The Complete Biblical Library*, by World Library Press Inc.

In the case of Ex 12:15 the word *rishon* is found two times and going through verse 18 the word appears for a total of 4 times. Three times meaning one thing and one time meaning another. The first time the word *rishon* is used in Ex 12:15 we find it can only mean “previous” or “prior.” The reason for this is the context in which it is used. It is actually sandwiched in between two confirming statements highlighted as follows:

Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the [prior] (#7223) day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first (#7223) day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel, Ex 12:15.

The last highlighted statement is also reiterated, because of importance, in verse 19:

Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land, Ex 12:19.

It is basically saying that if you eat leavened bread on any of these days you’re a dead man! It had that kind of impact on the people. They would have been very alert to what exactly was required. This is why there is no question as to what *rishon* meant the first time it was used in Ex 12:15. It meant that leaven was to be removed “prior” to the Days of Unleavened Bread, because if you ate it during those days you were to be removed and cut off from Israel!

It is clear, in context, what *rishon* was saying. It was even in between two confirming statements, to make absolutely sure it was understood clearly.

There are other words in Scripture (both in the Hebrew and Greek) that have double meanings such as Strong’s Greek word # 4151 “*pneuma*” which can mean “wind” (breath/blow) or “spirit,” again, depending on context. Notice John 3:5-8 in which the word *pneuma* is used 5 times. Four times meaning one thing, and one time meaning another:

Yahshua answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit (#4151), he cannot enter into the kingdom of Elohim. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit (#4151) is spirit (#4151). Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind (#4151) bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit (#4151), John 3:5-8.

One of the few translations that has Ex 12:15 correct, i.e., having translated *rishon* correctly within context by using the word “Previous” instead of “first,” is the **Stone Edition of the Tanach**, 1996, by Mesorah Publications:

For a seven-day period shall you eat matzos, but on the previous (#7223) day you shall nullify the leaven from your homes; for anyone who eats leavened food - that soul shall be cut off from Israel, from the first (#7223) day to the seventh day, Ex 12:15

This is pretty simple; there is one word for “unleavened bread” (*azumos*) and one for “leavened bread” (*artos*) in the Greek, right?

A counterpart to the Greek word *artos* (Strong’s Greek #744) in the Hebrew can be the word *lechem* (Strong’s Hebrew #3899). *Lechem* is probably the word that *artos* was translated from since we realize that we have a Greek translated New Testament most likely from Hebrew originals that have since been lost. Today there are no original New Testament documents left.

The word *lechem* can be used for leavened or unleavened bread in context. For example, *lechem* is used to refer to the showbread (Ex 25:30; 39:36; 40:23; 1 Kings 7:48). Showbread is unleavened:

And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before Yahweh. And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto Yahweh, Lev 24:5-7.

No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto Yahweh, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of Yahweh made by fire, Lev 2:11. (See also, Lev 6:14-17)

The Hebrew word for unleavened bread is *matsah* (Strong’s Hebrew #4682) and like the Greek word *azumos* (Strong’s Greek # 106) means unleavened or unleavened bread (more specifically, Feast of Unleavened Bread), in context.

It should be pointed out to those who say *artos* only means “leavened bread,” that *artos* is a word that describes manna, which is unleavened, John 6:49-50. *Artos* can also mean “food” in general, just as the word *lechem* can, Gen 3:9; Matt 6:11. Remember, context, context, context.

Luke chapter 24 has basically been discredited by those who are for leavened bread for Passover since it is yet more proof against their theory, but anyone doing some investigative work in *Textual Criticism* will find there is not enough evidence against the Greek word *artos* in reference to the unleavened bread that Yahshua partook of 3 days after Passover. That means He ate *artos* (unleavened bread, in context) during Days of Unleavened Bread.

The Quest for the Original Text of the New Testament, by Philip Wesley Comfort, states:

“The testimony of P75 supporting the various additions in Luke 24:36, 40, 51, 52 added enough extra weight to override Wescott and Hort’s ‘Western noninterpolations’ in the last chapter of Luke.”

Beyond Luke 24, the other evidence stands on its own proving unleavened bread as the proper emblem for the Messiah’s body for the other would not have been available.

In your literature you teach that during the “Days of Unleavened Bread” we are symbolically to remove false doctrines or teachings from our lives and to strive for a sin free life, but the Bible teaches we are to remember these days for the purpose of remembering that Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a powerful hand, Ex 13:8-9. What do you say about this?

Let’s look at another example to clarify our position. We teach that the Feast of Tabernacles (FOT) is symbolic of the 1000-year reign of Yahweh’s coming Kingdom on earth. However, we also see that in Lev 23:43 the FOT is specifically to remind us of the exodus and having been in temporary dwellings:

*And ye shall keep it a feast unto Yahweh seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: **That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am Yahweh your Elohim, Lev 23:41-43.***

Just as the example above on the FOT shows, we don’t negate the one understanding because the other exists. We understand both to be true, just as you have pointed to Ex 13:8-9 as being true, we also find that the following is a lesson during the Days of Unleavened Bread:

And Yahshua said to them, “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” And they began to discuss among themselves, saying, “It is because we took no bread.” But Yahshua, aware of this, said, “You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets you took up? How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees,” Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees, Matt 16:6-12 (NASB).

Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Cor 5:7-8 (NASB).

We strive to live sin free and we check our doctrines to make sure we’re teaching correctly...especially during Days of Unleavened Bread.



Isn't there proof that during the first century leavened bread was used in the Eastern as it was in the Western Assemblies of Yahweh's people. Aren't there Bible Scholars who believe that this was the case up until the 10th century?



There is no absolute confirmed historical records reliable beyond the clear writings of Scripture concerning what bread had to be used at the Passover Service.

Many try to use the Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox "church" writings to substantiate this doctrine. These "churches" were never Yahweh's Assembly, Hosea 2:2.

The Catholic Church has stated quite openly that Unleavened Bread was used by our Savior the night of the "Last Supper" (Passover supper), with reference to Exodus 12:8. They even endorsed that NO LEAVENED BREAD was to be present the night of the Passover. (Douay version.) References along side 1st Corinthians 5 in the Douay Version goes as far as saying:

"Messiah excommunicates the incestuous adulterer, and admonishes them (the church) to purge out sinners which are likened to that of old leaven."

In Catholic teachings under the word "Eucharist" they write, "The real presence of the Body, and blood of Messiah, and Transubstantiation." They say this is proved from the following texts:

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

And as they did eat, Yahshua took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many, Mark 14:22-24.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you, Luke 22:19-20.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? (John 6:51-52)

Peter understood what Yahshua was saying, verse 68, but many still did not understand, and walked away.

When we ask Yahweh's blessing upon our drinking from the cup of the fruit of the vine at Yahweh's table, it means that all who drink it are sharing together the blessing of Messiah's blood. The bread which we break, shows that we are sharing together in the benefits of His body which was broken for us, 1 Cor 10:16. (Passover)

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is (a token of) my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Master's death till he come. (See Hebrews 9:25.10:1,3, 11-12; Exodus 13:10; Luke 22:13.) Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Master, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Master. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Master's body. 1 Cor 11:24-29.

After reading these texts and having knowledge of Yahweh's law, Yahshua would never insist on anyone eating the body of another human. He was speaking to His people in the Spirit. Those emblems of the bread and the fruit of the vine were symbolic reminders for His people to partake of each Passover. Understand that our Savior spoke in parables, so that those who were not chosen would not understand, Luke 8:10.

The Catholic Church admits that only unleavened bread (no yeast) may be used for the symbol of Messiah's body. In their manufacture of the wafer they use for their service, it is basically a rice paper mixed with a bi-carb ingredient. Although no yeast is added, the bicarbonate of soda becomes a leavening agent. That is the reason why the wafer melts so easily on the tongue.

With this knowledge and the terrible sins that were done, especially during the bloody medieval times, maybe it is fitting, in part, that the negative aspects of the following Proverb be attributed to them:

For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble, Prov 4:17-19.

Leaven was held to be a symbol of corruption in the religious rites of the Canaanites, Babylonians and Egyptians. To the Hebrews and the Romans, leaven was a metaphor for evil (Peak's Commentary on the Bible 204e); leaven is usually a figure for an evil influence (Peak's 729h); leaven signifies corruption, a reason why its presence is prohibited at any sacrificial service (Peak's 185a).



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"What is His Name?"

"Remember the Sabbath Day..."

"Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever..."

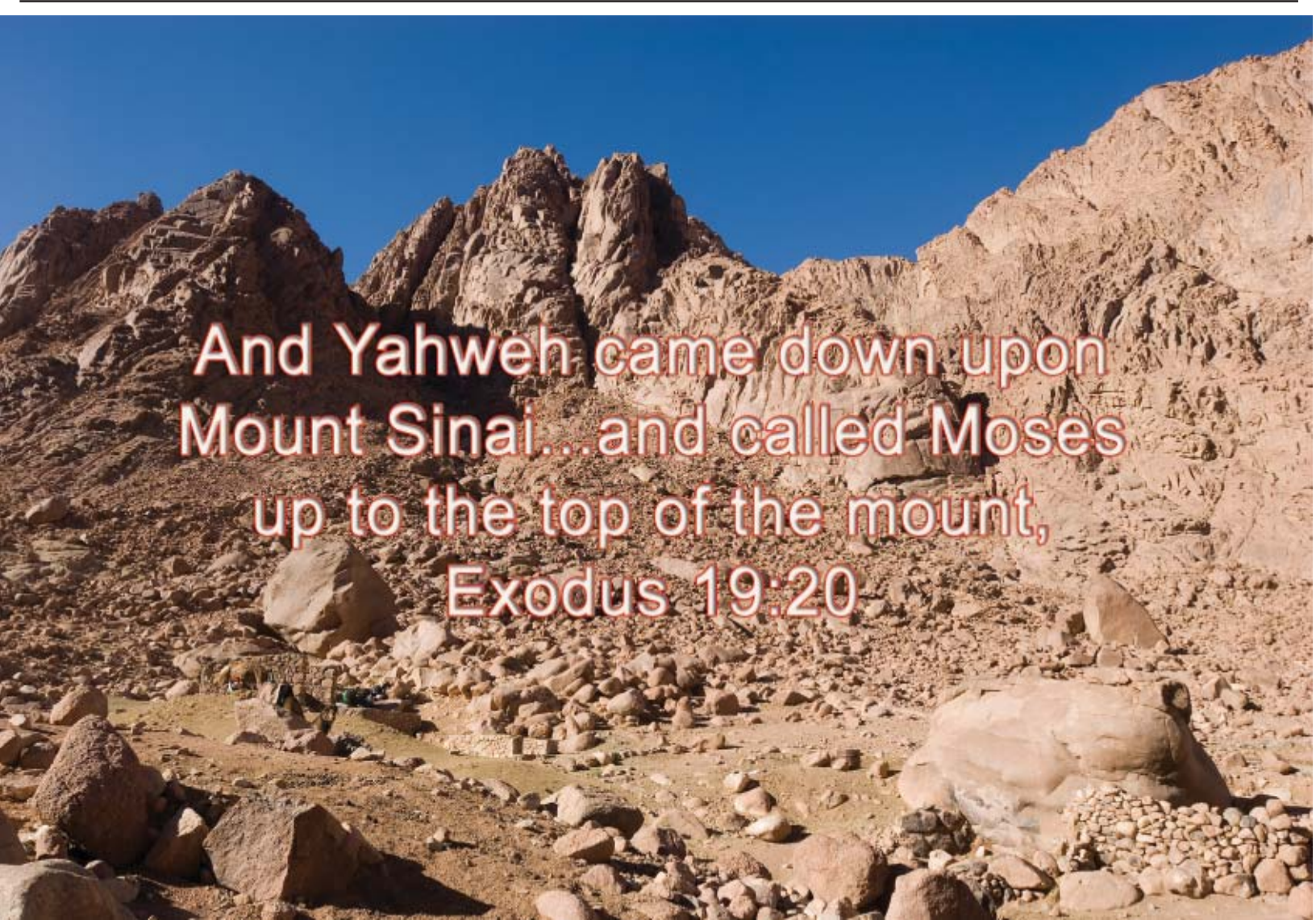
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