

YAIY NEWS

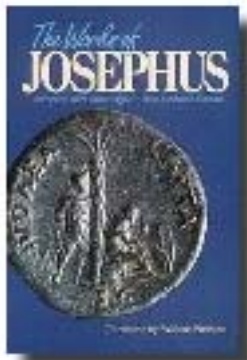


The Witness of Josephus

Flavius Josephus (37-100 C.E.) was a first century Jewish historian. He was known as Joseph, son of Mattias. Later under Roman rule he received the name of Titus Flavius Josephus. Today you'll hear of him referred to as just Flavius Josephus.

He was a son of a priest and he calls himself a priest in his writings. He gives us some history of the Jews up to the time of Masada and it's takeover by Roman rule. He himself reluctantly joined in the Jewish Revolt of 66 C.E., but surrendered within a year.

It was after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem that he was shown favor in Rome and given the opportunity to write a history of the Jews. "The Antiquities of the Jews" and also "The Wars of the Jews" would be two of his most notable works.



Josephus wrote of the account after he surrendered to Rome: "At the first I was put into bonds; but was set at liberty afterward, and sent to accompany Titus when he came from Alexandria to the siege of Jerusalem; during which time there was nothing done which escaped my knowledge; for what happened in the Roman camp I saw, and wrote down carefully; and what information the deserters brought [out of the city], I was the only man that understood them. Afterward I got leisure at Rome; and when all my materials were prepared for that work, I made use of some persons to assist me in learning the Greek tongue, and by these means I composed the history

of those transactions; and I was so well assured of the truth of what I related, that I first of all appealed to those that had the supreme command in that war, Vespasian and Titus, as witnesses for me."

With his witness compared with Scripture, we confirm some key areas of doctrine, such as which follows. NASB used throughout.

Greek Speaking Jews?

In Acts 4:8-13, it says, "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Yahshua Messiah the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom Yahweh raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the

"These are the appointed times of Yahweh, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is Yahweh's Passover."

—Leviticus 23:4-5 NASB

"And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

—Luke 22:19-20 NASB

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The Witness of Josephus ...cont.

builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.’ Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Yahshua.”

Josephus says, “For those of my own nation freely acknowledge that I far exceed them in the learning belonging to the Jews. I have also taken a great deal of pains to obtain the learning of the Greeks, and understand the elements of the Greek language, although I have so long accustomed myself to speak our own tongue, that I cannot pronounce Greek with sufficient exactness: for our nation does not encourage those that learn the languages of many nations... they look upon this sort of accomplishment as common.”

Scripture says, in Romans 1:16: “*For I am not ashamed of the evangel, for it is the power of Elohim for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*” This helps to confirm the Semitic origins of the New Testament.

Pentecost

Josephus: “When a week of weeks has passed over after this sacrifice (which weeks contain forty and nine days), on the fiftieth day, which is Pentecost...Pentecost, did then fall out to be the next day to the Sabbath.”

The Bible confirms this in Leviticus 23:15-16 “*You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath (7676), from the day when you brought in the sheaf 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.*” Seven complete weeks, 50 days total. Not from the High Sabbath (7677 Sabbathawn)

Leviticus 23:11 says, “*He shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath (7676) the priest shall wave it.*”

Josephus confirms what Scripture is saying about Pentecost occurring always on the 1st day of the week, which we call Sunday. The numbers shown are from the *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* numbering system.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

The following confirms the Passover service is at the beginning of the 14th, while the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread starts on the 15th.

Josephus: “...law ordained that we should every year slay that sacrifice which I before told you we slew when we came out of Egypt, and which was called the Passover; and so we do celebrate this passover in companies, leaving nothing of what we sacrifice till the day following. The feast of unleavened bread succeeds that of the passover, and falls on the fifteenth day of the month, and continues seven days, wherein they feed on unleavened bread.”

“...when the fourteenth day was come, and all were ready to depart, they offered the sacrifice, and purified their houses with the blood, using bunches of hyssop for that purpose; and when they had supped, they burnt the remainder of the flesh, as just ready to depart. Whence it is that we do still offer this sacrifice in like manner to this day, and call this festival Pascha, which signifies the feast of the passover; because on that day [Elohim] passed us over, and sent the plague upon the Egyptians; for the destruction of the firstborn came upon the Egyptians that night, so that many of the Egyptians who lived near the king’s palace, persuaded Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go.”

Leviticus 23:5-6: “In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is Yahweh’s Passover. Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Yahweh; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.”

Exodus 12:6-10: “You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails. And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire.”

The Witness of Josephus ...cont.

Fruit stored by Herod at Masada

The question is often brought up, “Could grape juice be stored to have throughout the year?” and specifically, “in the Spring for Passover?” to be able to be available for Passover in the Springtime.

A owner of one vineyard, in answering this type of question wrote, “In my opinion the atmosphere 2000 years ago was not a polluted as it is now and the number of yeasts and bacteria in it was far less. If this is true, then it could have been possible in ancient times (2000 years ago) to avert fermentation by hermetical closure of the containers.”

Josephus confirms, “...here [Masada] was laid up corn in large quantities, and such as would subsist men for a long time; here was also wine and oil in abundance, with all kinds of pulse and dates heaped up together: all which Eleazar found there when he and his Sicarii got possession of the fortress by treachery. These fruits were also fresh and full ripe, and no way inferior to such fruits newly laid in, although they were little short of a hundred years from the laying in these provisions [by Herod] till the place was taken by the Romans: nay, indeed, when the Romans got possession of those fruits that were left, they found them not corrupted all that while: nor should we be mistaken if we supposed that the air was here the cause of their enduring so long, this fortress being so high, and so free from the mixture of all terrene and muddy particles of matter.”

The footnote says, “Pliny and others confirm this strange paradox, that provisions laid up against sieges will continue good for a hundred years, as Spanheim notes upon this place.”

Grape juice, technically, didn't need to be stored given the history Josephus gives us:

“...it [Gennesareth] which is in the northwest side of Sea of Galilee, about 70 miles from Jerusalem, not only nourishes different sorts of autumnal fruit beyond men's expectation, but preserves them a great while; it supplies men with the principal fruits, with grapes and figs continually during ten months of the year, and the rest of the fruit as they become ripe together, through the whole year.”

Yahweh's Sacred Name

Many will say you can't pronounce the Sacred Name. That definitely contradicts Scripture: “...My people shall know My name...” Isaiah 52:7. “Our help is in the name of Yahweh...” Psalms 124:8. “Whosoever shall call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved...” Joel 2:32; Rom 10:13.

Josephus also witnesses to the fact that the Sacred Name is pronounceable with consonants that sound as vowels, “A miter also of fine linen encompassed his head, which was tied by a blue ribbon, about which there was another golden crown, in which was engraven the sacred name [of Elohim]; it consists of four vowels.”

“...the high priest in purple and scarlet clothing, with his mitre on his head having the golden plate on which the name of [Yahweh] was engraved, he approached by himself, and adored that name...”

Speaking of Moses at the burning bush, Josephus says: “Whereupon [Yahweh] declared to him his holy name, which had never been discovered to men before; concerning which it is not lawful for me to say any more.” He confirms the tradition of Ineffability of the Yahweh's Name started some 300-400 years prior .

The footnote says, “This superstitious fear of discovering the name with four letters, which of late we have been used falsely to pronounce Jehovah.”

Josephus has been considered by some to be a traitor, and his writings early on had been questioned by some, but through archeological finds and other confirming evidence, he has been shown to be a very reliable source from the 1st Century of the Common Era.

Original English translation was first available in 1736.

THE WORKS OF JOSEPHUS NEW UPDATED EDITION (Complete and Unabridged in one volume)

Translated by WILLIAM WHISTON, A.M.

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Please note: this is available at your local library and bookstore, it is not available through us.



Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread

Passover this year, according to our calculations, is expected to arrive at sunset, April 5th. This will, however, have to be confirmed with the sighting of the new moon and the early ears (*abib*) of barley at their appropriate times.

We are planning on Bible Studies as well as messages on the high Sabbaths of the 7th and 13th, of April 2012.

You're encouraged to attend with us. If you need any local motel/hotel accommodations or other information, don't hesitate to contact us, Deut. 16:6; 1 Cor. 5:8.

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Be Unleavened

With Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread coming up, the following list of basic ingredients would be best avoided during that time. Not all are scriptural leavening agents, but do "puff up".

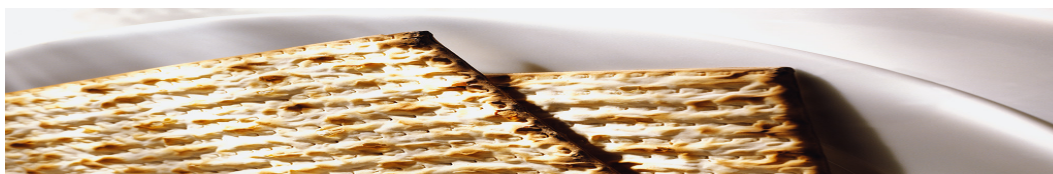
Leaven (Yeast)

Sodium Bicarbonate

Potassium Bicarbonate

Baking Soda

Baking Powder



Such things as unleavened crackers are perfect to use for Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. It should be mentioned that many vitamin products have yeast, so be sure to check the labels. Now is the time to prepare, so as not to have a lot of products to throw out.

Passover Outline

A free Passover Outline paper is available for baptized members who are unable to attend due to circumstances beyond their control. It is often asked, "If I've been baptized before with another church group in the way they baptized, am I not able to partake of the emblems of the Messiah?" While we do the best we can with what we know, we are to continue to grow and learn. When we come to an understanding that trinitarian formulas, like Matthew 28:19 were added to Scripture, and that there is only "One Name under heaven, in which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12; Joel 2:32), it becomes clear that what we had prior to the unadulterated truth was a form of repentance, Acts 19:4-5. Repentance leads to Salvation. Consider being baptized and partaking of Passover correctly this year, knowing that time is short.

Prayer List

Elder Dick Vaow, Hap Tew, Michelle Love and Family, Jewell Holt, Dolores Parker, Elder Don Mansager and Family/Friends, Maxine Conrad, Patricia Prince, Terrel Frasure, Donald Appling, Lois McDonald, David and Barbara Creel, David Jones Jr. and Family, Larry Skinner, Charlie Pelton, Tami Lanphere, Robert Dorchester, Dries Van Zyl, Daphne Griffith and Family, Donald Carringer, Clare Kane, Elizabeth Bailey, R.C. Fernald Family/Friends, David Wilson, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers, Elder Yahkara Sunith, Robert and Patricia Potter, Benjamin Francis, Manuel Longoria and Family, Gary and Lanai DuBois, Donnie and Roland Miller, Al Pagano, Anthony Golden, Jessie Hoffman, Rachel Rodgers, Serena & Sonya Siangco, John Cole, Cindy Gustke and Family/Friends, Helen and Tim Rose, Glen Jones, Jim Colletti and Family, Cindy Smith, Pamela Woodfork, Carrol Isdell and Family, Loretta Reyes, May Rodgers, Bonnie Merryman, Gerald Bennet and Family, Sandra Gets, Jesus Onate, Shawn Allen, Tiffany Harris, Skip Franchino and Family, Sharon Scott, Clyde Scott, Inez Scott, Genise Holliday, Editha Joseph-Wayland, Paul Oliver, Julias Okumu, Collette Jazaerli, Dirk Coetzee, George Simon, Jim Still, brethren around the world, world leaders, Jerusalem and all the land of Israel.