

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Chag HaMatzot-Unleavened Bread

Numbers 28:17-25

2 Samuel 22:1-51

1 Corinthians 10:1-11:1

Introduction

The portion Chag HaMatzot celebrates the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is a seven-day Festival to Yahweh that begins on the day after Passover. Passover is a one-day Feast day that is set apart to the Lord for the offering up of the sacrificial lambs that are to be used in the Passover Seder. The first and the seventh day of Unleavened Bread are holy convocations to the Lord and are to be treated as Sabbath Days in which no work is to be done. In addition to the weekly Sabbath there are seven additional Sabbath Days that are connected to the various Festivals of the Lord. He defines when these times are and in the two Festivals that are seven-day festivals to Him, Unleavened Bread and Sukkot-Tabernacles, he allows work to be done during the intermediate days except on the seventh day of Unleavened Bread.

Numbers 28:17-25

17 The fifteenth day of this month is a festival; for a seven day period matzos shall be eaten. **18** On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. **19** You shall offer a fire-offering, a burnt-offering to the Lord: two young bulls, one ram, seven male lambs within their first year, unblemished shall they be for you. **20** And their meal-offering: fine flour

mixed with oil; you shall make three tenth-ephah for each bull and two tenth-ephah for the ram. **21** One tenth-ephah shall you make for each lamb of the seven lambs. **22** And one he-goat for a sin-offering, to provide you atonement. **23** Aside from the burnt-offering of the morning that is for the continual burnt-offering shall you make these. **24** Like these shall you make each day of the seven-day period: food, a fire-offering, a satisfying aroma to the Lord; in addition to the continual burnt-offering shall it be made, and its libation. **25** The seventh day shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall not do any laborious work.

Most of us should realize that leaven is a symbol for sin. So, with that in mind, we should understand that Passover and Unleavened Bread are symbolic of the removal of sin in our lives. Yet, while Passover is generally connected to Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Unleavened Bread is a separate seven-day festival to God and it is during the Festival of Unleavened Bread that we partake of matzah – unleavened bread for the seven days of the festival.

I know many people who mistakenly believe that all they are allowed to eat during the festival of Unleavened Bread is matzah and matzah alone. However, this is not the case. You can eat any food that does not contain leaven in it.

Leaven is usually yeast or a yeast product that causes the bread to rise and is added to different foods. So leaven serves a practical purpose and is something, that when we are unable to use it, causes us a little bit of discomfort.

Leaven is used throughout Scripture to teach about sin.

Galatians 5:9 A little chametz/leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little chametz/leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? **7** Clean out the old chametz/leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed. **8** Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old chametz/leaven, nor with the chametz/leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

2219 zu,mh zume {dzoo'-may}

Meaning: leaven, metaph. of inveterate mental and moral corruption, viewed in its tendency to infect others

While leaven can be a good thing because it helps our bread to rise most of the time that it is used in Scripture it is used to teach us about sin.

Passover is when the lambs were slaughtered and prepared for the Passover Seder. While the Biblical tale is one of the freedom of the Israelites from Egypt, its greater meaning, is the freedom of all who place their faith in Yeshua, to be free from their sin. He who became our Passover sacrifice became sin in our stead and was offered up on the altar of the tree.

With the festival of Unleavened Bread we can see this as a time of the fermenting of Yeshua as He lay in the grave waiting for God to call Him forth. Yet we know from Scripture that He did not idly wait in the tomb.

Ephesians 4:9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?)

So what is the practical application of the Festival of Unleavened Bread? Is it possible that this could represent not only the time that Yeshua spent entombed but could it also apply to each and every one of us in that we are instructed to remove the leaven from our lives? Why do we need to remove the leaven from our lives if accepting Yeshua as Messiah cleanses us? Because we have to show that we are doing what we can to cleanse our houses – our bodies – of the leaven/sin in them. By doing this we are preparing for the Festival of Hag HaBikkurim – the Festival of First Fruits or better defined as Hag HaOmer the Festival of the Omer.

2 Samuel 22:1-7, 22-33, 47-51

1 David spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. **2** He said: The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Rescuer. **3** God, my Rock in Whom I take shelter, my Shield, and the Horn of my Salvation, my Stronghold and my Refuge. My Savior, You save me from violence. **4** With praises I call unto the Lord, and I am saved from my enemies. **5** When the

pains of death encircled me and torrents of godless men would frighten me, **6** the pains of the grave surrounded me, the snares of death confronted me - **7** in my distress I would call upon the Lord, and to my God I would call; from His abode He heard my voice, and my cry was in His ears. **22** For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and I have not departed wickedly from my God. **23** For all His judgments are before me; I do not remove myself from His decrees. **24** I have been perfectly innocent with Him, and I was vigilant against my sin. **25** The Lord repaid me in accordance with my righteousness, according to my purity before His eyes. **26** With the devout You deal devoutly. With the one who is strong in his wholeheartedness You act wholeheartedly. **27** With the pure You act purely, with the corrupt You act perversely. **28** You save the humble people, while Your eyes are upon the haughty to lower them. **29** For you are my lamp, Lord; the Lord illuminates my darkness. **30** For with you I smash a troop, with my God I leap over a wall. **31** The God! His way is perfect; the promise of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. **32** For who is God besides the Lord, and who is a Rock besides our God? **33** God! My Fortress of strength; He cleared my way, with perfection.

This is one glorious portion of Scripture! Hallelujah! Passover is the time of preparation for us to be ready to offer ourselves to God. Our road was paved before us by Yeshua, who went before us as the once and for all Passover sacrifice.

He redeemed us as no other could and can ever do. Mashiach means anointed and can apply to several different persons but for the most part it is applied to the Messiah who first came as the Messiah ben Joseph so He could offer Himself up as the wholly acceptable sin offering to God. By doing this He took upon Himself the anger of God that would have meant death eternal for all of us. Now, by His death, sin has been brought into obedience through Yeshua's selfless act. So we can rejoice that we can now eat of the Passover lamb and receive eternal life because of His death. Yeshua's death means freedom for you and for me. Not simple freedom from Egypt but freedom from the death penalty applied to sin now removed by Yeshua.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 9, 13

1 For, brothers, I don't want you to miss the significance of what happened to our fathers. All of them were guided by the pillar of cloud, and they all passed

through the sea, **2** and in connection with the cloud and with the sea they all immersed themselves into Moshe, **3** also they all ate the same food from the Spirit, **4** and they all drank the same drink from the Spirit - for they drank from a Spirit-sent Rock which followed them, and that Rock was the Messiah. **5** Yet with the majority of them God was not pleased, so their bodies were strewn across the desert. **9** And let us not put the Messiah to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by snakes. **13** No temptation has seized you beyond what people normally experience, and God can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. On the contrary, along with the temptation he will also provide the way out, so that you will be able to endure.

Those Israelites who rebelled against God in the Wilderness of Sinai were left to die in the Wilderness. That could also be our fate – to die in the Wilderness condemned to that fate by our sin. Yet, like Caleb and Joshua – Judah and Ephraim – we are raised up and allowed to enter into the Promised Land to receive the promises of the Father made to His Children Israel.

Passover is the time when our fathers came out of Egypt. Unleavened Bread is the time when they wandered in the Wilderness. Hag HaBikkurim – the Festival of First Fruits is when Yeshua arose from the grave and brought life to all of us. This is the time when Israel entered into the Promised Land. Yet Israel struggles and has never really taken the Land as God had instructed them to do.

That is a picture of Israel even now. Israel is fragmented, with many groups going their own way yet in many ways they are all seeking the same goal – the coming of the Messiah! Whether the first time for some of Judah or the second time for most Believers – the Messiah will come and many in Judah and in the nations will look upon Him and weep.

Job 30:17 In the night my bones are pierced, and fall from me, and my sinews take no rest.

Psalms 22:16 For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.

Zechariah 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they

will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Zechariah 13:9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, YHWH is my God."

Revelation 1:7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS [**Daniel 7:13**], and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

Father, we come before You and offer ourselves to You. Please accept our offering and let it be a sweet fragrance, an aroma pleasing to You. We ask this in the Name above all other names, Yeshua HaMashiach. Amen!

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Ardelle Brody [abrody@mchsi.com](posted on Mordecai's website along with his Torah commentary-an excellent woman's perspective)

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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