

## Eat Unleavened Bread

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Feast of Unleavened Bread

Welcome, brethren. Today, we're going to focus on why we eat unleavened bread, and the title of this split sermon is *Eat Unleavened Bread*.

Before we delve into today's topic, a reminder that as God's people, we are to give an offering on the High Days. If you would turn over to Deuteronomy 16:16, a scripture that we're all very familiar with. But over there in **Deuteronomy 16:16—Three seasons a year, all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles. They shall not appear before the Eternal empty-handed.**

And in **verse 17—Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that He has given you.** So, we are not to come before the Lord empty-handed on High Days, and you should have sent in an offering for this season of the year. It's something that we've been given more guidance on as far as how we are doing that physically at this time. Holy Day offerings should be prayed about, thought about, and planned. Definitely, not a last-minute or rushed thing. It's a time to reflect on what that is.

Again, as it says in verse 17, "according to the blessings of the Lord your God that He has given you." So, it's a time to reflect on those things and then give that offering, and definitely not something that should be forgotten or done at the last minute, as it is a commandment from Almighty God. And you don't have to be baptized to give an offering. I grew up in the Church and remember as a young boy putting in an offering at that time and just, you know, part of learning God's way and being taught with my parents. And hopefully, we're taking advantage of that with our children today.

So, now let's look at why we keep the Days of Unleavened Bread and the commandment given by God to keep these days. So, if you'll all turn over to **Leviticus 23:6—On the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread unto the Eternal. You must eat unleavened bread for seven days. In the first day, you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work in it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Eternal seven days. And the seventh day is a holy convocation, and you should do no customary work in it.**

And if you would turn over to Exodus 12:14 with me, this is the account of God telling Moses and Aaron how He will lead His people out of Egypt and how it is to be remembered.

**Exodus 12:14—This day shall be for you a memorial day; and you shall keep it as a Feast to the Lord throughout your generations, as a statute forever. You shall keep it as a Feast. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day, you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone**

**eats what is leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. On the first day, you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly.**

So, I don't know about you, but for me, growing up in the Church, I can remember the days leading up to Unleavened Bread, all the cleaning that we did on a physical level. Much more physically focused at that time, but I remember, you know, pulling everything out of all the kitchen cabinets and, you know, taking the little vacuum cleaner and going through every single drawer and cupboard and getting all the corners and all the crevice's and trying to suck out any kind of bread crumbs that could have made it into anywhere that, you know, you wouldn't normally find it.

You know, we have a lot more balance now, a lot more spiritual balance in these things. But those physical things were a good representation to show us how easily sin can hide in our minds, in those little, tiny crumbs that, you know, we didn't find. Or, we all have stories of, you know, finding something that seems super obvious when we see it. Like, right in the middle of the Days of Unleavened Bread, you know, you open up your freezer and there's like a pizza, a frozen pizza sitting there. Even though you went through your freezer four times, you never noticed it.

So, it is a good reminder that that is kind of how sin works in our lives, that it can be hidden in plain sight, and it takes God opening our minds to see it, to be able to tackle that and deal with that issue that we have.

Quoting from Chapter 7 of the new book:

“This entire “appointed time” lasts seven days. During this week, one is commanded to eat unleavened bread—bread products without yeast, baking soda, or other leavening agents—each day. No leavening should be in anyone's home during this period, and all must refrain from eating baked leavened products like breads and cakes containing leavening agents. This only concerns breaded products, not other foods or products that might contain leavening agents like yeast used in preservatives. The focus during these days is strictly on the removal of leavened bread products and the eating of unleavened bread.”

So again, it's about breaded products and not about dog food or, you know, or beer. That was a classic example of a couple of things that have leavening agents in them. But they aren't bread. Unless you eat dog food, then get rid of it, but otherwise, your dog can eat what they normally do.

And back over in Exodus, a few pages, if you'll turn over to **Exodus 13:6**, this is where Moses is telling the people of Israel: **Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a Feast to the Lord. Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.** So again, very clearly stated that we are to eat unleavened bread each and every single day during this seven-day period.

And in verse 8, we can see why these days were given to be observed. So, that's **Exodus 13:8—You shall tell your son on that day, It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.** So,

let's take a minute to look at how God led them out of Egypt and what they were to remember and tell their children about.

So, we're going to just drop down to **verse 17—When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt. But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.**

And **verse 21—And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.**

And in dropping further down in **Exodus 14:10—When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them. And they feared greatly, and the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?**

So, good example of just human nature, of not wanting to do what is difficult and just wanting to stay in our own way and stay in the selfishness of mankind.

**Verse 13—And Moses said to the people, Fear not. Stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians who you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.** And how often have we heard that before, to move forward, to follow God and move forward?

**Verse 16—Lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.**

Dropping down to **verse 19—Then the angel of God, who was going before the host of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.**

**Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land. And the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went through the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them, into the midst of the sea. All Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, a clog in their**

chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.

**Verse 26—Then the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. So, Moses stretched out his hand and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained.**

**But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Thus, the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.**

So again, back up in Exodus 13:8, which we just read a second ago: **Exodus 13:8—You shall tell your son on that day, It was because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.** And for Israel, what He did for them was quite a sight to behold. Obviously, we all can try to imagine what that would have been like to witness those things, but it's very difficult to do. But you can imagine the excitement over time to be able to tell that story and try to give that experience to your children that you had.

And even though for Israel it was a physical remembrance of a physical event, what did the Lord do for you when He brought you out of Egypt? Tell your son, tell your children why, why you keep God's Holy Days, you know, why you remember what the Lord did for you when He brought you out of spiritual Egypt. It's more than just teaching our children. We should be inspiring them with our story, with our journey, you know, the journey that we've all been through and why it excites us and why we're here today.

So, verse 8 again: "You shall tell your children on that day, It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt." And we all know this physical story that we just touched on, but remember how God brought you out of spiritual Egypt, the Red Sea moments you've experienced, and the trust and the faith that you've placed in God.

The Israelites remembered what God did for them, and they kept that observance all the way until the time of Christ. They observed it, and they taught their children the meaning of these days, and what God had done for the physically.

And we've covered God giving them this commandment to keep these days, and now let's take a quick look at the fact that they continued to observe that and remember that up until the time of Christ and

the early Church. It's not "nailed to the cross" as traditional Christianity believes after Christ's death and resurrection.

So, if you turn over to Luke 2:41, this is speaking about Christ's physical family. **Luke 2:41—Now, his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.** So, here is Christ as a boy going to Jerusalem with His family to keep the spring Holy Days, as was the custom. So, it's showing that this commandment from God to keep these days of Unleavened Bread continued to be observed.

And we can see Christ preparing for this time before being put to death a little bit later in Luke 22. So, **Luke 22:1—Now, the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near...** And dropping down to **verse 7—Then came the days of Unleavened Bread.** So, keeping the days of Unleavened Bread had continued from God leading the Israelites out of Egypt and giving them that commandment up until the time of Christ. And as it was stated, it was the custom. It wasn't something people thought too much about doing; it was just what was done. No different than most of us, you know, wake up on Monday and go to work. We don't have to write ourselves a reminder that we go to work on Monday, although most of us will have to set an alarm to make sure we get there on time.

But it was no different for the disciples in the early Church. They knew these teachings. It was their custom from childhood to keep these days, and particularly these days of Unleavened Bread that we're in now.

And if you would turn over to **Acts 12:2—He**, speaking of king Herod, **killed James, the brother of John, with the sword. And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.** So again, showing that the disciples in the early Church were keeping God's Holy Days.

And not long ago, we had a series that covered the travels of Paul. You don't have to turn there, but in Acts 20:6, again, it shows that the early Church didn't lose what had been taught but kept the Holy Days. **Acts 20:6—but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread.**

So, we've touched on God's commandment to keep these days of Unleavened Bread and it being observed by the Ancient Israelites during the time of Christ, and by the early Church after Christ's death and resurrection. We all have observed this Holy Day season many times and should have a good understanding of these basic scriptures, but we are to focus on it and remember it for a reason, as God understands our human nature and what happens over time when we don't remember.

Every Holy Day should bring excitement to God's people, to be reminded of and to continue to grow in the understanding of God's plan for His people, for His Family. What more could you want? What more could you ask for than the truth of Almighty God?

So, let's now look at unleavened bread and what it means and why we are to eat it. So, first, a moment to look at what leavening is. So, physically, what does leaven do? It puffs up, it causes to rise. One definition I saw stated that "It permeates and modifies or transforms the molecules or elements around it."

I found that definition very interesting, as that's exactly what sin does to us. Sin permeates the mind of mankind and transforms. It fuels "the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life." And we all know pride puffs up, and, you know, mankind is full of pride. We see it every single day, all around us. Especially if you watch the news or watch TV, you'll see all the puffed-up talking heads on TV.

So, what is unleavened? Unleavened is the exact opposite. It's to be without that which puffs up or causes to rise, to be without pride, without sin. And only one has lived without sin.

If you would turn to John 6:32, and here we'll find Christ speaking. **John 6:32—Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God (unleavened bread, as it's from God and therefore has no sin), is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to him, Sir, give us this bread always. And Joshua said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.**

And jumping over to **1 Corinthians 5:8—Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil (the sin that exists in us), but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.** You know, repentant of our sins and striving to live unleavened.

It should be clear to us why we observe these days and keep the days of Unleavened Bread. We should grasp what leavening is and what it does, what sin does in our lives, and see the spiritual aspects and lessons of these days.

So, let's focus on one last aspect of these days, which is why we are commanded to eat unleavened bread. And we're going to jump back into Exodus real quick—that's going to be Exodus 13—and we're going to look at what God gave to Moses to tell the people.

So again, that's **Exodus 13:3—Then Moses said to the people, Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.** So, it was a physical reminder to remember what God did for Ancient Israel in the journey out of Egypt.

For us, it's a physical reminder of what God has done for us on our spiritual journey out of Egypt, out of sin. So, as we eat unleavened bread for these seven days, we are to remember the day that God called us out of Egypt, out of sin, out of the ways of mankind, the ways that only lead to death. As God used a strong hand to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, He used a strong hand to lead us out of sin, the 2 X

4 to the forehead kind of story that some of us have and some of us have shared to wake us up and allowed us to start to listen and hear God and start to see the truth.

And we all have our own experience of how God called us, some a little more eventful than others. But we are to remember those days and what God did in our lives to lead us to the truth. These seven days remind us of what we are to do every day: eat the spiritual unleavened bread from God through Christ.

And you don't have to turn there, I'll just read it quickly here, but over in John 6:57, we find Christ speaking. **John 6:57—As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread your fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.**

So, in closing, let's turn back to **1 Corinthians 5:6—Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

And truth, as we know, only comes from God. So, what is this unleavened bread that we are to consume? It is the truth of Almighty God that comes through His Son, our High Priest and Passover. So, brethren, purge out the leaven in your life and consume the unleavened bread, the bread of life, every day.