



Message 3-31-18
Pesach and Chag HaMatzah
Exodus 12:21-51
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Introduction

Pesach or Passover is the first of the Spring Moedim or Appointed Times of the Holy One of Israel. It is celebrated by the Jewish people in remembrance of when the Almighty brought His people out of bondage in Egypt. Chag Ha Matzah or the Festival of Unleavened Bread is celebrated by not eating any leavened foods for seven days as commanded by the Lord in the Torah. Leaven is symbolic of sin, and in not partaking of any leavened foods, we learn about the sin or leaven in our lives. The full meaning of Pesach and Chag Ha Matzah is to be found in the death and resurrection of our Messiah Yeshua.

Exodus 12:43-49

43 ADONAI said to Moshe and Aharon, "This is the regulation for the *Pesach* lamb: no foreigner is to eat it. ⁴⁴ But if anyone has a slave he bought for money, when you have circumcised him, he may eat it. ⁴⁵ Neither a traveler nor a hired servant may eat it. ⁴⁶ It is to be eaten in one house. You are not to take any of the meat outside the house, and you are not to break any of its bones. ⁴⁷ The whole community of Isra'el is to keep it. ⁴⁸ If a foreigner staying with you wants to observe ADONAI's *Pesach*, all his males must be circumcised. Then he may take part and observe it; he will be like a citizen of the land. But no uncircumcised person is to eat it. ⁴⁹ The same teaching is to apply equally to the citizen and to the foreigner living among you." (CJB)

With this week's portion, we are off from the regular Torah cycle due to Pesach and Chag Ha Matzah. So, in this week's teaching, we will be touching on both Festivals or Moedim (Appointed Times). They are the first of the Spring Festivals. Many make the mistake of combining both festivals into one, when they are two separate festivals tied together. The other situation that comes up is explaining to someone that Pesach or Passover *is not* a Sabbath day. It is considered the Day of Preparation meaning this is when the Passover lambs were taken to the Tabernacle and later the Temple to be offered up, but not on the altar there. They were killed and taken back to the homes of the people, so they could prepare them for the Seder, which would take place the evening that Passover was ending and Chag Ha Matzah or Unleavened Bread was beginning. The Festival of Unleavened Bread is a seven-day festival where only unleavened food can be eaten, and all leaven is to be removed from the home prior to the festival.

The first and last days of Unleavened Bread are Biblical Sabbath days where we are to do no work. Nothing is said about the intermediate days, just that we are to eat unleavened foods only. In our day, we need to read the labels on the foods because yeast and other leavening agents are used in many foods that you would think why? Does it always represent sin?

Judges 6:21 Then the angel of *ADONAI* reached out with the stick he was holding, touched the meat and *matzot*, and fire shot up out of the rock and burned up the meat and *matzot*. Then the angel of *ADONAI* disappeared before his eyes. (CJB)

Matthew 13:33 He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." (ESV)

In the passage from Judges, we see Gideon offering a goat and matzah, unleavened bread, to an angel of the Lord. Gideon had prepared the food for the angel to eat, but the angel told him to place the food on the rock where the angel touched the food with his stick, and it was all consumed by fire, an offering acceptable to the Holy One. In the second instance, from Matthew 13:33, we read where Yeshua compared the kingdom of heaven like leaven a woman took and hid in the flour. She put in just three measures and the whole of the flour became leavened. Is Yeshua saying the kingdom of heaven where the Holy One resides is full of leaven or sin, or is He talking about the kingdom of heaven that exists here on earth that has been established by Yeshua? He knew that sin would enter His earthly kingdom because man is in a fallen nature and struggles with sin on a constant basis.

When we spend seven days eating only unleavened bread and foods, we are being taught about the kingdom of heaven to come here on the earth that will finally be clean and without leaven or sin in it. Until then, we continue to fight the good fight and do our best to live a sinless life. The reality is the opposite of that. We will sin and veer off course from time to time. So, what do we do to get back on track? We always remember that we are sons and daughters of the Holy One, and through His Son Yeshua, we have received the gift of salvation or redemption. Our sins have been forgiven, even the ones we will fall into on our walk with Messiah. The Creator knew this from before He decided to create us, which is why he has given us throughout the Bible men and women who have struggled to live a life pleasing to their Creator, doing everything they can to live a righteous life even when they make a mistake. A mistake is just that – a mistake. The bigger problem is when you convince yourself that because you ***fell off the wagon***, there is no hope for you. So, you turn away from the source of your salvation, Yeshua, and in doing so, you have embraced the fallen one, Satan. Don't give up on yourself. Don't give up on Messiah. Don't give up on God the Father. He has a plan and has shown it to us, all we need to do is to do our best to walk the road that leads to eternal life, not the one that leads to eternal death.

Joshua 5:10-12

10 While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And the day after

the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. (ESV)

The Children of Israel had finally reached their goal. They were at the border of the Promised Land. They kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of Nissan in the evening. Not the evening of the beginning of Passover when the thirteenth day was ending, and the fourteenth day was beginning. It was the ending of the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth day when the Almighty had commanded that a lamb without spot or blemish be offered up to the Almighty to be consumed by the people gathered together on the plains of Jericho. All the males had been circumcised before they ate of the Passover lamb and the unleavened bread. Once they ate of the produce of the land, there was no longer any manna, but the people ate of the fruit of the Promised Land for that year until they were able to plant their own crops and settle down in the land where they had driven out those nations the Almighty no longer wanted in His land. It was and is His land, no matter what the nations of the earth might believe or claim.

He desires His people to be without spot or blemish, and unless you believe in the Messiah Yeshua and walk in His teachings, which we find in the Torah, how do you think you are to live your life? What teachings do you follow? The teachings of men instead of the teachings of our Messiah? This will open us up to allowing the leaven from this world into our lives and to spoil the whole loaf. Desire to walk a leaven-free life in the sense of doing your best to stay away from sin. It is the only way to live and reach the end of the road to be with Messiah Yeshua forever.

Yochanan 19:31-37

31 Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the stakes on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; ³³ but coming to Yeshua, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN." [Psa. 34:30] ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED." [Zec. 12:10] (Joh 19:31 NAU)

Exodus 12:46 It is to be eaten in one house. You are not to take any of the **meat** outside the house, and **you are not to break any of its bones.** (CJB)

Exodus 12:46 lines up with **Psalms 34:30** even though one deals with the flesh or the animal to be eaten on Passover and the other with the Messiah being compared to the flesh.

Psalm 34:20 He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken. (NKJ)

<01320> בָּשָׂר *basar* (142b)

Meaning: *flesh*

Origin: from 1319

Usage: anyone*(1), bodies (2), body (39), fatter*(1), flesh (176), gaunt*(3), lustful*(1), man (1), mankind (3), mankind*(1), meat (34), men (1), person (1).

The Hebrew word for flesh is **basar**, and **basar** is the word that is used for the gospel or good news, meaning the Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua offered Himself up as a sacrifice, His flesh to be nailed to the tree where He would die and bring redemption for mankind from its sins. Three days later, on Chag HaBikkurim, the Festival of First Fruits, He would rise from the dead by the power of His Father to fulfill the Spring Festivals of Pesach, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits.

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. (NAU)

This is the second coming of the Messiah Yeshua. He will return as the Messiah ben David, the King! He came the first time as the Messiah ben Joseph, the Suffering Servant, mirroring Joseph the son of Jacob who had been sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, cast into prison, and through the gift God gave him to be able to interpret dreams, he was freed from prison and placed at the right hand of Pharaoh. This is a picture of the relationship between Son of God, Yeshua, and the Father. Yeshua suffers because His Father asked Him to, and for His faith in His Father, He was raised from the dead to be at the right hand of His Father waiting for the day when His Father sends Him back to the earth for the time of final redemption.

This is more than just Passover, Unleavened Bread, or First Fruits. This is Shavuot, Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. In the end, it is capped off with the Shabbat forever with the Godhead. Amen! So be it!

I will close with this: **Torah man says: "The branch that bears the most fruit hangs the lowest."**

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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