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## Lesson 14 – The Feast of Unleavened Bread

- 1) When did God say the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin?

**Numbers 28:16,17** And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the \_\_\_\_\_: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread began with the fifteenth day of the month Abib and continued seven days. Unleavened bread was eaten with the Passover lamb; but the Feast of Unleavened Bread followed the Passover, although at times the term **“Feast of Unleavened Bread”** also included the Passover. Many offerings were offered upon each one of the seven days and among them seven lambs. The first and last days of the feast were kept as ceremonial sabbaths, but the first one of these sabbaths was reckoned the more important, being spoken of as *THE* Sabbath, not *A* sabbath. **Exodus 23:11** *And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.*

The whole Jewish calendar is a compacted prophecy of the Gospel, and every service commanded by God in the Jewish calendar was either a shadow of the service of our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary or of the service enjoined upon the earthly congregation for whom he is officiating. Therefore, there was a special significance attached to the fact that for centuries the day following the Passover was kept as a Sabbath.

- 2) What did John call the Sabbath when Jesus was laying down His life for fallen humanity?

**John 19:31** The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an \_\_\_\_\_ day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

The beloved disciple John said, **“That Sabbath was a high day,”** which term was used whenever the ceremonial annual sabbath came upon the weekly Sabbath of the Lord.

- 3) What did Jesus cry out on while He was on the cross?

**John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is \_\_\_\_\_: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.



As the westering sun was heralding to the world the approach of the holy Sabbath of the Lord, from the cross on Calvary the Son of God proclaimed the work of redemption finished. That work was to affect the entire creation, and although wicked men understood not the meaning of those mystic words, "**It is finished,**" all nature responded, and, as it were, leaped for joy; even the solid rocks were rent asunder. God designed that this stupendous event should be recognized by humanity, and as those living and even gazing upon the scene were unconscious of its significance, sleeping saints were awakened from their graves to proclaim the glad news.

For four thousand years the Sabbath had been observed as a memorial of creation; but after the Saviour died upon the cross it was doubly blessed, being a memorial of redemption as well as of creation.

4) What were those who partook of the Feast not allowed to do?

**Deuteronomy 16:3** Thou shalt eat no \_\_\_\_\_ bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

Just as with the weekly Sabbath, the day before any "**High Sabbath**" is a "**preparation day.**" This means that the 13<sup>th</sup>, is also the "**preparation day**" for the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup>, which is a Sabbath so that no work is done on that day. Seven days of special observance are kept in this festival period, the spiritual preparation of which starts at the New Year. On the 13<sup>th</sup> the yeast or leavening agents were removed from the house.

5) What did Jesus say to His disciples about leavening?

**Mark 8:15** And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the leaven of \_\_\_\_\_.

6) What did Paul say about leavening?

**Galatians 5:9** A little leaven leaveneth the whole \_\_\_\_\_.

Keep in mind when this was instituted God's people were slaves in Egypt and He was about to deliver them in a marvelous way. They were to begin a new life in freedom and God wanted them to start over without the things of Egypt to bring them back to where they were. Jesus says that when we are freed, we are free indeed. We don't need the leaven of the old life to ruin what God has made for us. New lives, new beginnings, a new creation if you will.



***The second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the offering of first-fruits. This was a very important service and will be dwelt upon separately from the rest of the feast in a future lesson.***

During the seven days following the Passover, the people ate unleavened bread. Seven, denoting a complete number, was a fitting type of the life that should be lived by the one who claims Christ as his Passover, and has the blessed assurance that his sins are covered by the blood of the Saviour. Leaven is a type of “malice and wickedness”; unleavened bread represents “sincerity and truth.” He whose past sins are hidden, and who realizes what it is to have the condemnation of his old life lifted from him, enters into a new life, and should not return to his life of sin, but live in all “sincerity and truth.” All this was symbolized by the seven days Feast of Unleavened Bread, following the Passover.

7) What did Paul tell the Corinthian believers?

**1Corinthians 5:7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are \_\_\_\_\_ . For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

**1Corinthians 5:8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a time to begin the new year, a chance to purge out the old and make things new. It was one of the required feasts where the men were to present themselves before the Lord at His chosen place. It was a time to celebrate God's deliverance from Egypt (slavery and sin) and their new life. It is also yet another reminder of God's Sabbath being for creation and redemption and a reminder to spend time with Him.

We often remember that Jesus was our Passover Lamb, but keep in mind that Jerusalem was full of visitors at the time He went to Calvary. They were following the command to present themselves before the Lord. God's faithful were allowed to witness their redemption. The same will be true in the end. God's faithful will be allowed to witness Him coming in the clouds of Glory.

The Christian's only hope is to hold fast to Christ and His redemptive work. By Him and through Him all who wish will be saved.

***Can you see how sin invades our life like leavening in bread? \_\_\_\_\_***

***Are you interested in having a new beginning? \_\_\_\_\_***

***Will you now ask Him now to help you purge the leaven from your life? \_\_\_\_\_***