

Chag Matzah - Feast of Unleavened Bread

April 13th - 19th 2006

"... For seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste-so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt" (Deuteronomy 16:3, NIV). What instruction did Paul give Believers in regard to this festival? "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8). Paul did not treat these festivals as outdated Jewish traditions. He considered them essential observances for God's called and chosen people in all ages and cultures. He understood their relationship to Christ's role in God's master plan. Paul commanded the Corinthian Believers-mostly gentiles (non-Israelites)-to keep the "Feast of Unleavened Bread". His instructions show that Believers from non-Jewish communities and cultures kept the Days of Unleavened Bread. Setting an example for all Believers today, these Jews and non-Jews observed these days in accordance with God's laws.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, the second of God's annual festivals, represents the second step in God's plan for our redemption. Its main focus is on Christ as our Deliverer, our Savior. Therefore it is a festival for all Believers in the Messiah. That is why Paul compares a Believer's deliverance from sin through the sacrifice and assistance of Christ to Israel's deliverance from the Egyptian army at the Red Sea (which probably occurred on the final day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread). One purpose for the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to remind us that, after we accept Christ's sacrifice, we must allow God's Spirit to help us grow up into Christ spiritually (Ephesians 4:15; compare Galatians 2:20). Leavened bread represents the wrong motives (malice)

and sin (wickedness) that may still reside in our thinking. Unleavened bread represents having our hearts filled with sincere motives-an eagerness to apply the pure truth revealed in God's Word.

Join us for a time of fasting and reflection as we feast on the "Living Bread" of Y'Shua Messiah.

During this time we begin our journey toward the 50 days of fasting and prayer as we awaiting the promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as they did in the upper room on the days of *Shavout* [Pentecost].

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