

Two Lessons About Unleavened Bread

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Two Lessons About Unleavened Bread.” I want to share some of my comments in this article.

Old Testament lesson

Notice that the Old Testament lesson involves “leaving in haste.”

Exodus 12:11—“And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover.”

Exodus 12:34—“So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.”

Exodus 12:39—“And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.”

Deuteronomy 16:3—“You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.”

Mentioned in New Testament

Toward the end of this article, you will notice that the New Testament lesson involves proper behavior—symbolized by “sincerity and truth.”

But before we get there, let’s notice that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is mentioned in the Gospel writings.

Matthew 26:17—“Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, ‘Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?’ ”

Mark 14:1—“After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.”

Mark 14:12—“Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb . . .”

Luke 22:1—“Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.”

Luke 22:7—“Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.”

Leaven spreads

Notice a characteristic of leaven.

- Leaven spreads (1 Corinthians 5:6 and Galatians 5:9).
- Sin is described as leaven that spreads (Matthew 16:6-12, Mark 8:15 and Luke 12:1).
- The Kingdom of God is described as leaven that spreads (Matthew 13:33 and Luke 13:21).

Christ our Passover

Mark 15:34, 38-39—“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice . . . Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, ‘Truly this Man was the Son of God!’ ”

1 Corinthians 5:7—“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

Reaction to God's grace

1 Corinthians 5:8—“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.”