The Precious New Covenant Passover It's all about Yeshua/Jesus.



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: How precious and awesome is the Passover season to you? In this talk, we compare New Testament and Old Testament Passovers, and deeply appreciating God's love as shown by Passover. How much does God love you? Do you see the Passover as something personal for you? What Yeshua said we should focus on in our Passovers...and more.

We'll soon be meeting together in small groups to take the Passover unleavened bread and small vial of red wine after we have washed each other's feet. I want to go in detail into the New Testament Passover. <u>You may hear some things today, from the Bible, which might cause you to ponder and think</u>, as some of this could be different from what you're used to hearing. Especially now that more and more people are keeping Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread – including more evangelical Christians and others.

At the original Passover in Exodus 12:23, God would protect homes from the Destroyer angel, who would kill all the firstborn males who were in houses not marked by one thing: the blood of the lamb. It was MALES, because Ex 13 goes on to talk about redeeming firstborn *males*.

But Israelites were safe if they had killed their lamb and used hyssop branches to splash the lamb's blood on their door posts and lintel (top of the door). Here's what YHVH said about that:

Exodus 12:12-13

'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am YHVH.

13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the BLOOD, I will PASS OVER you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."

The blood was an "ot" – a sign, a mark, a miracle, something grand from God. It often points to great miracles, or something marked out as special to God.

Passover allows God's plan of salvation to start and go forward. Without Passover done perfectly by Yeshua, there is no "rest of the story."

Also note that they were to take "A lamb" (Ex. 12:3) but then progress to seeing that lamb as "YOUR lamb" (verse 5). Personalize it. They were to keep it until the 14^{th} of Abib and then kill it "between the evenings". God killed The Lamb of God, HIS lamb, at exactly 3 pm on Passover day, which matched the Pharisees' understanding of "between the evenings. They had 2 "evenings" — the first was 12-3 pm, then 3 to sundown. Between the evenings was 3 pm, exactly when God had Yeshua be sacrificed for us — 3 pm on Passover Day. God would not be wrong. God was not wrong.

As we come to our Passover services in 2022 or whenever you hear /read this —may he see US under the precious blood of our Savior, because Romans 3 says that when that happens, he passed over our former sins. All of this was to demonstrate GOD'S perfect righteousness that we must have FAITH IN, through Christ. NOT OUR OWN righteousness, but God's. In Exodus 12, God was not looking for the Israelites' goodness, or good marriage, or perfect law keeping; he was looking to see if there was BLOOD of the LAMB at the DOOR of each house. The lamb's blood prophetically looked forward to Yeshua.

Yeshua also said, "I am the DOOR." And his arms and head were covered with blood. At Pesach — Passover — we come to him and under his protection by his body and his blood. We must be in AWE of this service; in awe as we partake of the unleavened bread and of his cup after we have <u>carefully examined</u> <u>ourselves</u> and realize — "boy, do I ever need my Savior." God wants to see our faith is in HIM, not faith in our own performance.

Romans 3:21-26 ESV

"But now *the righteousness of GOD* has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the

righteousness of GOD <u>through *faith in Jesus Christ*</u> for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are justified by his grace as a GIFT, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show <u>God's</u> righteousness, because in his divine forbearance <u>he had passed over</u> former sins.

26 It <u>was to show HIS righteousness</u> at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the <u>one who has FAITH IN Jesus."</u>

So we praise our King and Savior, we praise our heavenly Father, as we prepare for a moving Passover this year. (Short opening prayer)

- How is the Passover of the New Testament/new covenant different from the Old Testament Passover? *
- How important is the New Testament Passover? How do we prepare for it?
- WHY is the Passover called part of the days of Unleavened Bread in the gospels and elsewhere? I'll cover that in a BLOG soon. I'll assign you to please note <u>Acts 12:3-5</u>; <u>Luke 22:1</u>; <u>Ezek 45:21</u> in preparation though.
- DO we even have to keep Passover and God's holydays in the New Covenant? As you'll see, Paul did and Paul taught Passover and Unleavened Bread to the Gentile Corinthians, for example.
- Is our Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread the same as in the Old Testament?
 - Let me tackle PART of that right now. <u>NO, we are not trying to replicate the Old Testament Passover</u>. We do not sacrifice a lamb. Yeshua is our Passover Lamb as 1 Cor. 5:7 says. We do not eat it standing up with sandals on our feet and staff in hand. Yeshua took sandals *off* and washed feet. They reclined at Passover in Yeshua's time. We do not splash lamb's blood on our door posts and lintels. Christ's sacrifice is done, one time, for all time.

Actually the New Testament Passover is so vital, **that we must PREPARE ourselves for the bread and wine service**. We shouldn't just show up or rush in at the last minute to the service. Much more on that later.

My first memories of Passover go back to watching my mom explain the bread and wine to us. I was about 6-7 years old.

Then, after I was immersed/baptized in water at age 18, I participated in my first foot washing and bread/wine service with other baptized members. But looking back, I was too concerned over how to do it all and I was distracted. But my appreciation and understanding for Passover has grown over the years.

As I record this in April 2022, we are in the first month of God's calendar — ABIB/Nisan. YHVH actually changed "new year" from the Fall to spring as He brought them out of Egypt. When we leave our Egypt — this present evil world — we also have a new year, a new beginning by faith in Yeshua. The new year will vary from year to year when compared to the Gregorian calendar. It's usually in March or April in God's calendar. Also, **God's new moons** is not the dark of the moon, but the first visible sliver of light of the moon.

Exodus 12:1-2

Now YHVH spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "*This* month shall be your **beginning of months**; **it shall be the first month** of the year to you."

The holydays, the weekly sabbath and festivals of God *are appointments* with God, and he expects us to show up, ready and prepared. Be sure you don't "no show" God! God's feast days are like having a holy "DATE" with our husband-to-be Yeshua/Jesus. *It's a divine APPOINTMENT* — and in Hebrew the word for "feast" is "moed."

Leviticus 23 lists these weekly and annual sabbaths or holydays and calls them "the FEASTS of YHVH" — not feasts of the Jews or Israel. They're "moed."

Leviticus 23:1-2

And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of YHVH, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are MY feasts."

"Feasts" = moed – divine appointments again.

Holy convocations – times we get together. Hebrew for convocations is "**miqra**" – a public meeting and reading, a rehearsal.

Gentiles were allowed to participate if they had made a commitment to the one true God and took the sign of that — circumcision. Today we are circumcised in our heart, not "down there" (Romans 2:28-29; Gal. 5:2-4).

As we prepare for Passover season, on your knees, speak your heart to our Father about how you feel **so humbled** that somehow our heavenly Father, God MOST High, personally selected you to come into his presence and be one of his "first fruit" children! Praise him and feel a sense of awe in your heart.

Like the early Israelites coming out of Pharaoh's slavery, we also are now freed slaves from Satan's grasp. We are called to be PILGRIMS, SOJOURNERS — we're not a PART of this world's system (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11-12). We should be like foreigners in this life, in this world.

We're commanded -- "COME OUT of her, my people" Revelation 18:4.

So we **don't watch the Oscars or Emmys or Grammy's.** We won't watch any movie that uses profanity and F words. That means we watch few movies.

WHY should we bring F words into our HOME and to our EARS — when it's our choice whether we do it or not? Your home is your castle. Keep Satan OUT. We don't watch any demonic movies like ANY Harry Potter with its witchcraft, sorcery, and demons.

Getting the point? "COME OUT of her, my people" in Rev 18:4: That very phrase implies having extremely intimate relations with this Babylon – "come out of her, my people". "Quit fornicating with the world!," God is saying.

- So as you examine yourself, also examine how much you are still in the world, in Babylon. Do you like this world's priorities of wealth, of what "fun" is, and what your goals are supposed to be? Evaluate all that.
- Recommit yourself to be a SEEKER after God, to be preparing to be the BRIDE of Christ.
 - Ask yourself if you are Laodicean. Lukewarm? Are you zealous for God? Do you find it hard to pray and so skip days? Perhaps you're not very zealous for God but think you're OK? You think you're blessed, so therefore God must be happy with you?
 - ASK yourself if you would DIE for Christ. We have to carry our cross daily. He died for me and you, surely God has to be sure we would die for Christ's name too. In the coming years, He'll test many of us on that point.

Passover is very New Testament

Are you ready for the kind of Passover we are called to have in the New Testament?

It's very clear that Apostle Paul taught even the Gentiles to keep Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread to the Gentiles. We use his teachings to the gentiles to this day as our guide. We'll get to that shortly, but first, notice that Yeshua kept the Passover too. It was at Passover when he was 12 and was separated from his mom and family (<u>Luke 2:41-50</u>). Yeshua's first big miracle of changing water to red wine was in Cana, which was also just before the Passover, and Yeshua was thinking about his mission. "My hour has not come" — <u>John 2:4</u>.

Jesus/Yeshua had them fill up 6 water pots used for purification with water. All that water he turned into best quality red wine, picturing his blood for our purification indeed. He provided a lot, as wedding parties went on for many days.

John 2:13-22 tells us the Cana miracle in the north, happened just before Passover, so from there went to Jerusalem. Passover is one of three annual "PILGRIM festivals," with Pentecost (Shavuot) and Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) being the other two. This means at least all the men were expected to be worshipping in Jerusalem, though it was not uncommon for entire families to make the journey — like Yeshua's own family did.

This was just before Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread and so what Did Yeshua do? He cleansed <u>his father's house</u> – the temple! That was a form of spiritual deleavening, as he threw out sin and sinful behavior. He drove out the cheating money changers and sellers of doves and animal merchandise.

The SECOND PASSOVER

Passover is SO important that God made sure everyone could keep it, if they had to miss it the first time (on a trip, were ill, etc.). So in Numbers 9 God said if you miss the first chance, do it for sure in the 2^{nd} month. We can't just nonchalantly choose to skip the first one. You were guilty if you had that attitude.

Numbers 9:9-14

Then YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is

far away on a journey, **he may still keep the Lord's Passover. 11 On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it.** They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 12 They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it.

13 But the man who is clean and is not on a journey, and ceases to keep the Passover, that same person shall be cut off from among his people, because he did not bring the offering of the Lord at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin.

14 'And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep the Lord's Passover, he must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land.'"

Jesus' LAST PASSOVER MEAL or "Last Supper"

Next, let's look at the Passover kept by Yeshua with his disciples: HE definitely called it "the Passover" – though he kept that one on <u>the eve of</u> <u>the 14th</u> of Abib/Nisan.

Most prefer to call it "The Lord's Supper" – as Paul alluded to once but Yeshua never did. At this one he also introduced the emblems of Footwashing and the bread and wine. I keep the footwashing and bread and wine on the EVE of 14th of Abib because that's when Yeshua/Jesus did. And now notice how He called that meal "the Passover," though it was one night earlier than the rest of the Jews did.

Matthew 26:17-19

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?"

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover at your house** with My disciples."'"

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and **they prepared the Passover**.

Mark 14:12-16 and Luke 22 both say almost exactly the same thing, except they give more detail about the Upper Room in the house, and more about a man carrying a pitcher of water, who would lead them to the owner of the house they were to use. But notice what Yeshua called this dinner. He does not call it "my last supper" — but "Passover."

Luke 22:7-13

Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread when the Passover must be killed.

8 And He sent **Peter and John**, saying, "Go **and prepare the Passover** for us, that we may eat."

9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"

10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. 11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" 12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."

13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, **and they prepared the Passover.**

"Preparing the Passover" meant to select the lamb, kill it, roast it in its entirety, and then by the time they'd eat it, it was clearly into the evening now.

But clearly, Yeshua called what they ate -- "the Passover." I mention this because there are a lot of speakers trying to show he did not eat that meal as his Passover. But scripture says Yeshua called what they did and ate — "the Passover." *So we do the footwashing, bread and wine just as He did, on the eve of the 14th of Abib.*

Now let's jump ahead to what Paul says about being ready for Passover.

TAKE PASSOVER IN WORTHY MANNER

I find most people seem more interested in the details and questions they have – but we need to focus us on what <u>Paul said: take this Passover in a worthy manner, and not carelessly – or you will be under God's judgment</u>. That is one big reason that the Passover service can be witnessed by children but should not be partaken by children.

<u>1 Corinthians 11:23-26</u>

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "**Take, eat;** this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of ME."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "**THIS cup is the new covenant in My blood.** This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance **of Me**."

26 For <u>as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup</u>, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in <u>an unworthy manner will be guilty</u> of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine HIMSELF, and SO LET HIM EAT of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 <u>For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself</u>, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 <u>For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep</u>.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."

Let's look at several items here:

** "Do this in REMEMBRANCE OF ME" 1 Cor. 11:24-25 -- not the Ex 12 lambs and coming out of Egypt anymore, but to whom all those lambs pointed to: Yeshua the Messiah's sacrifice and death for us.

Sure, you can discuss the Exodus out of Egypt, thru the Red Sea, etc. – but be SURE most of your time is spent on talking about Yeshua our Lord and coming out of this world, out of sin, crossing over into God's way -- all made possible because of Yeshua!

** 11:24 -- "This bread is My body which is broken <u>for YOU</u>." Take this Passover as a relationship, that Christ died for YOU. Sure, he died for everyone, but take it personally. Feel and accept God's love for YOU, for you specifically, more this year. I don't know if we feel or even recognize that we've all come out of enslavement to sin and Satan though.

Exodus 13:8

"And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what YHVH *did for ME* when I came up from Egypt.'

Galatians 2:20-21

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live <u>by faith</u> in the Son of God, <u>who loved ME</u> and gave Himself <u>for ME</u>. 21 I do

not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Note that our righteousness that God approves of, is not just from our own efforts — but by faith in Christ. Christ in us will live righteously if we follow his lead through the Holy Spirit; If we stay focused on him and abide in him.

** 11:25 MY CUP -- "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

We are to eat of his flesh and drink of his blood, or we have no life in us. That's how important this is.

John 6:53-54

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, <u>unless</u> <u>you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you</u>. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood HAS eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Let's discuss **the CUP vs. just the contents of the cup**. "Drinking from the cup" meant a total commitment and included of course the contents of the cup. It meant accepting whatever would be in store for me and you. A marriage proposal really.

When James and John asked that they sit at Yeshua's right and left hand, he asked them if they were able to drink of his cup (**Mark 10:36-40**).

Let's get a high overview of drinking the cup and taking of the blood of the Lamb over us. Please take the time to look up and read the scriptures I'm about to use. For time's sake, I have to just point them out.

THEN we take a sip of Red Wine.

Yes, this is correctly red fermented wine, not just grape juice. I will write up a new blog on that in detail soon.

The bread and wine picture both the horror and the JOY of Passover, the Severity and Goodness of God (Romans 11:22).

The Fruit of the Vine pictured his BLOOD. We drink of the fruit of the vine to remember:

• Life is in the blood and makes atonement for our souls (Leviticus 17:11)

The blood pictures his life that he gave for us. It shows us the intense LOVE Christ has for us, to be willing to die for us even while

we were enemies and sinners. It also shows the deep love that God has for us, that he'd give up his only son to torture and death to be able to restore his relationship with the rest of us.

- Passover cup is not just a ritual but <u>the new covenant in his blood</u>, Jesus said (1 Cor. 11:25; Luke 22:20). Ponder that carefully. Please read the scriptures I point to prayerfully.
- <u>His shed blood pays our own death penalty that we incurred due to our sins</u>. He pays it for us. **Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.** "Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission." Hebrews 9:22.
- That shed blood for us now redeems us. 1 Peter 1:18-19; Eph 1:7-8.
- His blood takes away the wrath of God we incurred by our sins. God's wrath is assuaged by Jesus' sacrifice for us Romans 5:9.
 I suggest we all read and re-read this passage before Passover and all the rest about Christ's blood.

Romans 5:6-11

- 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.
- 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in **that while we were still sinners**, **Christ died for us**.
- 9 Much more then, having now **been justified** (declared righteous) by His blood, we shall be <u>saved from wrath through Him</u>. 10 For if when we were enemies we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we **shall be saved by His life**. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **now received the reconciliation**.
- His blood washes away our sins that made us so filthy. <u>1 John 1:7-8.</u> Every single sin is now gone and washed away no matter how filthy it was. There is no sin so deep that God's grace ever deeper can't cover. It can! It will if we seek him in faith.
- His blood makes PEACE with God Colossians 1:20
- His shed blood -- his one offering has perfected forever those who are being sanctified (Heb. 10:14)
- His blood **reconciles** us and best of all, allows us to have an awesome relationship with our Father in heaven and with our Savior. Rom 5:9-10

- We now, by the blood of Jesus, "have boldness to enter the Holiest" place in the universe. Heb. 10:19-20
- His shed blood, his life—shows that God loves US as much as he loves His son Yeshua. Jesus said so. John 17:23. Our Father bought you and me with the blood and life of his Son. That's a lot of love and value placed on you and me.
- His blood brings us into his new covenant Luke 22:20
- We have victory over Satan and sin by the blood. Rev. 12:10-11
- By HIM, his death and resurrection we will be presented holy and perfect.

Colossians 1:21-23

"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, *to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight* — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."

• Remember, in Ex 12, the focus was on God seeing the Blood of the lamb. Not on how good their marriage was, or how kind they were or not, or how righteous they were or not – just: "When I see the blood."

So ponder and pray over all these things before coming to Passover.

** 1 Cor. 11:27 IF WE EAT IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER — we'll be guilty of the blood and body of Christ.

We want to be worthy to take the Passover. That doesn't mean we have to be perfectly righteous before we do. You're Worthy if you examine yourself *and make changes in your life and* realize how much God has done for you; you express gratitude, praise. You're re-committed to cut out whatever falls short of the glory of God in your life.

And if Christ is really our new life, Christ will be living righteously in our lives.

11:28 – **so EXAMINE yourself and then TAKE and EAT** of the bread and **drink** of the cup of wine.

It doesn't say — examine yourself and then DON'T eat. EAT. It's a profoundly serious thing NOT to take the Passover.

1 Cor. 11:29-30 I have a whole sermon on this – "Connection between Passover and healing".

29 "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep."

I recommend you definitely hear that sermon.

"Not discerning the Lord's body." What is "The Lord's body"? It can mean Christ's direct body of course. But it can also mean his body, the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 says the body of Christ is the CHURCH. So does Col 1:18 —"He is the head of the body, the church"

So when we come to Passover, we must come with a forgiving and reconciling heart with all the others in the body of Christ.

We should come to Passover and NTBMO with holy awe. We just might also start seeing more dramatic healings.

The New Testament PASSOVER introduced new emblems

Footwashing -- the whole story is in John 13 if you're not familiar with it. Someone had forgotten to wash feet, and nobody volunteered to do it, as it was seen as a lowly task for the lowest child or servant or even a slave. So Yeshua stepped up and did it.

We wash feet for several reasons:

- To remember we are being called to be bondservants to one another and even to Christ. **We are being called to SERVE ONE another**. The best service comes at the most inopportune times. It's not convenient but someone needs you. A true servant helps his wife clean up after dinner and asks her how he can help her. A true servant even serves the children. The greatest is the one who serves most, Yeshua said.
- **But footwashing is not just about serving**. It also is to remind us that when we wash someone's feet, we are acknowledging to that person that YOU see him/her as already having been cleaned, washed by

Messiah. YOU see that person as clean, no matter what they've done in their past. This point is a HUGE point. It's not just about serving.

The UNLEAVENED BREAD of Passover week

Yeshua said some spectacular things about his life, the bread that pictured him. Do you wish to have eternal life? Listen to this...

John 6:49-51

"Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

John 6:53-58

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, <u>unless</u> <u>you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you</u>. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 THIS is the bread which came down from heaven — not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

Without taking the bread and wine, we have no life in us. John 6:53. We can't skip Passover and expect to be in the first resurrection of saints, unless it was totally impossible.

Clearly partaking of the Bread and wine of Passover is **only for those in covenant relationship with God.** Even in the Old Testament, Gentiles had first to be circumcised and show they were in covenant with YHVH. **So only baptized brethren** who have committed themselves to God through Christ, can partake of bread and wine at Passover. This is NOT for children or unbaptized.

- (NOTE: I include this part in the notes for those who have a question on the bread Jesus ate at the Last Supper/Passover meal.) Some argue that the bread they ate was leavened, since in the Greek it is "artos" which DOES usually mean leavened bread. But artos is also used of Showbread of the temple, which definitely was unleavened. Just as we use the term "bread" to cover all kinds of bread, the Greeks did the same. Also, when Yeshua said this bread they used represented HIS BODY, would Jesus have used LEAVENED bread to represent his sinless self? NO. Since this was called the Passover, there should be no question they used unleavened bread.)
- We eat Unleavened Bread during Passover and daily during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread. It pictures the life of Christ.

 See my recent blog on "Correctly understand Unleavened Bread." Look at a sheet of MATZAH. You'll see stripes baked in, and also see holes and perforations. To us New Testament believers, the stripes picture his scourging which we remember. The holes picture his crucifixion —+ holes pierced his hands and ankles and then the spear thrust in his side.

(Extra note: Some of you may be new to our site or this concept. God commands us to put leavened products and leavening agents out of our homes from the eve of the 15th of Abib to sundown of the 21st – 7 days – and no leaven is to be found in our homes during that time. So ahead of time, we are to thoroughly deleaven our homes and properties, so we clean out our cars and homes. See Exodus 12:14-50; Lev 23:4-8. The 15th and 21st of Abib, the 1st and 7th days of the days of Unleavened Bread, are holydays. No usual work is to be done on those days except cooking. We meet with other believers on the holydays. God commands a holyday offering during this time period—Deut 16:16-17.)

• Yeshua says HE is the bread from heaven. HE is the manna, the unleavened bread. We must take him IN us each and every day of days of Unleavened Bread. **HE is our life**.

Colossians 3:2-4

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 **For YOU died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God**. 4 *When Christ who is our life appears*, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

Now this might shock some of you until you think it over: <u>Eating unleavened bread does NOT depict US putting leaven out of our lives.</u>
What depicts US is leavened bread that we throw out! That's what Paul calls "the old man," our old self, the leavened products we throw out. <u>God</u> <u>replaces our old sinful self with His new creation</u> (2 Cor. 5:17), pictured by NEW Unleavened BREAD that has never been in our life before.

<u>Unleavened Bread has never been leavened, ever.</u> So how can unleavened bread picture taking out something (leaven) that is not in it? <u>That can only picture Yeshua.</u> It cannot picture you and me as we have been leavened and STILL sin from time to time, even during the days of Unleavened Bread. But Unleavened bread has never been leavened and once baked, cannot ever be leavened. So unleavened bread pictures Jesus! HE said — about the unleavened bread, "This is MY body, broken for you."

So when we eat Unleavened Bread, we are <u>not</u> picturing US trying to get leaven out of our lives. THAT depiction already happens when we throw out the leavening in our homes and then replace it with Christ – pictured by the unleavened bread we eat.

<u>Just as you can't take leaven out of already leavened bread no matter how hard you try, and you can only REPLACE IT by unleavened bread,</u> in the same way the only way to true, complete mature perfection — that we must become perfect as GOD is perfect (Matthew 5:48) — can only happen if God gives us HIS perfection, pictured by new unleavened bread. **Read my blog for more on this**.

https://lightontherock.org/blog/entry/have-we-misunderstood-unleavened-bread.html

God *grants* us HIS perfect righteousness and holiness by FAITH (Romans 5:16-19; 2 Cor. 5:21; Philippians 3:8-11; Romans 5:1)

God CREDITS or IMPUTES his righteousness to us in faith -- please read carefully Romans 4:20-25; Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 9:30-32; 10:1-2.

I for one will definitely choose God's righteousness over mine, any day, all day long. And this is WHY we must take and eat of his life pictured by the unleavened bread.

You all have a wonderful, peaceful Passover week (Ezek 45:21) and come eat of his bread/flesh and drink of his cup — and we do so in AWE of him.

CLOSING prayer.

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