GOD's Total victory of Last day of Unleavened Bread



APRIL 3, 2021
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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: Last Day of Unleavened Bread, Victory, God's righteousness, Exodus, Red Sea, Yam Suph, YHVH word picture, Passover, first-born, Afikomen, Firstborn, see the blood.

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Summary: We know God wins over Satan. Why don't WE more often feel victorious? Whose victory is it – God's, or ours? Understanding the real meaning of this last day of Unleavened Bread. Thrill to the Hebrew word picture behind YHVH. This sermon is full of tidbits you may not have known or heard before.

When I was a child growing up "in the church of God", on the holydays, the minister often began his sermon on God's holydays with "Why are we here today, on this day? What is the meaning of this holyday?" We used to have TWO services each day back then.

I have a lot to cover and will move quickly so I urge you to print out the notes AND listen to the audio. There will be more in the audio.

Today, the last day, the 7th day of Unleavened Bread is one of God's <u>moedim</u> – or divine appointments with him listed in Leviticus 23. Usually "moed" singular — is translated as "feast". But there's another word for these days that does mean "feast" as we think of it — eating and drinking in celebration— and that word in Hebrew is "<u>chag</u>". (like Hag). These days are both a moed — divine appt and a chag — a day of feasting.

So we come together in a divine holy, sacred appointment with our Maker and Savior to adore, worship and praise Him – and we do it in a FEAST of joy and celebration too. We praise you Father. We love you, Yeshua! Thank you for all you've done for us and we'll praise you today over and over!

So welcome to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of this free website. Be sure to let others know about us if you find my messages helpful to you. Here we have blogs, audio-only sermons and sermons that are videos. Please check out our blogs and audio sermons too.

After the last day of Unleavened Bread - we go back to eating leavened bread. But the fact that we have kept it for 7 days - the number of complete perfection - reminds us that in fact we must *strive to remain spiritually unleavened*, living without sinful ways of life, *for the rest of our lives*.

Only Christ is truly, fully, perfectly unleavened, and so is also ultimately the ONLY one who was truly unleavened. Keeping the feast with Unleavened Bread cannot picture us, really – as we all still sin, as Paul said even he did (Rom. 7).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread celebrates <u>God's total victory over Satan</u> and sin through Christ's death and resurrection and perfect life. It also focuses on those God is calling now and how they have been redeemed from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God.

When we eat Unleavened Bread, we are really acknowledging that the ONLY way we are unleavened, is by being in Christ. We are depicting HIS perfect life now being lived in us. The life God now sees is Christ over us. As Paul says in **Colossians 3:3-4** – Paul speaks of "when Christ, our life appears...."

You may wish to read my blog on "Have you Misunderstood Unleavened Bread?" <u>GOD NOW sees Yeshua when he sees YOU</u>, or anyone who has confessed him as their savior and believe he been resurrected and who are now "IN HIM". I recommend you study all the scriptures that mention how we are "in him" or "in Christ" and "in God". It should encourage us.

<u>Romans 10:9-10</u>

"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

So this day of course pictures a new life IN Christ, we are part of HIS body now, and by that way we are unleavened bread. By looking at HIS life. And we invite Christ into our live to live in us.

But let's go back to get a running start of how we got to this day, and I'll "bet" that you'll hear and read some things you may have missed before.

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<u>PRE-PASSOVER</u>, a perfect lamb was offered by each head of Household. God the Father presented his Lamb, Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), slain from the foundation of the world (**Revelation 13:8**). The lamb lived among the family from Abib 10 to the 14th, just as God's Lamb lived among people as well before he was sacrificed for us.

<u>Important point:</u> the one offering the Passover lamb wasn't the one inspected, but the LAMB was. And the lamb was perfect. Pilate said several times: "I find no fault in this man" (Luke 23:4, 14; John 18:38; 19:4, 6). We have so emphasized how we must examine ourselves before Passover, that we forget the truth of history <u>that it was the LAMB that was inspected far more than the people offering it were</u>. (This is a huge point!)

On the 14th Abib, the Passover was killed, and its blood splashed on the door posts and cross beam/lintel above the door place, picturing where God's Son's bloody hands and head would have settled on the cross. God said when He saw the blood, He would PASS OVER that home and spare their first-born son. (Ex. 12:13).

The Bible speaks of "killing the Passover" – meaning the lamb. But the word "lamb" is not even in Ex. 12:21 (it's in italics). Christ our Passover. 1 Cor. 5:7

Psalm 22 is a prophecy of the crucifixion before these were even being done as a means of execution. **Psalm 22:16-18** speaks of piercing his hands and feet, and "I count all my bones... they divide my garments among them and for my clothing they cast lots". Any Jews who are listening – please be sure to read Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 and come to recognize and glory in your much awaited Messiah – who has come. He was of your tribe, Yehudah (Judah).

In fact, when Jewish families do the Seder, they have 3 sheets of Matzah. The middle matzah is called **THE AFIKOMEN**. It is wrapped in linen and hidden, and the children are tasked with finding it. To everyone's great delight, they unwrap it carefully and it's shared with the family. *It's the only GREEK word used in the Seder*. Many Jews have never heard that that middle matzah, called **the Afikomen, means "I came".** Wow think about that! You can learn more when you Google "Afikomen". May God open now the eyes of the children of Judah to recognize their Savior came. His name is Yeshua, Son of God, the Messiah.

Yes, the Son of God has come, and his tomb is empty and he's coming back soon. COME, Lord Jesus, come!

Firstborn – scripture does not specify whether the 10th plague was referring only to males, or male or female. But the fact that firstborn **males** had to be redeemed, and that the first-born MALES were the recipients of the rights of firstborn – leads me to believe it was referring to firstborn males. Study **Exodus 13:11-16**. Clearly the redemption of the firstborn males was tied to the firstborn of Passover. To me it's clear it is referring to firstborn males, especially verses 12 and 15.

So the night prior to his death the next day exactly at 3 pm Passover DAY time, Yeshua had previously <u>had a last supper with his disciples</u>. He washed their feet, to show his mind of service and humility, yes – but also to point us to be like him: washing away the faults (the dirt) we all have in our lives. So we no longer remember or think of one another by the rumors, stories and even truth we know of their past failures and sins. (2 Cor. 5:14-17).

But knowing he would die a brutal and violent death, Yeshua was thinking of washing their – and our – feet! *Praise you, Yeshua! What an example you are! Praise you, we love you, we want you to live like that in us!*

Then he broke bread – picturing HIS body. "This is MY body" "Do this in remembrance of ME". (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:24).

Then he drank of the CUP of red wine — "This is my blood of the New Covenant." Drinking of the cup meant accepting what God has in store for you. He focuses on drinking his cup. The wine pictures everything his blood covers and does. His blood washes away <u>all</u> our sins and keeps doing it (**1 John 1:7**), not just when we first accepted him. It's ongoing tense... "cleanses".

I recommend you listen to my sermon "The Depth and Totality of Christ's Sacrifice." You'll be amazed. <u>Light on the Rock - Depth and Totality of Christ's Sacrifice - by Philip Shields</u>

Then they went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Yeshua prayed 3x that if possible, there was some other way – other than crucifixion – for the world's sins to be atoned. "But not my will (desire), but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

What was his reason for asking that? I'm sure he'd seen many crucifixions. Perhaps he realized – since he inspired it to be the first words of Psalm 22 – this would be the first time he would ever experience separation from his

Father. So – Psalm 22:1, and on the cross: "My GOD, My God, WHY have you forsaken ME?" (Matthew 27:46).

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For He made Him who knew no sin <u>to be sin for us</u>, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

<u>He became SIN of all the world</u> – not just "sin offering" as the Living Bible has it. **Aren't Father and Yeshua so amazing!!!??** No the Greek is simply "SIN", not sin offering. Sin separates us from God (**Isaiah 59:2**). Yeshua knew that was coming but had never experienced that separation as he accepted on himself every sin ever committed by humankind.

Yeshua and God Supreme – our Father – love you so much that they were willing to be separated because of their LOVE FOR YOU!!! Because you are WORTH so much to God, He was willing to violently slay his son – for YOU, for ME! Praise our holy God! In most religions people die for their god. In the true faith, GOD DIES FOR HIS PEOPLE! Praise him! Praise Him!!

The separation was just for a time. At his death, Yeshua commended his spirit to the Father (**Luke 23:46**). His BODY was placed into a tomb. His "soul" was placed in Hades – the realm of the dead, or the grave (**Acts 2:31**) but was not left there to rot. I urge you to study these scriptures – all in my notes.

He was placed in the grave just before sundown at the end of Passover day, just before the start of the Holyday First Day of Unleavened bread, a "HIGH day" – John 19:31. It was a "sabbath" – as God's holy days are also sabbaths but John 19:31 is NOT referring to a weekly sabbath (Saturday).

A Roman soldier had earlier, at 3 pm, pierced his side with his spear, and out came blood and water (**John 19:34**). *God executed HIS lamb, the Lamb of God (John 1:29) precisely at 3 pm on Passover day.* Yeshua had to die by execution, as the wages of sin is death by execution for our sins. It had to be painful, because sin causes pain and destruction. **John 19:34-37; the first day of Unleavened Bread holyday was about to start Luke 23:50-54.**

Yeshua gave one sign that he was the Messiah: that he would **be 3 days and 3 nights in the grave (Matthew 12:40)**. Exactly 72 hours. So he would also have to be resurrected just before sundown 3 days later. By the following morning, early the first day of the week, he <u>was already resurrected</u>, <u>the tomb was already empty BEFORE sunrise</u>, of course, "while it was still dark" (John 20:1), just as the sun began to rise (Matthew 28 and Mark 16).

Next year - or in a blog soon – I'll explain the " 3^{rd} day". There are several scriptures that state he was resurrected the 3^{rd} day. BE watching for it.

Yeshua went to heaven as the Wavesheaf offering – sanctifying the rest of the harvest **(Leviticus 23:10-11)** – **or "to be accepted on your behalf".** I have a couple sermons about the wonderful Wavesheaf Day. Just search it using the home page search bar.

So now the tomb is empty, Yeshua has been accepted on our behalf, and he LIVES!! Because HE -Yeshua lives – you and I will live forever also. Praise his holy name!

The WORD PICTURE OF "YHVH"

By now you know that I preach, and took 3 sermons to carefully prove, that the name YHVH can apply to God the Father (Psalm 110:1) OR, depending on context, to the one we know as the Son of God. One of the clearest examples of this is the very sacred of God – YHVH - - and how it pictured what Yeshua did for us all. Praise him, praise him!!

In Hebrew, each of the 22 letters of their Alephbet (Alphabet) has a word picture, a musical note, and a numerical value. Both the word picture and numerical value just blow me away!

YHVH -- Yod Hey Vav Hey -- word pictures:

Yod – smallest letter – word picture is an elevated hand!

Hey – word picture is LOOK, behold, SEE, looking up.

Vav – word picture is NAIL or tent peg.

His very name YHVH (like Yehovah) means "Hand, see it. Nail, look! See it" – in other words, "Look at my hands and where the nail went in" – as Yeshua said to Thomas!

John 20:25-28

So he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, <u>and look</u> at My hands; [Yod Hey – YAH) and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and MY GOD."

The first time I learned that years ago, I was just amazed. Next year I'll also show the NUMERIC value of that wonderful name YHVH – and the grace for mankind that it shows. It is so inspiring. The word picture and numeric picture cannot be just by accident.

Passover - then the FIRST DAY OF Unleavened Bread

So there was the Passover, the death of the firstborn sons of Egypt. The firstborn sons were the ones with all the schooling and training, the leaders of Egypt –their government leaders, military captains, teachers, and priests – were mostly the first-born sons. Imagine what that did to Egypt, which up til God destroyed them, had been the greatest power on earth at that time.

But Israel had killed the Lambs — and splashed its blood — picturing the firstborn son of God covering them with HIS blood, so when the death angel came by, he passed over those who were under the blood. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" — Exodus 12:13, 23. YHVH himself passed through, and gave permission to the Destroyer to kill those not under the blood (v. 23).

That broke Pharaoh's back, so to speak, when he found his own firstborn son dead. That Pharaoh of course could not have been a firstborn himself. Next year I'll have a full sermon on the meaning of the FIRST day of Unleavened Bread in much more detail.

And then on the eve of the 15th day of the First Hebrew MONTH – they began their journey to leave Egypt, victorious (Numbers 33:3-4). It was night time when they left (**Deut. 16:1**). They were PUSHED out, urged out, so much so, that they didn't have time for their leaven sourdough bread to rise. They left with a "high hand", with boldness, scripture says (Ex. 14:8).

And just like us, just when we decide to follow God and trust him – Satan comes after us again — just like the Egyptians did in the days after Israel left.

But all in all, I want to remind us all again of our Master's words: "**Do this in remembrance of ME**" – **not in remembrance of Ex 12, which POINTED to him.** So the first day of Unleavened bread pictures us being set free from Satan (pictured by Pharaoh) because our God has died for us and his blood washed away all our sins, and all of Satan's claim to us (1 John 1:7)

We were REDEEMED – bought back from Satan's hold – by the Passover, who is Christ (1 Cor. 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

Praise Yeshua AND OUR FATHER. Because of what our God has done, we

- <u>have PASSED from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God</u>. Isn't that wonderfully good news!?
- We have passed from death to life.
- We have passed from being enemies of God to being children of God.
- We have passed from being separated from God to being reconciled by the blood. Paul speaks of us being "brought near" to God now.
- We have had all *the wrath that our sins* have caused to be changed to joyous love that being brought back into God's family does.

For all the details on the above, be sure to watch the sermon— <u>Light on the Rock</u>— <u>Depth and Totality of Christ's Sacrifice - by Philip Shields</u>

That brings us to this 7th and final day of Unleavened Bread, also a holyday.

The LAST DAY OF Unleavened Bread

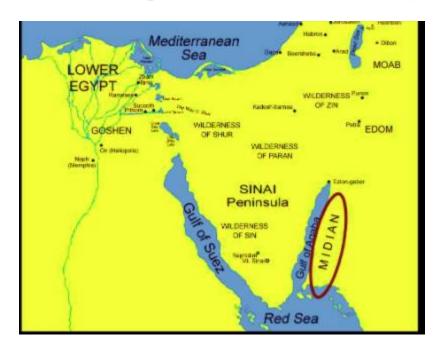
I can't prove it totally, but I believe strongly that Israel crossed the Red Sea on the last day of the Days of Unleavened Bread. And I believe it was the real Red Sea and not the sea of reeds near their departure point as your Bible maps show. In your Bible maps, there is no spot where they show them actually crossing a SEA or ever really leaving Egypt! I believe their crossing was in the Gulf of Aqaba, across from Arabia, from Nuweiba Beach. Whether there's a land bridge there under the waves today or not is irrelevant to me.

They had to somewhere cross The Red Sea into Arabia. You may want to watch this video -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HM7njJuarrg Exodus Revealed. Of course this has to include miracles – acts of God.

• Remember Paul says Mt Sinai in in ARABIA – not in the Egyptian peninsula! Galatians 4:25. Paul may have spent some years in Mt Sinai as well, maybe 3 yrs, being taught perhaps by Christ himself (read Galatians 1:17-18). Paul had a lot to get straightened out from all the man-made oral traditions he had been raised with.

Remember it was **Constantine's mom Helena** who picked out "Mt Sinai" – a mountain that was still in Egypt, has no archaeological finds of a large group ever being at its base, and no cave for Elijah and Moses to be in, as described in scripture.

• And Moses worked with **Jethro**, **priest of MIDIAN** – which was also across the Aqaba in what we call Arabia today. (Exodus 2:14-15; 3:1)



- They had to cross OUT of Egypt **Joshua 24:6** recounts that wording. The traditional Mt Sinai is still in Egypt! And there's no major ocean crossing!
- The Hebrew word for Red Sea Yam Suph. Yam = roar, like ocean. Suph Reeds. So yes, it can be translated Reeds, but notice this use of the same words Yam Suph Red Sea it was where Solomon docked his fleet of ships, at the place we know today as Eilat, at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba. Look it up on a map.

<u>1 Kings 9:26-27</u> "King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath on the shore of **the Red Sea**, in the land of Edom."

Doubters point out it is a good 160 miles from Rameses to the Nuweiba Beach on the eastern edge of Mt Sinai Peninsula to cross over to Arabia. How could 2.5 million people travel that far in just a few days?

Well, it's implied that God gave the Israelites supernatural energy and strength to travel even day and night. **Psalm 105:37** says there was NO ONE feeble among them!

<u>English Standard Version</u> Exodus 13:21 - And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, <u>that they might travel by day and by night</u>.

WHERE they crossed exactly, is described in *Ex. 14:-2 and Num 33:5-9*. I recommend you watch a video (buy it) "The Exodus Revealed". Just google it. Very fascinating.

I believe it was highly likely on this 7th day of Unleavened Bread highly likely, when Israel crossed the Red Sea and watched the victory GOD gave them as God drowned all the Egyptian soldiers, all of them, in the Red Sea.

It was likely also on this day also, that Joshua and some of the Israelite army circled around Jericho seven times and the walls came tumbling down – picturing the prophesied end of this world's kingdoms and the new reign of Yeshua in the 7th millennium since creation.

Jericho – Joshua 5 – Passover, and 1st day of Unleavened bread Josh 6 – the instructions to encircle the city 7 days.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that **all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.**

Exodus 14 (I'll just read hi-lites from this chapter; There will be commentary in the audio that is not in these notes)

Now YHVH spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and **camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon;** you shall camp before <u>it by the sea</u>. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am YHVH." And they did so.

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, <u>and all</u> the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

8 And YHVH hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; **and the children of Israel went out with boldness**. 9 So the Egyptians pursued them, *all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh*, *his horsemen and his army*, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to YHVH. 11 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

- 13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of YHVH, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 YHVH will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."
- 15 And YHVH said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. 16 But lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians shall know that I am YHVH, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."
- 19 And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other **all that night.**

(Notice, unlike the 10 Commandments movie, **the crossing happened at night**, roughly around 2 am or later, v 22,24. Remember Israel had the light of the pillar of fire behind them. The pillar of fire was not just to block the Egyptians but to light the way for the Israelites).

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and YHVH caused the sea to go back by a strong east **wind all that NIGHT**, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and **the waters were a wall to them on their right hand** and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 Now it came to pass in the morning watch (2am to suprise) that

24 Now it came to pass, **in the morning watch (2am to sunrise)**, that YHVH looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. 25 And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for YHVH fights for them against the Egyptians."

26 Then YHVH said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." 27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So YHVH overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 **Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and ALL the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.** 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 **So YHVH saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians**, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which YHVH had done in Egypt; so the people feared YHVH and believed YHVH and His servant Moses.

The victory we have over Satan and his temptations to sin, are not OUR victory, but Yehovah's. Over and over, we're told in the Old and New Testament, that we are victorious in HIM and through Him, not our own works or efforts, though we are created for good works. 1 Cor. 15:57; Eph 2:10

Exodus 15:1-6

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to YHVH, and spoke, saying:

"I will sing to YHVH,
For <u>He</u> has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and its rider

He has thrown into the sea!

2 YHVH is my strength and song,

And He has become my salvation;

He is my God, and I will praise Him;

My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

3 YHVH is a man of war;

YHVH is His name.

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;

His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The depths have covered them;

They sank to the bottom like a stone.

6 "Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power;

Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

Exodus 15:8

"And with the blast of Your nostrils

The waters were gathered together;

The floods stood upright like a heap;

The <u>depths congealed</u> in the heart of the sea".

So God saved them. God saves us also. But like Israel, we need God, we need to admit we need him, and rejoice in him. HE is where we look. We still fail – but now that we are "in Christ", it is HIS life, HIS victory that gives us hope.

Yeshua told us we will have the victory, bear fruit – if we abide in him (**John 15:5**), if we pray often, seek him always, thank him for and in all things.

So we've repented of sin and wanted the old self to be buried. And we did that – we died; the old self died (Col 3:3; Romans 6:3-6).

Though we end the command to eat physical unleavened bread tonight (last day of Unleavened Bread), we must remember that SPIRITUALLY we never stop taking in Jesus Christ, seeking him, making him our source of JOY and peace and VICTORY!

Romans 6:1-14 (some commentary in the audio not in these notes) Holman Bible

"What should we say then? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may multiply? 2 Absolutely not! **How can we who died to sin still live in it?**

3 Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with

<u>Him by baptism</u> into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so **WE TOO [because of Christ's resurrection] may walk in a new way of life**. 5 For if we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

- 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, 7 since a person who has died is freed from sin's claims.
- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. 13 And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.

 14 For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under law but under grace.

So who wins – you? No, GOD wins and GIVES US the victory,

1 Corinthians 15:57

"But thanks be to GOD, who <u>GIVES US</u> the victory THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ."

Whose victory? God's. And he GIVES it to us. Whose righteousness? YOURS? If you've heard by sermons about righteousness, you'll know better than that. We'll never measure up, even with God's spirit, as Paul said he still sinned. Something better...

1 Corinthians 1:29-31

"no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are <u>in Christ</u> Jesus, **who became FOR US wisdom from God** — **and** <u>righteousness</u> and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, **let him glory in the Lord."**

It's a salvation of FAITH in Jesus Christ, in Yeshua.

Romans 10:1-4

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For CHRIST is the end (GOAL) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

God is clear. It is HIS righteousness, gifted to us (**Romans 5:17-19**, read carefully) that will count, by FAITH in Him. So many believers don't believe this though. They want Do-it-yourself salvation and righteousness, and you'll fail every time on that basis (<u>Romans 9:30-32</u>).

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that WE might become the righteousness *OF GOD* in *HIM*".

Jeremiah 23:5-6

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord,

"That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness;

A King shall reign and prosper,

And execute judgment and <u>righteousness in the earth</u>.

6 In His days Judah will be saved,

And Israel will dwell safely;

Now this is His name by which He will be called:

The LORD ("Yehovah") OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS".

And re-read **Romans 3:21-26.** It speaks over and over of the righteousness of GOD available to all who believe. He is demonstrating HIS righteousness (v.25-26) available to all of us who believe and accept it. Paul did not want the best he could do, but the best GOD could do (**Philippians 3:8-11**).

How about you? Will you seek to destroy the elite Egyptian army – or trust God and accept his victory for you?

I'll leave it with that. Christ *gives* us the victory. **Accept it.** HE opened the Red Sea. Israel had to believe enough to walk through the chasm between the standing walls of water. GOD destroyed the pursuing Egyptians after 2 am "morning watch" (Exodus 14:24) by removing their chariot wheels. He drowned them all in the Sea. It was HIS victory gifted for Israel. These stories are there for our example to learn from. Please learn from them.

It's the same for US, though many don't accept it. God creates the victory, and we have to have faith to follow and trust him, no matter how dire it seems. Trust. Faith. Believe in Him. I hope you will study the verses throughout this teaching, especially the last pages, with your own Bible. Believe, and praise.

Be sure you continue taking in the SPIRITUAL unleavened bread of Yeshua – day in and day out, the rest of your life. Seek our Father often. Speak often to Yeshua, asking him to come into your life. Then gain the VICTORY day in and day out, over sin, by *your life hidden in Christ (Col 3:3)*. TO God be the glory!