

## Doctrine of Unleavened Bread

1. The first mention of unleavened bread is in association with the feast served by Lot to the two angels who came to the city of Sodom.
  - *Genesis 19:3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.*
  
2. Unleavened bread was to be eaten with the Passover meal.
  - *Exodus 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*
  
3. During the Passover period, only unleavened bread was to be consumed for seven days.
  - *Exodus 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.*
  
4. The purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was designed to associate in the memory of Israel, for all generations, how the LORD brought the “armies” of Israel out of the land of Egypt. To call the Hebrew slaves of Egypt an “army” is an unusual way of speaking of such people.
  - *Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.*
  
5. Each year, in the first month, the month of Nisan (March / April), beginning on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of that month, the Hebrew people were to eat unleavened bread for seven days.
  - *Exodus 12:18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.*

### ***Special Note.***

Nisan is the first month of the religious Hebrew calendar and the seventh month of the civil year. In the Torah it is called the month of Aviv, referring to the month in which barley was ripe. It is a spring month of 30 days. The setting for part of the book of Esther is in the month of Nisan.

6. Everyone in the Hebrew community, including strangers, was to eat only unleavened bread during this special time period or risk being “cut off”.

- *Exodus 12:20 Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.*
7. The eating of unleavened bread was to be observed in the heart as a feast to the Lord.
- *Exodus 13:6 Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the Lord.*
8. During the seven days of eating the unleavened bread, all leavened bread was to be put away. It could not even be seen in the dwelling place.
- *Exodus 13:7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.*
9. In addition to identifying the Exodus with unleavened bread, the Lord wanted to identify His sufficiency to His people for “one shall appear before me empty”. The basic meaning of the word *aviv* is the stage in the growth of grain when the seeds have reached maturity and are filling with starch, but have not yet dried. While God judged the *aviv* of the Egyptians (Exodus 9:31), He provided for His own when they came forth from Egypt.
- *Exodus 23:15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib [Heb. Aviv]; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty :)*
10. Unleavened bread was used in the consecration ceremony of Aaron to the High Priesthood.
- *Exodus 29:2 And unleavened bread, and cakes unleavened tempered with oil, and wafers unleavened anointed with oil: of wheaten flour shalt thou make them.*
11. Unleavened bread was used in the Wave Offering before the Lord.
- *Exodus 29:23 And one loaf of bread, and one cake of oiled bread, and one wafer out of the basket of the unleavened bread that is before the Lord: 24 And thou shalt put all in the hands of Aaron, and in the hands of his sons; and shalt wave them for a wave offering before the Lord.*
12. Prior to his death, Moses reviewed the importance of properly observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- *Exodus 34:18 The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.*
13. Three times a year the men of Israel were to appear before the Lord in the place of divine choosing. One time was during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- *Deuteronomy 16:16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the Lord empty:*
14. The making of unleavened bread as part of a normal meal was common in Hebrew society.
- *1 Samuel 28:24 And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:*
15. The priests of the high places also ate unleavened bread among their brethren but without any spiritual connotations as with the sons of Aaron.
- *2 Kings 23:9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.*
16. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was honored during the days of the dedication of Solomon's Temple.
- *2 Chronicles 8:13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.*
17. Following a period of apostasy, during days of revival under Hezekiah and Josiah, when Israel indicated her renewed spiritual commitment she observed the solemn feasts, including the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- Under Hezekiah. *2 Chronicles 30:13 And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation.*  
  
*2 Chronicles 30:21 And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the Lord day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the Lord.*
  - Under Josiah. *2 Chronicles 35:17 And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.*
18. Following the Babylonian Captivity, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was observed.
- *Ezra 6:22 And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the Lord had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.*

19. In Ezekiel's idealized Temple Vision, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was observed.

- *Ezekiel 45:21 In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.*

20. As a faithful Jew and as the fulfillment of the Type, Jesus observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread with His disciples on at least four occasions.

- *Matthew 26:17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?*
- *Mark 14:1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.*
- *Mark 14:12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?*
- *Luke 22: 1 Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.*
- *Luke 22:7 Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.*

21. Following the resurrection of Christ, during the days of unleavened bread, Peter was arrested by Herod, who had already killed James, the brother of John with the sword.

- *Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)*

22. Paul ministered to the Jews in Philippi during the days of unleavened bread.

- *Acts 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.*

23. The apostle used familiar imagery and practices to teach spiritual truths. To the church at Corinth he spoke of the "unleavened bread of sincerity and truth".

- *1 Corinthians 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 sincerity and truth.*