

Passover Preparation

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Introduction

The Passover of 2016 will be my 10th Passover. Much of the revelation and preparation I share with you is based upon experience and practice. In this booklet, we will also look at the events that happened in the Bible around the Passover season. They serve as a template for the experiences we can expect.

Passover is an exciting festival packed with rich meaning for Christians. In this booklet, we are going to bring out the significance of it in the life of believers today. You will learn about the Passover and how to celebrate it.

Passover is all about commemorating the death of the Lord Jesus Christ to pay for our sins. Without this death, eternal life is not possible. So many Christians are focused on the resurrection of Jesus, but they forget about His death.

The earliest Apostles honored Jesus in this manner. The Apostle John's successors Polycarp and Polycrates commemorated Passover. There have been believers in every era of time from Jesus until now honoring Passover on the 14th of Nissan in accordance with the Jewish people. That is when Jesus commemorated it; after all, He is the Lamb.

In Ecclesiastes 7:1, the Bible tells us that, "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." The Biblical focus is to honor His death. It was the greatest day of His life because it summarized the perfect life He lived. His willingness to die ensured the resurrection would happen.

When we can learn to properly honor the death of Jesus and remember how our sins lead to His suffering and death, our Christian lives will begin to look more like His wonderful life.

Chapter 1

Background to the Passover Story

We tend to think of Passover as only being a Jewish Celebration. You may not believe this, but it is truly a Christian celebration as well! It is the time where we remember the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, dying for our sins. The early church celebrated the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread (which follows Passover).

In I Cor. 5:7b-8, Paul wrote, “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 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.” In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul said “let us keep the Feast”. He commanded them to follow through with this celebration and truly honor it. In Acts 20:6, we read, “But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days”. The interesting thing about Philippi is that it did not even have a Jewish Synagogue, yet Paul celebrated this festival season with them. Even in the Gentile cities of Philippi and Corinth, they were celebrating the Passover and Unleavened Bread.

To truly understand the meaning of the Passover, we must understand the background to the Passover story. The patriarch Jacob had twelve sons. He loved one of his sons, Joseph, over the others. Joseph was a dreamer. He had a dream that his family would bow down to him. This made even Jacob upset with Joseph, and his brothers grew even more jealous of him. They were outraged to think that they would bow down before Joseph. One day the sons of Jacob were grazing their father’s flocks in the field, and they plotted to kill Joseph. After some debate, they changed their minds. Instead, they decided to put him in a cistern and sold him to some Ishmaelites. Joseph eventually found himself in the land of Egypt. Wherever he served, he had success and favor with his masters. While serving under one of his masters, Potiphar, he was

accused of a crime he did not commit. Despite being sent to jail, he still found the favor of the Lord.

He was eventually given the opportunity to interpret one of Pharaoh's dreams. Pharaoh had a dream that seven gaunt cows swallowed up seven fat, healthy cows. He then saw seven thin and scorched heads of grain being swallowed up by seven healthy stocks of grain. No one in Pharaoh's kingdom could interpret the dream. God Almighty gave Joseph the interpretation of the dream. It was revealed that God was going to send seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. The seven years of famine would be so terrible that the seven years of plenty would be consumed. Pharaoh needed a wise person to help store food to sustain the nation through the seven years of famine. He appointed Joseph to gather food during the years of plenty to distribute during the years of lack. He was even made second in command in Egypt.

When the seven years of famine struck, Joseph's family, still in the land of Canaan, began to run low on food. As a result, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to get grain. Joseph concealed his identity at first. His brothers actually bowed down before him, just as he had dreamed! Eventually, he revealed himself to his brothers. They hurried back to Canaan to get their father, who was overjoyed to learn the good news. The entire clan of Israel then came down to see Joseph. Pharaoh heard that Joseph's family had come to Egypt. He honored Jacob and invited the entire family to live in the land of Egypt. They moved from the modern-day land of Israel to the region of Goshen in Egypt.

The Israelites prospered and became numerous in Egypt. After some time elapsed, a Pharaoh came to power who knew not Joseph or the things that he did for Egypt. He was afraid of the Israelites because they were so numerous. He thought that they might take over his kingdom, so he enslaved them. The Israelites cried out to the Lord in their bondage. The Lord answered their prayers by raising up for them a deliverer named Moses. The Lord gave him a message of hope and deliverance for the people of God. His

assignment was first to deliver this word to the people and to Pharaoh: “Let my people go!”

When they approached Pharaoh with this message, he stubbornly refused to let the Israelites go. He hardened his heart against the Israelites and made their enslavement even harder. God then used Moses and his brother Aaron to perform mighty signs and wonders to loosen the heart of Pharaoh so that he would free them. He sent nine plagues upon the land, including a plague of locusts that destroyed the Egyptian crops and a plague of hail that killed animals. Even after all these plagues, Pharaoh still did not free the Israelites. God had hardened Pharaoh’s heart so that His mighty power would be displayed. The God of Israel decreed that one last plague would be unleashed, and Pharaoh would finally capitulate.

This tenth plague, much more devastating than the ones before it, would take the life of every first born in the land of Egypt. This included both humans and animals. To prevent this plague from falling on the Israelites, God gave them some instructions. Each man of his house was to kill a one-year old male lamb and place the blood on the tops and sides of the doorposts of their homes. Everyone who did this would be “passed-over” when the death angel came through the land to take the life of every firstborn. God promised the Israelites that if they did this, then they would be free to leave the land of Egypt. He gave them specific instructions in Exodus 12 on how to prepare this lamb and eat it.

God then told them that on the 10th day of this first month they were to choose the lamb. This lamb would be brought into their home. It could have even been considered a household pet after a few days. They were to spend the next four days examining this lamb. You must also remember that days in the Bible begin and end at sunset. So, evening starts a day, and the day portion finishes it up. You see this in Genesis 1 when God said that “evening and morning were one day”.

On the evening of the 14th of Nissan, the Israelites were to kill

this lamb and place its blood upon the two side posts and the top door post of their homes. They were to cook the lamb whole, roasted over fire. They were to eat the slain lamb with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The lamb had to be completely consumed by sunrise. The Lord instructed them to eat this meal prepared to leave the land of Egypt. Just before the Passover, the Israelites were instructed to remove all yeast from their homes and eat unleavened bread for seven days, beginning from the start of the evening of the 15th of Nissan and going through the end of the 21st of Nissan. These seven days collectively are called the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

During the night portion of the 14th of Nissan, around midnight, the death angel passed through the land of Egypt and slew the firstborn of all living creatures, both men and animals. Those that had applied the blood of the Lamb were “passed-over” by the death angel. They were spared from judgment. This is why the 14th of Nissan is called the Pass-over. Outraged and heartbroken, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave the land of Egypt. As the Israelites prepared to leave during the day portion of the 14th of Nissan, the Egyptians gave the Israelites articles of silver, gold, and clothing. God had given them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians so that they would not leave the land empty-handed.

On the night of the 15th of Nissan, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, the Israelites finally left Egypt with heads held high (Numbers 33:3, Exodus 12:37-43). This night is called the Night to Be Much Observed because they were to remember the Lord watching over them the night they left Egypt. The Bible said that they left Egypt a mixed multitude, which means that there were non-Israelites that had decided to leave as well.

Shortly after the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh regretted that he had let the Israelites go free. He then gathered his army and pursued them. During the seven days of Unleavened Bread, the Israelites traversed through the winding ravines of the Sinai Peninsula. God led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. On the seventh day of Unleavened Bread, they arrived at

the Red Sea. It seemed hopeless at first; they were pinned between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. In this seemingly grim moment, the Lord came through!

God told Moses to raise his staff and wave his hand over the Red Sea. Once Moses did this, the Red Sea parted. This allowed the Israelites to cross the Red Sea on dry ground. The Egyptian army tried to chase them, but the waters returned to their place once the Israelites reached the other side. The Egyptian army was destroyed. The destruction of this army marked the final separation of the Israelites from the forces that once held them in bondage and captivity.

These events were a tremendous display of God's Power. They serve as the foundation for our understanding of the prophetic meaning of these days in Jesus Christ. In the New Covenant, Passover represents the death of the Son of God to free us from the second death. As cited earlier, God instructed the Israelites to use the blood of a lamb that was "without defect" or "without blemish". Christ was our Passover lamb because He had no sin. Peter said He is a "lamb without blemish or defect" (I Peter 1:19-20). He was without blemish because He perfectly lived out God's Word.

Paul wrote, "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:9). Christ was found to be innocent in the eyes of men (Luke 22:66-23:25, John 18). Despite His innocence, He was still condemned to death for our sakes. Like a lamb is silent in its slaughter, so was Christ (Read Isaiah 53).

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are collectively called the Passover, the Passover Festival, or the Passover Season (Luke 22:1, John 2:23). It is also the time of the barley harvest, which starts the day after the weekly Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is a time where you will reap a spiritual harvest from God! This booklet is designed to help you honor the Passover and reap a harvest!

Chapter 2

Making Bricks without Straw

In the process of God freeing the Israelites, an interesting event occurred that applies to our lives as we approach the Passover season. When Moses first told Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt, he harshly retaliated. He commanded the slave drivers to force them to make bricks without straw.

Exodus 5:6-9, 13, 17-18

6 That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people: 7 “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. 8 But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ 9 Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.” 13 The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.” 17 Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ 18 Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

Straw was a vital ingredient to make bricks solid and consistent. Without the straw, the bricks would not hold together. They would crumble and fall apart. These verses contain a vital revelation for us coming up to Passover. It is the time of making your bricks without straw.

During this period, the tasks that usually took 30 minutes will now take 1 hour. You are going to lose the “consistency” of your life. You will have to work harder to get the same results, just as the Israelites had to work even harder to make the same number of bricks. The king did not lower his demand despite the harsh command. You will still have the same number of things to do, but it will be harder to get things done. Even when you are able to

accomplish things, they may not look as strong or good as they were before. You will experience this in your family, finances, and job. It is going to be a frustrating time of the year.

You can expect this to start about 60 days before Passover.

You will also have feelings of unworthiness and condemnation. In the Passover story, Pharaoh is a picture and type of Satan. You can see from the verses above how cruel he treated the Israelites. He accused them of being lazy, despite the fact that they worked just as hard as or harder than before. He was the one that deprived them of the necessary resources. Condemnation is a reminder of sin that makes you want to give up. You feel like you can't continue any farther.

The devil wants you to give up the race of your faith and give in to sin. You will feel like you are not getting anything accomplished. Do not fear or worry; this is all a part of the process of being freed during the Passover Season. This attack of the enemy will make your Passover celebration just that much more enjoyable!

While the devil has a hand in frustrating us during this time of the year, God uses it for His purpose. He uses this time period to build God's character in us. The Israelites really had to trust God and His servants Moses and Aaron during this time. They received the Word of the Lord before the tough times.

Remember that the barley harvest begins during the Passover Season. You are going to reap a spiritual harvest during Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Satan is trying to disrupt the harvest (Galatians 6:7-9). When we first receive a Word from the Lord, it is exciting! Tarrying until the harvest is not! We must hang onto the Word of the Lord.

The people did not mock Moses when he first received the message that they were going to be free from Egypt. They worshipped God. When the time of bricks without straw came, they

were very upset with Moses and Aaron. When they left Egypt, they were joyful again. Their frustration was forgotten. It will be the same for you during this time of the year. Your hardest times will produce your greatest joy. Our refinement and pruning is to produce more fruit for His Kingdom. Prayerfully consider how you are being refined to be used more by God.

Another aspect of this “pre-Passover” time period is the devil trying to cause disunity in the body. When Pharaoh withheld straw from the people, they rebelled against Moses and Aaron. They argued and complained. Confusion reigned in the camp. Be discerning of the attack of the enemy to get you to rebel against authority or betray the brethren as did Judas. This is a time of the year when offenses can be easy to cause; we can also be too easily offended. We have to keep our focus upward.

The devil will press you to sin during this time of the year. Stay in the Word, in the Work of God, and focused on God. In I Corinthians 5:1-8, just before Passover started, there was sin in the camp. This was an example of Satan pressing someone to give in to sin. This sin also brought disunity to the camp because some people actually cheered on the sin (verse 2)!

In John 14:30, Jesus said, “I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me...” The devil is going to look at the things inside of you and try to bring them out. Jesus had nothing in him that the devil could bring out. He was pure. Keep your hands clean. Stay in a mindset of repentance. Don’t let the devil win. You are going to get tired during this time of the year. On a practical note, it is good to prioritize your life before and during this time. You are going to have to figure out what are the most important things to accomplish and what are the least important things to accomplish. You may have to push some things out into the future. Because of all these events, you will find yourself being impatient with people and yourself. Keep your cool and do not lash out. The Israelites did not know when the time of making bricks without straw would end. We do! Passover is not that far away!

Chapter 3

De-Leavening Your House

In Exodus 12:14-16, God said, “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat—that is all you may do.”

Just before the Passover, the Israelites were instructed to remove all yeast from their homes and eat unleavened bread for seven days. Webster defines leaven as A) a substance (such as yeast) used to produce fermentation in dough or liquid. B) a substance (such as baking power) used to produce a gas that lightens the dough or batter. Leavenings are substances that cause bubbles of gas (carbon dioxide) or physical leavenings such as air or steam. The gas, air, or steam expand when heated, making the resulting product light and altering grain textures.

There is a list of leavening ingredients in the back of this booklet.

One of the commands for getting the yeast out is that it be removed from our borders (Ex. 13:7). This basically means everywhere that you have control. This would include your home, work station (if not shared), car(s), or other areas. Yeast can be found in various places in our homes: between the pillow cushions, on the floor, in the cabinets, in the cracks and crevices of our vehicles, and even in our pockets. It is amazing the places that yeast can be found. We need to check the labels on the foods in our cabinets. You will find that yeast is everywhere! As you de-leaven your home, you may begin to feel like you will never finish.

Interestingly enough, the phrase “Spring Cleaning” comes from this process. If you are going to get the yeast out, you might as well just clean up the whole house! This is truly the Kingdom of God at work by restoring cleanliness and order to your life.

Take all of the food items you find that have yeast in them and put them in a box. Try to consume these items before Passover starts. If you cannot consume them by Passover, then just throw them away.

**It is a great idea to start de-leavening at least 30 days before Passover.
Even before that is better.**

This may seem like an empty ritual to most people, but God is trying to show us something very important in this process. The Law is spiritual (Romans 7:14). Everything in it teaches us spiritual truths. As we live the precepts contained within it, these spiritual revelations come forth. De-leavening your house is not just an end; it is a means to an end. There is a spiritual component to this process. Be discerning because as you clean out your house, the Lord is going to show you things about your life. He is going to de-leaven your heart!

During this time of the year, yeast represents sin (I Corinthians 5:6-8). As we take the yeast products out of our homes, let’s remove it from the inside of us as well. Based upon where the Leaven is in your house, the Lord will show you where the sin is in your life. Be discerning to the Spirit of the Lord. We will discuss this more in the next chapter.

There is a second phase to this process. First part is to get the yeast (physically and spiritually) out of our borders and lives. The second phase in Exodus 12 is to take Unleavened Bread into your body. This teaches us that it is not enough for us to remove the sin from our lives. We must take in more of Christ. Gideon had to tear down the altar of Baal and build an altar to the Lord.

Paul informs us in I Cor. 5:6-8 that Christ is the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth. The Lord even told us that His body was the Unleavened Bread we eat at the table. There is a supernatural blessing that comes through eating Unleavened Bread during this time of the year. Keep this fact in mind. The food we eat becomes one with us. Our bodies digest food and absorb nutrients from it. This makes eating a very intimate action because it is the process of taking something foreign to your body and making it one with you.

Passover and Unleavened Bread is an intimate time of the year because it focuses on us becoming one with Christ through His sacrifice. Eating Unleavened Bread for seven days is part of this process. For this process of oneness with Him to take place, we must do something first. We must repent and remove the idols and sin from our hearts. They separate us from Him. When we get it out of the way, then the “Way” is opened for us to be one with Him.

Unleavened Bread is easy to make. You can always buy matzos at Kroger, Publix, and even Walmart (every area of the country is different). As we near Passover, call your local supermarket and find out. An even tastier way to celebrate this awesome aspect of the Festival is to make your own! Whole wheat flour, salt, honey, olive oil, and water are all that is needed.

In the back of this booklet, there is a list of Unleavened Bread recipes. We also have a cookbook with an entire section full of Unleavened Recipes!

Chapter 4

De-Leavening Your Heart

It is always a wise thing to prepare to celebrate Passover in a worthy manner. In I Corinthians 11:17-34, the Apostle Paul gives instructions on keeping the Passover. In verse 27, Paul wrote, “So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.” The bread and cup of the Lord are taken during Passover. We have to be very introspective during this time of the year so that we do not bring guilt and condemnation against ourselves.

De-leavening in the natural teaches us a spiritual truth. He also wants us to de-leaven our hearts. Prior to Passover, Jesus cleaned out the Temple of the money changers. He wants us to clean out our temples before Passover arrives.

Many times as Christians we believe that we live in a mindset of repentance, and we should. At the same time, we need to set aside plenty of time to repent. Just as yeast eludes us and is everywhere in our homes, so also sins can slip between the cracks in our lives. We fail to spot them all. How many times have others hurt us and we hold unforgiveness or bitterness towards them? We bury that pain deep down inside. Just as yeast swept under a rug is still there, so sometimes bitterness is hiding inside of us.

This means we must go through every aspect of our lives to sweep out the yeast and root out the sin. Too many times we have yeast out of our homes, but there is sin under the rug in our lives from this past year. Just like yeast, we need to sweep the sin up and get it out. As we de-leaven our homes, we will receive revelations on our sins and where we need to make changes in our lives. We should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God during this process.

Start this process about 30 days before Passover (which is ac-

tually the same day as the Festival of Purim).

The Lord knows what our sins are; He wants to see if we are humble enough to confess them to Him. We should ask Him to show us how we offend Him. This is one prayer He is surely looking to answer! He wants us to come to Him and get things right because He wants to be as close to us as possible. Our sins separate us from Him (Isaiah 59:1-2).

In the process of de-leavening your house, also spend time making a sin list. This may sound different or strange, but it is definitely Biblical. In Hosea 14:2, the Bible reads, “Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.” (KJV) We are commanded to take words to the Lord when we want to turn to Him. Again, the Lord knows where we fall short. Are we humble enough to write our sins down?

The word of God mentions that records of our deeds are kept in heaven (Revelation 20:12, Hosea 13:12, Nehemiah 13:14, Psalm 109:14). In Colossians 2:13-15, Paul wrote, “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (KJV).

In this verse, the phrase “handwriting of ordinances” is the Greek phrase *choreigraphon dogma*. *Choreigraphon* means bill of indebtedness written in the debtor’s handwriting. *Dogma* means a man-made decree. This phrase refers to our sin debt. The phrase “blotting out” means to erase something that is written. Christ erased our sin debt by nailing it to the cross. Revelation 12:10 explains that Satan is the accuser of the brethren. He accuses us because we have outstanding sin that we have not repented of! When we repent, our sins are blotted out of the books in Heaven. This puts the forces of the enemy, the powers and principalities of

this world, to an open shame! By writing our sins on a sheet of paper and burning them, we are showing God our desire to have our sins wiped out and never remembered!

Some people will call this strange. Aside from the verse in Hosea that commands us to use words when we return to the Lord, there are plenty of examples in the Bible to reinforce this concept. In Joshua 7, Achan and his entire household was stoned and then burned because of the trouble he caused. Sodom and Gomorrah were burned due to their sin. In Acts 19:11-20, some converted Christians got their magic scrolls together and burned them publicly. In the book of Leviticus, the burnt offering had to be brought before the priest. Your sins had to be confessed over the animal, which was subsequently killed and burned. There is a Biblical precedent for burning sinful things with fire. This is not something weird or new age. It is different than what you have heard before, but it is the Word of God put into action.

The sin list is simple: spend time alone with God and write the sins you have committed on a piece of paper. If this is your first time making a sin list, go back as far as you can remember. If you have done this before, you only have to go back as far as your last sin list. God is glad for us to pray prayers like this because He wants us to be right with Him. Sometimes Christians struggle to hear God's voice, but if you ask Him this question, He will gladly answer!

There are three main Hebrew words for sin in the Old Testament: *chattah*, *peshah*, and *avone*. *Chattah* is a word which means to miss the mark. It expresses the desire of someone to do what is right, but they simply fall short. *Peshah* means rebellion and it refers to someone who knew what was right and went the wrong direction anyways. *Avone* is a Hebrew word meaning perversity. It refers to perverting a situation to justify your own sin. It can also convey the intent of a person who knew what was right and chose to go the other way because they did not want to do right.

In Psalms 32:5, David wrote: "I acknowledged my sin (*chattah*)

unto thee, and mine iniquity (*avone*) have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions (*peshah*) unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity (*avone*) of my sin. Selah.” In this passage, David is reflecting on His sin with Bathsheeba. He asks God to forgive His *chattah*, *peshah*, and *avone*. He admits that he missed the mark, had rebellion in his heart against God’s commands, and that he had perverted the situation to justify his sin.

Fortunately, we have a promise in Exodus 34:7 that God will forgive us of these things when we repent! In the verse God said that He is “...maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness (*avone*), rebellion (*pasha*), and sin (*chattah*). Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

If we will simply confess our sin and turn from it, then we will receive forgiveness from Heaven, and the times of refreshing will come from Heaven (Acts 3:19). The times of refreshing come during the Feast days! After making your bricks without straw and facing your sin, you will need refreshing. The key is to be as introspective as possible. Look deep within your thoughts, intents, and motivations. Examine yourself outwardly as well. Do you portray the New Christ-like creature you were designed to be? Did you love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength? We know that the answer will likely be that we have not. Write these things down.

The level of your repentance is the level of the outpouring you are to receive during the Passover season when you celebrate it. Christ expressed His passion for us by taking the cross with its shame, pain, and disgrace. We show passion for Him by getting the sin out of our lives. In the Bible, there were always great God encounters when corporate repentance took place. In Hezekiah’s time, the people came together and repented of their sins. They celebrated the best Passover since the days of Solomon, which was 200 years before! In a like manner, Josiah rallied the people to corporate repentance. They had an even greater God encounter

on Passover, which had not been experienced since the days of Samuel! Samuel lived about 80-100 years before Solomon's reign began.

In Philippians 4:8, Paul wrote, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." These are the qualities that should occupy our hearts and minds. Too many times in our lives, these qualities are not our focus. Strife, bitterness, envy, and discontentment reign in our lives. In order for us to make the Lord our King at Tabernacles, we must learn to remove the reign of sin in our lives at Unleavened Bread. This requires de-throning attitudes, false teachings, and habits that come between us and him.

At Hungry Hearts Ministries, we practice this. If you discuss this with our members, you will find that people have had life-changing experiences through this process. After putting sin lists in the fire, many people have seen the color red when they close their eyes. This is a vivid reminder of the blood of Jesus covering our sins and washing them away.

Chapter 5

Celebrating the Passover Season

In this last chapter, we are going to explain how to celebrate the Passover Season. You are going to love this time of the year. To really receive the full experience and blessing that comes from this feast, there are a few details to understand before we talk specifically about the Passover celebration.

For an overview of this festival season, look at the chart on Page 29.

First, understand that the First Day and Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread are Annual Sabbaths. There is a Calendar in the back of this booklet that helps you identify when these dates are. Days begin and end at sunset in the Bible, as discussed in Chapter 1. The Weekly Sabbath is from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. There are also Annual Sabbaths throughout the year. They are specific dates in the year that are also considered Sabbaths.

For instance, in 2016, April 22nd sunset through April 23rd at sunset is the first day of Unleavened Bread. April 28th through the 29th is the Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread.

What is a Sabbath? It is a day where we do not attend our regular place of employment or school, and we refrain from many common activities such as mowing the yard and cleaning the house. The purpose of this is to help your mind focus on the Living God and what these days specifically represent in Jesus Christ. The Lord has an appointment of Love with you at this time. He wants you to be focused totally on Him so you can receive every blessing He has for you on these days. He is Jealous for you.

It is a wise thing to ask your employer for these days off well in advance (4 or 5 months in advance at least). Remind them as you get about 60 and then 30 days away. You may not read this booklet until close to Passover, but that is fine. Still ask off. You can

make it work. Offer to swap days with your co-workers or use vacation or sick days. If these options are not available, discuss your new found conviction with your boss or manager. The laws of the United States support you in getting this time off. Pray and seek the God of Israel. He established this amazing time of the year; He will help you get the time off. Just be prepared to stand as Moses stood up to Pharaoh.

Passover is not an annual Sabbath; but it is a feast day. The time that we spend celebrating the Passover is Holy Time. Let's use 2015 dates as an example. This means that once you are finished celebrating the Passover on the night of April 2nd, you can go to work until sunset on April 3rd. This also gives you some extra time to finish de-leavening your house.

This chapter is going to help you understand the meaning behind these days. The power of God poured out in the past are still available today. This will help you understand why taking the time off is so valuable. After you experience it, you will have no qualms about getting off in the future.

Let's get into understanding this wonderful celebration!

The first aspect of this celebration is the two-night Seder celebration. According to the Bible, there are two Seders meals: one on the evening of the 14th of Nissan to remember the Passover Lamb, Jesus. This night is called Passover. The second Seder is supposed to be celebrated on the evening of the 15th of Nissan. This night is called The Night to Be Much Observed (Exodus 12:42, KJV) This is also spelled out in Numbers 28:16-25). This is the night that the Israelites left Egypt. It is when we celebrate coming out of sin.

The 14th of Nissan is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice for our sins. We each should commemorate this meal in honor of what He has done for us. This is a **very sober, not somber, meal**. We should reflect on the sins we have been delivered from. On

this night, our music is intimate and totally focused on what Jesus did for us that we could not do for ourselves.

There are certain aspects of the Passover meal that bring life to this celebration and our relationship with Christ. One of the first elements listed in the Passover meal in Exodus 12:8 is the *merore* or bitter herb. This represents the bitterness that sin produces in our lives and the bitterness that God feels when we sin. In the gospel accounts, the “dish” that Christ and Judas both dipped into just before Judas betrayed Christ was the *merore* (John 13:26). You can only imagine the bitterness Christ felt! This man served beside Christ and followed Him everywhere. They ate together and spent years serving together, and yet this man is betraying Him! Keep in mind that this is the way Christ feels each and every time we sin. He goes everywhere we go because He is in us. Our sin brings him agony.

Other symbols full of meaning are the cups used in a Passover Seder. The modern Jewish Seder has four cups (some now have six), but when you read the gospels (especially Luke), you will discover that the Passover at Jesus’ time only had two cups. Several years ago, a Jewish Rabbi did some research for us and confirmed for us that a first-century Jewish Seder had only two cups. The modern Jewish Passover Seder has four cups. The first cup in Luke is called the *kiddish*, and it is the cup to separate common time from holy time. This is also called the cup of blessing. The second cup is the cup of redemption. This was the cup that Christ drank with the disciples, proclaiming it as His blood.

The two cups that the Jewish people added are called the cup of affliction and the cup of praise. They have tremendous significance for us today. In a modern Jewish Seder, the cup of affliction is poured on the table or sprinkled on a plate 10 times to remember the plagues poured out on Egypt. When Christ was in the Garden, taking on the sin of the world, He said, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away from me unless I drink it, may your will be done.” Christ drank the cup of affliction! Amazingly enough, the Jewish people pour this cup out.

This is a solemn reminder that no human could drink this cup; only the Messiah could. He drank this cup in the Garden so that we could drink the cup of redemption. The fourth cup is called the cup of praise or the *hallel* cup. Some Jewish Passover Seder's add a fifth cup, called Elijah's cup. Jewish legend has it that Elijah will show up one day in Jerusalem, drink from that cup, and tell the Jewish people about the Messiah. It remains empty and turned upside down on the table.

Another element found in the Passover Seder is the unleavened bread, which is also called the bread of affliction (Deut. 16:3). In the modern Jewish Seder, this bread is made with stripes on it because they believe that the Messiah will take stripes for the sins of their people. Little do they realize that their Messiah has already taken the stripes the sins of all humanity! From all these examples, we can see how the Jewish people have filled their religion with Christ without even knowing it! When Elijah returns, He will explain all these things to the Jewish people so they can receive the Messiah. This bread represents Christ's body, which was beaten for our iniquities and sins. It is without leaven or yeast because Christ was our sinless sacrifice. This bread will be discussed more in depth later.

The foot washing helps us to put this celebration in perspective. When Christ was at the table with His disciples, he spoke to them and said that "... the one who rules should be like the one who serves." Christ expressed his words by washing everyone's feet at the table. This was extremely humbling because at that time most people wore sandals and their feet were covered in dirt, mud, and even animal dung. Instead of exalting himself at the table, Christ humbled himself to the place of a servant. Each of us must be willing to do this for each other. We must be willing to reach down to our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ to help wash them off when they are dirty and in time of need. Jesus was willing to humble himself and clean us up, so we should be willing to do the same. At this point in the Seder, we ask that those washing feet depict themselves washing Jesus' feet and that those having their

feet washed realize that Jesus is washing their feet. We must want to wash His feet and have Him wash us off from our dirty lives.

Some people do not like foot washing, but in John 13:14-17, Jesus said, “14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, **you will be blessed if you do them.**” Christ said that we would be blessed if we washed each others feet, not if we do not wash each other’s feet. It is not enough for us to know about washing feet, we have to do it to receive the blessing!

The second night Seder, on the 15th of Nissan, is the night that the Israelites left the land of Egypt. They spent the day portion of the 14th plundering the Egyptians so they could leave on the evening of the 15th. In Exodus 12:42, the command to keep this second night is found: “Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.” Where the first night of this two-night Seder is sober and reflective, the second night is more joyful and jubilant. This second night is a celebration of the Israelites leaving a life of slavery in Egypt. Since Egypt is compared to sin in the Bible, this night is a celebration of us coming up out of sin, which should be joyful for all of us! This freedom to leave sin, however, could not have occurred unless Christ had first died for our sin as the Passover Lamb.

Revelation 1:5 says, “. . .him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.” Exodus 12:42 says that God watched over the Israelites as they left Egypt. In the same way, Jesus Christ watched over us as we came up out of sin. Not only did He sacrifice His life for us, but He watched over us to make sure that we met everyone we needed to meet, heard everything we needed to hear, and experienced everything necessary so that we could leave a life of sin when the time was right.

A key element of this second night is the *charoset*, which is a sweet dish made of nuts and fruits. This helps us to think about the sweet new life we have in Christ. We also play the best rejoicing music we have! It is a night to be celebratory and excited. We should be full of joy as the saints of old were filled with joy at keeping these days.

Leaving Egypt meant the Israelites were free to start a new life, and when we leave sin behind us we start a new life. II Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” We are no longer held back by our sinful past. We are free to serve the risen Christ. This is a day of new beginnings. We are leaving the sins of the past year behind and moving on into a new year. This night also happens to be the beginning of the first day of Unleavened Bread, the first Holy Day in the Passover Season. Some people may wonder why Passover is not a Holy Day or an annual Sabbath. The Passover meal is certainly holy, but the day is not an annual Sabbath according to the Bible. This shows us that Christ had to be made common so that we could be made holy. Christ was abused and subjected to the greatest punishment in the history of mankind so we could be made holy (Hebrews 2:5-11).

The seven days of Unleavened Bread begins on this 15th of Nisan and continues through the 21st of Nisan. There is a supernatural blessing that comes from eating unleavened bread through the duration of this feast. The amount of bread you consume is showing God how much of Him you want in the upcoming year! We discussed this in-depth in a previous chapter.

During the seven days of Unleavened Bread, Pharaoh and his army pursued the Israelites across the Sinai Peninsula. On the seventh day, God’s people were pinned between Pharaoh and the Red Sea. The Angel of the Lord moved between the Egyptian army and the Israelites so that there was darkness between them. Moses raised his staff and God parted the Red Sea. He led the people across the Red Sea on dry ground. When Pharaoh and his forces tried to pursue them, God closed the Red Sea on Pharaoh’s

forces and they drowned! God's people were finally delivered from their enemies and God's name was exalted!

This seventh day represents when the Israelites were finally separated or severed from the land of Egypt and the forces of Pharaoh's army. They were cut off from their accuser. In Romans 8:1, Paul wrote, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." While the Israelites had been set free to leave Egypt, Pharaoh decided to pursue the Israelites and enslave them again.

In the same way, we are free from sin once we enter into Christ, but we must continue to surrender to God to gain victory over our past sins. The seven days of Unleavened Bread teach us that salvation is not just coming up out of sin, but also pressing on to be completely separated from it. It teaches us the cycle of salvation and deliverance. On the First Day of Unleavened Bread, we celebrate freedom from sin. On the Seventh Day, we celebrate the power to be cut off from sinful habits through God's Spirit. Pharaoh's army tried to intimidate the Israelites into going back to Egypt, but they had to trust God. The key to deliverance is when the devil cannot tempt you back into a life of sin!

For seven days the Israelites had to move across the Sinai Peninsula to escape the Egyptian Army. The seven days of Unleavened Bread are also when Joshua and the Israelites walked around Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20). It was on the seventh day that God gave them victory or deliverance. Just as the Israelites had to move for seven days away from the Egyptian Army and walk around Jericho for seven days, we can see that we are asked to move for these seven days.

Of the Feast Days, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the only time period where we are asked to move. The other Feast Days we are asked to stay still. God expects us to move away from our sinful past and move towards the promises of God. When the Israelites left Egypt they could have gone North, South, or any direction

other than the one that God was trying to lead them through. In order for them to reach the point on the Red Sea where God gave them deliverance, they had to follow the way that God has set out for them.

This is the Passover Celebration. If you apply these small steps in your life, you will have a newfound respect for your Savior. You will never be the same.

**Passover Chart of Events
Bible Verses
Passover 2016**

**Passover— 14th of Nissan Exodus 12:6, Lev. 23:4, Num. 33:3
Night to Be Much Observed— At night on the 15th Ex. 12:42,
Num. 28:17 (the feast that is mentioned)**

**1st of UB— 15th of Nissan— (Annual Sabbath) — Exodus
12:16, 13, Lev 23:7**

**7th of UB— 21st of Nissan— (Annual Sabbath) — Exodus
12:16, 13, Lev 23:8**

Day on American Calendar (2016 Feasts)	Day on the Hebrew Calendar (Days begin at sunset)	Event
Sunset, Thursday, April 21st	14th of Nissan	The Passover Starts at sunset
Sunset, Friday, April 22nd	15th of Nissan	Night to be Much Ob- served Starts at Sunset; also starts the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread
Saturday, April 23rd	16th of Nissan	During the Day, we cele- brate the First Day of Unleavened Bread
Sunday, April 24th	17th of Nissan	
Monday, April 25th	18th of Nissan	
Tuesday, April 26th	19th of Nissan	
Wednesday, April 27th	20th of Nissan	
Sunset, Thursday, April 28th	21th of Nissan	7th Day of Unleavened Bread starts at sunset
Sunset, Friday, April 29th	22th of Nissan	Sunset ends the 7th Day of Unleavened Bread and the Passover Season.

More Materials

If you are interested in celebrating the Passover with Hungry Hearts or interested in more materials, email us at hungryheartsmn@aol.com or writing us at PO Box 10334 Jackson, TN 38308.

Below are some more materials to help you celebrate the Passover like never before!

Our Passover Table

“Our Passover Table” is a Passover Haggadah modeled after the Last Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. It includes instructions on how to keep the Passover. It includes all the verses pertaining to the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins so they can be read over dinner. The Haggadah also includes a second Seder service to be kept the next evening, called the Night to be Much Observed. Keep the Passover this year with your family or church!

Yours for only \$9

Clean Cuisine: A Clean Cookbook

Clean Cuisine is a must-have cookbook for any kitchen! It contains recipes for Everything from appetizers and beverages, to breads and rolls, and even deserts! The best feature of all is that each of these recipes conforms to the Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 dietary laws on clean and unclean animals. **It also has an entire section with unleavened recipes in it!**

Yours for only \$12

Passover Sermon Set

This 9 CD Sermon set on Passover explains how Jesus Christ came as the Lamb of God to take away our sins. These sermons give you deep, intimate insight into the spirit of Passover! They will also help you to prepare for the Passover season. Once you listen to these sermons, you will have a new respect, reverence, and love for the sacrifice of Christ.

Yours for only \$30

Leavening Agents

This page will provide you a list of leavening agents to help you remove them out of your house. Remember, leavening represents sin during this time of the year. Make sure to read labels carefully and also be discerning to the Spirit of God. Based upon where the Leaven is in your house, the Lord will show you where the sin is in your life.

Leavening agents include the following ingredients:

Yeast
Baking Powder
Baking Soda
Sodium bicarbonate
Calcium phosphate
Potassium bicarbonate

The following are not leavening agents:

Cream of Tartar by itself does not leaven anything any more than does sour milk or buttermilk. It is often used as a flavoring in foods and beverages.

Brewers Yeast is a by-product of the fermentation of beer and is a rich source of vitamins, especially the B complex. It has not leavening properties.

Yeast Extract is an ingredient used in canned or dehydrated soups. It is only an extract and cannot leaven anything.

Unleavened Bread Recipes

Lanice's Unleavened Bread

Ingredients:

3 Cups of Whole Wheat Flour
5 Tablespoons of Honey
1 teaspoon of kosher salt
1/3 C of Olive Oil

Instructions: Mix flour and salt. Add honey. Cut in olive oil. Use as much ice water as needed to be able to form a ball. Roll out on floured surface. Bake 375 degrees for 15 minutes.

John's Unleavened Bread

Ingredients:

2 Cups of Whole Wheat Flour
2 Tablespoons of Oil
1/2 Teaspoon of Salt
3/4 Cup of Water

Instructions: Mix well. Knead 3 min. Form dough into 8 balls. Roll flat, pierce with fork. Bake 500 degrees 8-10 mins. Can substitute 1 1/2 Cup milled flax seed for 1 1/2 cups of flour. Other variations: add Italian seasoning or garlic to taste.

Unleavened Bread

Ingredients:

3 Cups of Flour
3 Large Eggs
1 teaspoon of salt
2 Tablespoons of Oil or butter
1/2 Cup of Water or Milk

Instructions: Combine flour and salt. Combine eggs and oil; beat, then add egg mixture to flour. Add milk and beat hard 2-3 minutes. Pour into three 8 inch square greased pans. Bake 450 degrees for 20 minutes.

Chart #1: Passover Season Calendar

Year	Passover#	Feast of Unleavened Bread*
2014	April 14 (Mon)	April 15-21 (Tue-Mon)
2015	April 3 (Fri)	April 4-10 (Sat-Fri)
2016	Apr 22 (Fri)	April 23-29 (Sat-Fri)
2017	April 10 (Mon)	April 11-17 (Tue-Mon)
2018	March 30 (Fri)	March 31-April 6 (Sat-Fri)
2019	April 19 (Fri)	April 20-26 (Sat-Fri)
2020	April 8 (Wed)	April 9-15 (Thurs-Wed)
2021	March 27 (Sat)	March 28-April 3 (Sun-Sat)
2022	April 15 (Fri)	April 16-22 (Sat-Fri)

#Passover is always observed on the night before. In fact, all of the Feasts of the Lord begin at sunset of the previous day. For instance, in 2014, Passover began on Sunday, April 13th at sunset. The First Day of Unleavened Bread began on Monday, April 14th at sunset. Every feast day also ends at sunset of the following day. So, the First Day of Unleavened Bread in 2014 ended on Monday April 14th at sunset.

*Remember that the first and seventh days of Unleavened Bread are annual Sabbaths.

This calendar is derived from the Jewish Calendar

Meet the Author

Kelly McDonald Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. For 21 years, Kelly attended Trinity Baptist Church in Bemis, TN, where he was saved in 1992. While at Trinity, a small independent Baptist church, Kelly learned boldness for the Kingdom of God and that being a Christian is an all or nothing experience. In June 2006, Kelly was called to his first ministry, going door to door in the Bemis community and inviting people to church. In September 2006, Kelly was called to begin a Christian men's group at his then college, Lambuth University. In February 2007, Kelly was called to preach. Less than a month later, he became introduced to Hungry Hearts Ministries.

Since becoming a member of Hungry Hearts, Kelly has taken on many roles to further the ministry's work, from going door-to-door to pass out booklets, preaching, administering the prison ministry, teaching Bible Studies, and starting churches. Due to his service in the ministry, he was ordained a Deacon during the Feast of Pentecost on May 31st, 2009. His spiritual growth and desire to serve God led to his ordination as an Evangelist during the Feast of Pentecost on May 25th, 2012.

Kelly has written for a local Christian magazine, *The Christian to Christian Connection*, the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*, and the regional magazine, *The Good News*. He has written Partner Devotionals for Perry Stone. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written 9 books and 21 booklets on various Bible topics. Kelly graduated *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. Kelly has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.

Passover is the second holiest feast day of the year. This one feast day is part of an eight-day festival in the spring. It is the time where we commemorate the Son of God, Jesus Christ, coming down to earth to lay down his life as a Lamb. He willingly gave His life for all mankind to receive salvation. As we approach this time of the year, it is vitally important that we take the proper steps to prepare to take in the precious Lamb. This season and the time leading up to it are a unique time of the year. There are some things we need to be aware of in the months just before Passover that will be vital in helping us honor the Lamb of God.



Kelly McDonald, Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. Kelly writes for the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*. He also writes and serves as the Editor for the ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. He has written 30 books and booklets on pursuing Jesus Christ. He has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.