

Passover Preparation

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Introduction

The Passover of 2020 will be my 14th 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 season 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 successor Polycarp commemorated Passover. There have been believers for most eras of time from Jesus until now honoring Passover on the 14th of Nissan. 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 Christ's death. It was the greatest day of His earthly life because it summarized the perfect life He lived and the very reason why He came to earth. 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, we will appreciate Him even more. Our Christian lives will begin to look even 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 be aware of this, but it is also a Christian celebration! It is the time where we remember the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, dying for our sins. The early church celebrated 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 city of Philippi 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 Season, we must understand the background to the Passover story. This takes us back to the book of Genesis.

In this book, we learn that the patriarch Jacob had twelve sons. One of his sons, Joseph, was known as a dreamer; he was also more favored with his father. In one dream, he saw eleven sheaves of wheat bow down to him. In another dream, he saw the sun, moon, and eleven stars bow down. The interpretation is that his family would bow to him in respect.

This made Jacob upset with Joseph, and his brothers grew 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 then sold him to some Ishmaelites. The sons of Jacob told their father that Joseph had been killed.

Joseph eventually found himself in the land of Egypt. Where ever 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.

His reputation as a dreamer and interpreter of dreams was made known while in prison. He was eventually given the opportunity to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. 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 court could discern the meaning. 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. When they first arrived, they encountered Joseph. They didn't recognize him; he concealed his identity.

His brothers actually bowed down before him, just as he had dreamed so many years before! Through a series of events, he revealed his identity. They were scared at first because of the way that they treated him years before as a boy. But Joseph forgave them and saw how God used it for good. The brothers 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. Once Pharaoh heard that Joseph's family had come to Egypt, he invited the entire family to move to the land of Egypt. They accepted this invite and move to the region of Goshen,

While in Egypt, the Israelites prospered and became numerous. After some time elapsed, a ruler became Pharaoh who did not

know 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 these words 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. He decreed one last plague which would cause Pharaoh to 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 Egypt. He gave them specific instructions in Exodus chapter 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 a one-year old male lamb (Ex. 12:1-5). This lamb would be brought into their home. They were to spend the next four days examining this lamb because he had to be without blemish.

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 (Ex. 12:6-7). 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 (Ex. 12:8-10). They could not even leave their homes until morning arrived (Ex. 12:22) Why did God ask them to do this in the evening?

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 1:5 when God said that “evening and morning were one day”.

The Lord instructed them to eat this meal prepared to leave (Ex. 12:11). 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 (Ex. 12:15-16). 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 (Ex. 12:29-31). 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 pur-

sued 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. They eventually arrived at the shores of 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. With our New or Renewed Covenant, Passover has renewed meaning.

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" (John 1:29, I Peter 1:19-20). He was without blemish because He perfectly lived out God's Word.

His death frees us from the wrath of God: "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).

This season also brings with it special meaning for the harvest cycle. In the land of Israel, barley begins to ripen just before Passover. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Israelites waved the best portion of the first ripe barley grain before the Lord (Lev. 23:9-14 | Num. 18:12). After this grain was waved the children of Israel could harvest as much as they wanted.

In the Bible, the physical harvest can be representative of people coming into the Kingdom of God (see Matthew 9:36-38, John 4:33-38). All who come into the Kingdom must come through Jesus Christ (John 10:7-10; 14:6).

While He died for our sins on Passover, He resurrected from the dead during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. On the same day of the first fruits, Christ ascended to the Father in Heaven as the first fruits of the resurrected dead; He was the first person to resurrect into a glorified, eternal life (John 20:11-17, I Cor. 15:20-23).

Paul also used the analogy of sowing and reaping in reference to us receiving reward from the Lord (Gal. 6:9). Over the years I have experienced a spiritual harvest from God at Passover (and all of God's Festivals). This booklet is designed to help you honor the Passover and reap a harvest!

Because the sacrifice of Christ is so much greater than that of a Lamb, our covenant is much greater as well. It has better promises (Hebrews 8:1-5, 10:1-9). Christ is doing something even greater in us than He did in ancient Israel. We are not just going from one physical location on earth to another. We are making the Exodus from this evil age to the age which is to come—the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth.

“...who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” (Gal. 1:4). Just as the Israelites had to leave Egypt to pursue God's will for their lives, we have to leave behind things of this age to pursue Christ. We will be blessed as we leave this age, but we will inherit eternal life in the age to come (Heb. 11:24-26; Luke 18:29-30). Because Christ was the first fruits of the resurrected dead, we will also be resurrected. At this time, our Exodus into the next age will be complete (Luke 20:34-36).

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are collectively called the Unleavened Bread, Passover, or the Passover Festival (Deut. 16:16, Luke 22:1, John 2:23). Some call it the Passover Season. The people of old kept this festival by faith, and so do we! (Hebr. 11:28).

Chapter 2

Making Bricks without Straw

Just before the Israelites were freed from Egypt, an interesting event occurred that has significance in our lives as we approach the Passover season every year. 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 take longer. You are going to lose some of the “consistency” of your life. You will seem 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.

Typically, this season starts 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 cannot continue any farther.

The devil wants you to give up the race of your faith and give in to sin. 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. They received the Word of the Lord before the tough times began.

Remember that the barley harvest begins during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You are going to reap a spiritual harvest! Satan is trying to disrupt the harvest (Galatians 6:7-9). When we first receive a Promise from the Lord, it is exciting! Tarrying until the harvest is not always fun! 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 us 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 for God's glory.

The example from ancient Israel is a lesson for us today. During this ‘pre-Passover’ time, the devil will try 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 easier to cause; we can also be too easily offended. We have to keep our focus upward (Col. 3:2).

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made the heaven and earth” (Ps. 121:1-2).

The devil will press you to sin during this time of the year. Stay in the Word of God, 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...” Jesus had nothing in him that the devil could bring out. He was pure. Satan will try to lead us down the wrong road during this time.

Keep your hands clean. Stay in a mindset of repentance. Don’t let the devil win. You may get tired or even weary 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.

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, 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, some people think the concept of “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! It is a great way to restore order and neatness in your home.

One practical idea: several weeks before Passover, take all of the food items you find that have yeast in them and put them in a box. Consume these items before Passover starts.

It is a great idea to start the de-leavening process 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. While the Law governs natural things, it is also spiritual (Romans 7:14). Everything in it teaches us spiritual truths. As we live the precepts contained within it, spiritual understanding will come forth. De-leavening your house is not just an end; it is a means to an end. There is a spiritual component to it.

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 also remove it from the inside of us. Be discerning because as you clean out your house, the Lord will also show you things about your life. He is going to de-leaven your heart! We will discuss this more in the next chapter.

There is a second phase to this process. The first part is to get the yeast (physically and spiritually) out of our borders and lives. In Exodus chapter 12, we are also commanded to consume unleavened bread during the eight-day festival. 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, but he also had to 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 (Matt. 26:26). There is a supernatural blessing that comes through eating Unleavened Bread during the Passover Season.

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 an 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.

Our idols and sin separate us from Him. When we get it out of the way, then the “Way” is opened for us to be one with Him. Our consumption of Unleavened Bread is made just that more powerful when we take the first step of repentance.

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 for sweet Unleavened Bread!

In the back of this booklet, there is a list of Unleavened Bread recipes. Hungry Hearts Ministries also has 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, he 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 properly honor His sacrifice.

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.

As Christians we should live in a mindset of repentance. This means when we realize we have sinned, we immediately ask God to forgive us and desire to no longer sin again. At the same time, we need to set aside dedicated time to repent. The busy-ness of life can cause us to miss obvious sin in our lives—or even just neglect of our relationship with God and Christ.

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 still 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. Every year I have de-leavened my borders, God has given me understanding of where I fall short and need to make changes in my life. We should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God during this process.

Start this process about 30 days before Passover (which is actually the same day as 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! Our sins separate us from Him (Isaiah 59:1-2). He wants us to come clean with Him so we can be as close to Him as possible.

In the process of de-leavening your house, also spend time making a sin list. This is not to show or share with others, but to help you get right with God. While the idea of a ‘sin list’ may sound different or strange, 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 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 *choriegraphon dogma*. *Choreigraphon* means bill of indebtedness. *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. 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! Satan will have nothing to accuse us of!

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 Biblical examples to reinforce this concept.

In Joshua chapter 6, the city of Jericho was taken. They burned the city (Joshua 6:24). Sodom and Gomorrah were burned due to sin (Gen. 19:24). 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 your sins on a piece of paper. As aforementioned, this is not to show anyone else. This is to help you in your relationship with God.

If this is your first time making a sin list, go back as far as you can remember. If you have done this before, then just go back as far as your last sin list. Sometimes Christians struggle to discern God's leading. If you ask Him to help you overcome sin, then 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 he/she simply fell 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 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 for-

gavest the iniquity (*avone*) of my sin. Selah.” In this passage, David reflected on His sin with Bathsheeba. He asked God to forgive His *chattah*, *pasha*, and *avone*. He admitted that he missed the mark, rebelled against what He knew was right, 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.”

In the New Covenant, our sins are both forgiven and forgotten! (Jeremiah 31:31-34) 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 specific and honest as possible. I always start with outward examination of my life in comparison with the Ten Commandments in Exodus chapter 20. I then turn to Galatians 5:19-21.

While this is a great place to start, we also want to look deep within our thoughts, intents, and motivations. Consider verses such as John 13:34: “...love one another as I have loved you”; Romans 14:23: “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin”; and James 4:17: “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

Here are some questions to consider: 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? Have you loved your neighbor as yourself? Have you neglected your relationship with God and Christ? Have you buried your talents in the ground? Have you been diligent in studying the Word of God and prayer? Have you been lukewarm in keeping God’s commandments?

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 was always a great spiritual harvest 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 (2 Chron. 30:1-27)! In a like manner, Josiah rallied the people to corporate repentance. They had an even greater spiritual harvest on Passover, which had not been experienced since the days of Samuel (2 Chron. 35:1-27)! 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, revenge, anger, division, and discontentment reign. 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. Holiness is not just outward behavior; it involves inward transformation through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:5-17).

At my home ministry, we have practiced this for over 10 years. Many people have had life-changing experiences through this process. After putting sin lists in the fire, people report have a greater sense of feeling clean than ever before. It is a natural way to separate yourself from past actions. After burning the list, some people have even closed their eyes and seen the color red. What a vivid reminder that the blood of Jesus purifies us from our sins.

Chapter 5

Celebrating the Passover Season

In this last chapter, we are going to explain how we celebrate the Passover Season. You are going to love this time of the year. There are a few details to review before we get deeper into the subject matter.

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

When we examine Leviticus 23:4-9, which is an overview of the Passover Season, we will see these special days are called convocations. The Hebrew word translated as convocation is *miqra*, and it means a gathering or rehearsal.

These feast days are times that we gather together with like-minded believers to celebrate the goodness of God in our lives, the redemptive plan of Christ, and rehearse for the coming Kingdom of God.

Of the days mentioned in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23:4-9, two of them are called annual Sabbaths: the First Day and Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread. There is a Calendar in the back of this booklet that helps you identify when these dates on our modern calendar. What is an annual Sabbath?

The Weekly Sabbath is from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Annual Sabbaths are specific dates in the year that are also considered Sabbaths.

Let's give you an example: In 2020, April 8th at sunset through April 9th at sunset is the first day of Unleavened Bread. April 14th at sunset through sunset on April 15th is the Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread. As reviewed in chapter 1, Biblical days begin at sunset.

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). The purpose of these

commandment is to help us focus on giving adoration to God and Christ. The Lord has an appointment to meet with you on these days. He wants you to be focused totally on Him so you can receive a spiritual harvest. He is Jealous for us (Ex. 20:5).

It is a wise thing to ask your employer for these days off well in advance (several months is a good guideline). 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 tend to be favorable in getting off for these days. Pray and seek God. He established this amazing time of the year; He will help you get the time off. Just be prepared to stand for the truth as Moses stood up to Pharaoh.

Passover is not an annual Sabbath; but it is a feast day. The time that we spend gathering together is holy (Lev. 23:4). Let's use the 2020 dates as an example. This means that once you are finished celebrating the Passover on the night of April 7th then you can go to work until sunset on April 8th. This also gives you some extra time to finish de-leavening your house.

This chapter is going to explain the meaning of these days and how we celebrate them. The power of God poured out in the past on these days 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 festival!

The first night of this festival season is called the Passover. It was on this night over 3,500 years ago that Moses and the Israelites applied the blood of the lamb to the sides and top of their door posts. They then ate a meal with lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs

For us, 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, event**. We should reflect on the price that was paid for us.

At Hungry Hearts Ministries, there is a special format we utilize for this service. We start with worship music. We choose slower, intimate songs that are totally focused on what Jesus did for us. We want to reverence the price He paid.

We also have a meal (with unleavened items, obviously). I know that some congregations do not have a meal for the service, but we only do this because Jesus had a meal during His last Passover on earth (see Luke 22:20).

There are certain aspects of the Passover meal that bring life to this celebration and our relationship with Christ. Among these is the unleavened bread, which is also called the bread of affliction (Deut. 16:3). As discussed earlier in this book, yeast represents sin during this time of the year (I Cor. 5:6-8). We have unleavened bread because Christ was our sinless sacrifice (Lev. 2:11; I Peter 1:19). This bread represents Christ's body, which was beaten for our iniquities and sins. He took the affliction of punishment due us on His body! (Isaiah 53:1-7)

Another item listed in the Passover meal in Exodus 12:8 is the *meror'* or bitter herb. It chiefly represents the bitterness that the Israelites experienced in Egypt (Ex. 1:14). Life was hard for them.

For us, it corresponds to the life without Christ, which was full of bitterness. We learned lessons the hard way; we tried to do things in our flesh without consulting God. There are warnings in the New Testament to avoid the bitterness of our old life (Ephesians 4:31).

In John 13:26, we learn that Jesus and Judas dipped into the dish together. What did they dip in? The most likely explanation is that they dipped together in the *meror'*. This was a bitter betrayal. They served together for years; Judas betrayed Christ for monetary gain. After Peter betrayed Christ, he wept bitterly (Matthew 26:75, Luke 22:62). Even after our conversion, we don't always live up to the standard we should. The *meror'* reminds us that sin causes bitterness.

In the time of Christ, there were likely only two cups at a Passover meal (the ancient Jewish Seder has developed more since then). Luke mentions two. The first cup was given at the beginning of the meal: “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves.” (Luke 22:17) It is called the kiddish or sanctification. It separated holy time from common time. The second cup was taken after the supper was over “Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:20). Christ declared that this cup represented the new covenant in His blood.

Something unique that Christ instituted at the Passover meal was foot washing. To my knowledge, this custom did not exist at the traditional Jewish Passover Seder. Foot washing is very important because it helps us to put this season into 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 demonstrated these 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. Over the years, I have practiced a unique perspective as it relates to foot washing. When I am washing feet of another person, I imagine myself washing Jesus’ feet; when my feet are being washed I imagine Jesus washing my feet. After all, Christ lives in each of us. 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. It is not enough for us to know about washing feet, we have to do it to receive the blessing!

During the day portion of the 14th of Nissan, the Israelites received gold, silver, and clothing from the Egyptians (Ex. 12:33-35). When we leave the Egypt of a sinful life, we receive the riches of Christ’s grace (Eph. 1:7, 2:7). We receive a garment of salvation (Isaiah 61:10). We are equipped to do every good work in Christ (Eph. 2:10).

On the night of the 15th of Nissan begins the Night to Be Much Observed. This is the night that the Israelites left the land of Egypt. 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” (see also Num. 28:17). 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 (Hosea 8:13), this night is a celebration of us coming up out of sin! This should be a joyful time! 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 left behind our selfish, sinful lives. 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 that we needed to hear, and experienced everything necessary so that we would leave the old life when the time was right.

We have a dinner on this second night and share stories about the faithfulness of God and Christ. We also play the best rejoicing music we have! It is a night to be celebratory and excited.

On this second night, we have a dish called *charo-set*. It is made with nuts and fruits. This helps us to think about the sweet new life we have in Christ.

When the Israelites left Egypt, they started a new life. When we leave the old life of sin behind, we also start a new life. II Corinthians 5:17 reads: “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 failures of the past year(s) 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 Annual Sabbath in the Passover Season.

Some people may wonder why Passover is not an annual Sabbath. Here’s one way to think of it: Christ was made common and abased so that we could be made holy (Hebrews 2:5-11). On Passover, we remember His affliction; On the Night to be Much Observed we recognize that He makes us holy.

The seven days of Unleavened Bread begin on the 15th of Nissan and continues through the 21st of Nissan. There is a supernatural blessing that comes from eating unleavened bread through the duration of this feast. Eat away!

During the seven days of Unleavened Bread, Pharaoh and his army pursued the Israelites across the Sinai Peninsula. Eventually, 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!

On the Seventh Day we recognize when the Israelites victoriously crossed the Red Sea. They were cut off from their accusers. 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 engrained behaviors. The Passover season teaches 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 when we are overcoming sin in our personal lives. On Passover, we receive the blood of Christ. His blood washes away our sins. With our clean slate from Him, we can leave behind that sin. This is represented by the First Day of Unleavened Bread (when the Israelites left Egypt). On the Seventh Day, we celebrate the power to be cut off from sinful habits as we learn to trust God through His Spirit. Pharaoh’s army tried to intimidate the Israelites into going back to Egypt, but they had to trust God. The devil will always try to tempt us to sin, especially in areas where we struggle. The key to deliverance from sin is when the devil’s intimidation cannot lure us back into sin!

Another story that has meaning for this time of the year is taken from the book of Joshua. After the Israelites kept Passover in the land of Canaan, they encountered Jericho (Joshua 5:10-15). 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.

Of the Feast Days, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the only time period where God asked His people to move. God expects us to move away from our sinful past and move towards His promises for our lives. 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. For the Israelites to have victory at Jericho, they had to follow God’s instructions. Once we are saved, we must continue to walk with Him (John14:12).

This is an overview of 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 2020

Passover— 14th of Nissan Exodus 12:6, Lev. 23:4, Num. 33:3
Night to Be Much Observed— 15th of Nissan (evening portion) Ex. 12:42; Num. 28:17
1st of UB— 15th of Nissan (day portion)— (Annual Sabbath)
— Exodus 12:16, Lev 23:7
7th of UB— 21st of Nissan— (Annual Sabbath) — Exodus
12:16, Lev 23:8

Day on American Calendar (2020 Feasts)	Day on the Hebrew Calendar (Days begin at sunset)	Event
Sunset, Tuesday, April 7th	14th of Nissan	The Passover Starts at sunset
Sunset, Wednesday, April 8th	15th of Nissan	Night to be Much Observed Starts at Sunset; also starts the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread
Thursday, April 9th	16th of Nissan	During the Day, we celebrate the First Day of Unleavened Bread
Friday, April 10th	17th of Nissan	
Saturday, April 11th	18th of Nissan	
Sunday April 12th	19th of Nissan	First fruits of the Barley harvest (not a feast day)
Monday, April 13th	20th of Nissan	
Sunset, Tuesday, April 14th through sunset Wednesday April 15th	21th of Nissan	7th Day of Unleavened Bread

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.

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
½ Teaspoon of Salt
¾ 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 ½ Cup milled flax seed for 1 ½ 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
½ 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*
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)
2023	April 5 (Wed)	April 6-12 (Thurs-Wed)
2024	April 22 (Mon)	April 23-29 (Tues-Mon)
2025	April 12 (Sat)	April 13-19 (Sun-Sat)
2026	April 1 (Wed)	April 2-8 (Thurs-Wed)

#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 GoodNews*. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written 12 books and 30 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.

On Passover, we commemorate the Son of God, Jesus Christ, coming down to earth to lay down His life for our sins. He willingly gave His life for so that we could be forgiven. There is also a seven-day festival rich with meaning and spiritual significance for Christians. As we approach this time of the year, it is vitally important that we prepare to 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.