

# (Exodus) Exodus 12:14-23

by J. Vernon McGee

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*The Passover feast and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were significant events in the Bible, teaching us about the importance of fellowship with God, the principle of leaven, and the significance of studying the Bible.*

**Duration:** 8:21

**Topics:** "Expositional"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the significance of leaven in the Bible. He explains that leaven represents evil and unsound doctrine, contrasting it with the unleavened bread which symbolizes the Word of God. The speaker emphasizes the importance of avoiding leavened bread and instead consuming unleavened bread, as it is the spiritual food for believers. He also highlights the Feast of Unleavened Bread as a time of fellowship with God, separate from the Passover which is related to salvation.

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## Transcript

There followed the Passover feast, and you will find out that when we get to Leviticus, that there'll be instructions given for the Passover, and then the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which actually was part of it, but took place really after the Passover. And in verse 14 I read, "...and this day shall be unto you for a memorial, and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. Ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread. Even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses, for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel." Now actually this had nothing to do with the death angel passing over. This was a feast of fellowship of those within, and it was a wonderful time of fellowship.

It was duty, of course, God commanded it, and it was also a privilege. But it hadn't anything in the world to do with their salvation. It had to do with the fact that they were to have fellowship with God.

Now, you will notice that they are not to eat leavened bread. And beginning here in verse 17, it says, "...ye shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt." And they ate the unleavened bread on the Wilderness March, you see, because they began the night of the Passover.

And they then ate the bread for seven days. And you notice that it's unleavened bread. If they ate leavened bread, they were cut off.

That means they were cut off from the fellowship. There'd be no fellowship at all. Now, right here is put down a principle concerning leaven.

Leaven is mentioned here, oh, about, I suppose, eight or nine times from verse 14 down through verse 20. Well, let me read verse 19. "...Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses.

For whosoever eateth that which be leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger or born in the land. Ye shall eat nothing leavened. In all your habitation shall ye eat unleavened bread." Now, this is very important because it puts down a principle here that when you move into the New Testament, it doesn't go into reverse and mean the opposite.

Leaven is a principle of evil. It represents evil, and it represents that which is offensive. Now, we'll have occasion to refer to that again.

But when you get to the 13th of Matthew and you read about a woman hiding leaven in three measures of meal, that leaven isn't the gospel. It couldn't be because leaven is a principle of evil. Actually, the three measures of meal is the Word of God, and in it there has been put leaven today, and that's evil.

There has been put unsound doctrine. And I am absolutely overwhelmed and amazed to see the amount of error that's being taught today and how gullible people are that just go for it. Fact of the matter is, the rackets, and there are many of them, do lots better than those of us that attempt to just teach the simple Word of God.

You'll find out we're having our problems, but not the cults or isms. They're having no problem at all. This matter of leaven, it's evil, friends, and it has been put into the teaching of the Word.

All occults and isms use the Bible, but they put leaven with it, and that is the thing that the children of Israel were told to avoid. And when our Lord made it very clear that it couldn't be good, He said, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. And actually, the disciples at that time thought He meant physical bread.

Then they understand later that He meant the doctrine of the Pharisees, that which is evil, you say. And that principle is put down here. Now, unleavened bread is not palatable.

There are a great many people today that don't like the study of the Bible. I recognize that. A great many people love to come to a church for the social time or the music or the beauty of the place, but not for the Word of God.

They don't want the Word of God because actually unleavened bread is not very palatable. I happened to be in Israel during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and I stayed in the Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa. And friends, I want to say very candidly, I never got as tired of unleavened bread in my life because I was brought up in the South where we had hot biscuits, the kind that just puff right up, and not unleavened bread.

Oh, but the night it was over and they brought out the bread, the real article, by the way, as far as I'm concerned, because that's good to the natural man, you see. And they brought out lamb fixed. Oh, it was delicious.

It was really a feast, not only for those of us that were there that were Gentiles and Christians, but also for those that were in the land, citizens of the nation Israel. Unleavened bread, friends, is not as delightful and it's not as palatable, not as tasty as the leavened bread is. But may I say that the Word of God is the food that's for the child of God.

Now, this is a great principle put down here, as you can see. Now, he goes on and says in verse 22, And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel in the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning, for the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians.

And when he seeth the blood upon the lintel and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the Doa and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. Now, there are several things to note here. I wonder if it had occurred to you as we have been looking at this matter of the Passover, and now for two times we've talked about the putting of the blood on the doorpost.

Have you wondered just how they did it? How did they put the blood on the doorpost? Well, hyssop is a little plant that grows around rocks in a damp place. It is a fluffy type of a little plant, and it was dipped into the blood and then applied. It was the applicator, and again, the hyssop represents to me faith.

That is the way that the blood is applied to your heart and my life. Someone says, how do you apply? By faith, trusting what Christ has done for us when he died for us. Now, we find here that God goes into a great deal of detail in telling these people about how they are to do at this particular time.

He gives specific instructions.

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