

# They left in haste

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Although the Days of Unleavened Bread just concluded, let's focus on one particular lesson that is associated with those days.

One of the lessons of these days is that believers must be prepared to leave in haste.

When we read some history in the book of Exodus, we learn how the Israelites left Egypt.

Before that night of departure, Moses had several discussions with Pharaoh about leaving Egypt.

Moses began to periodically request that Pharaoh let the Israelites depart from Egypt (Exodus 5:1).

At times, Pharaoh would initially agree (Exodus 8:8, 28 and other places), but then he would change his mind (Exodus 8:15, 32 and other places).

## **Final plague**

After the final plague (the death of the firstborn), the Egyptians were very eager for the children of Israel to leave their land.

The Egyptians wanted to kick them out of the land so fast that the children of Israel were leaving before their bread could rise.

**Exodus 12:33-34**—"And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, 'We shall all be dead.' So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders."

**Exodus 12:39**—"And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves."

Hence, we have the Days of Unleavened Bread.

How can leaving in haste apply to believers?

## Leaving their land

There are a few biblical examples that talk about the people of God physically leaving in haste.

We have an example of God choosing for the Israelites to leave Egypt (Exodus 14:5-28).

We have an example of God instructing Lot to take his family and leave Sodom (Genesis 19:1-22).

We have the New Testament example of Jesus Christ teaching His disciples to be prepared to leave Jerusalem when the upcoming calamity arrived (Luke 17:31-36).

In that instruction, Jesus reminded His friends "to remember Lot's wife" (verse 32).

Believers today wonder if Christ's instructions at that time will have any relevance to their lives in the coming years.

## Not consumed

While believers acknowledge that there have been times to physically depart, that is not usually the case.

We see that, most of the time, believers remain in their homeland.

How does the departing "in haste" instruction apply to them?

Believers who remain in their homeland should not be entrenched in the evil parts of the culture or lifestyle.

**John 17:14-17**—"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

**Hebrews 11:13, 16**—"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth . . . But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

**Colossians 3:1-2**—"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."