

# ***First Day of Unleavened Bread 2010***

03/30/2010

God went above and beyond in showing lovingkindness to the children of Israel. God exercised a tremendous amount of concern, mercy, faithfulness, loyalty and steadfastness to take the children of Israel from a situation of abject slavery to a situation where they would be free in the Promised Land. God will faithfully do His part as He has amply demonstrated twice: once at the first Passover in Egypt and twice at the last Passover of Jesus Christ.

**Leviticus 23:1-8** And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts ... On the 14th day of the first month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover. And on the 15th day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.'"

Notice that these are the feasts of the LORD. Notice ...

**Leviticus 23:5-6.** In THE FOURTEENTH [DAY] of the first month at even [is] the LORD'S PASS-OVER. And on THE FIFTEENTH DAY of the same month [IS] THE FEAST of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. (AV)

**Numbers 28:16-17.** And in THE FOURTEENTH DAY of the first month [is] THE PASSOVER of the LORD. And in THE FIFTEENTH DAY of this month [IS] THE FEAST: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten. (AV)

These are two separate days.

**Exodus 12:14:20** 'So this day shall be to you a memorial;. ... Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. On the *first day* there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. ... Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

These verses show us that "the Feast" spoken about in Exodus 12:14 is "the Feast of Unleavened Bread". What should our response be to what God has done? After the Passover in Egypt, what were the people supposed to do? Stay in Egypt or leave Egypt? The left Egypt with a high hand:

**Exodus 14:8.** And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. (Or with boldness, NKJV) (Or defiantly, RSV)

The children of Israel should have been extremely grateful and should have been in awe of such magnificent provider. Instead we read something different:

**Numbers 11:4-6.** Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

Unbelievable! They longed for Egypt. What God wanted them to do was to forsake and forget Egypt. God wanted them to mentally leave Egypt. We are to forsake and forget SIN. God does not want us to revel in the thoughts of the "good old days" when we could do so many things — without a tinge of a guilty conscience. We stand a chance of falling away. Paul warns us that after we have had the Holy Spirit given to us, after we have tasted the good word of God we can't go back.

**Hebrews 6:3-6.** ... For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God ... to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God,.

Putting away leaven takes determination, care and patience. Putting away sin should be a life-long process of being careful and being in an attitude of being watchful.

**Exodus 12:11.** 'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in *haste* <02649>. It is the LORD'S Passover.

The word *haste* comes from Strong's word <02649> *kip-paw-zone'* meaning "hurriedly, in haste, trepidation, hurried flight." But not in the sense of speed. A different word is used in:

**Exodus 12:33.** And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in *haste* <04116>. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

The word *haste* comes from Strong's word <04116> *maw-har'* — meaning "haste, swift, quickly, soon, speed, rash, shortly, speedily". This means that the Egyptians told the people get *out of here fast!* Though Israel be faithless, God remains faithful. This steady, persistent refusal of God to wash his hands of wayward Israel is the essential meaning of the Hebrew word which is translated *loving-kindness*. It is one of the words that Miles Coverdale used to translate the Hebrew word ***kheh'-sed***, Strong's <2617>. This word refers to a "loyal, merciful, good, kind, faithful, committed love" of God towards the children of Israel at the Exodus time and towards us when He sent Jesus Christ to die for us while we were yet sinners.

Moses understood what God had done for the children of Israel at that first day of unleavened bread in Egypt. This would be their first day away from Egypt for all of them. This should be our first day without sin of the rest of our lives. Moses felt for this people.

**Numbers 14-1-2.** ... And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

**Number 14:11-12.** Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

Moses said, "You have invested a lot of loving-kindness on this people. Please, reconsider. I don't want anything for me." We need to ask for God's forgiveness and lovingkindness for each other, for the Church and for other people just as Moses and David did:

**Numbers 14:18-19.** The LORD is longsuffering and *abundant in mercy* <02617>, forgiving iniquity and transgression; . . . "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your *mercy* <02617>, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

Our sins separated us from God. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. We have plenty of good reasons to put sin of our lives, beginning today until the day that we draw our last breath of air.

- The Passover is "a memorial" of the death of Jesus Christ.
- "The Feast" is a reference to "the Feast of Unleavened Bread".

**Romans 5:8.** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. (AV)

Let us keep the feast with renewed understanding:

**1 Corinthians 5:8.** 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.