

# The Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Sinlessness of Christ

# Historical Background

- Second of the spring feasts following Passover (Nisan 14)
- Seven-day feast beginning on Nisan 15 and ending on Nisan 21
- For seven-days no leavened bread was to be eaten
- Anyone eating leavened bread would be cut off from Israel
- All leaven was to be removed from their homes
- A holy assembly was to be held on the first and on the seventh days
- No work was to be done except to prepare food on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> days
- Offering by fire were to be presented each day
- Was to be observed annually

# Leaven Defined & Biblical Usage

- An agent, such as yeast, that causes dough to ferment and rise
- A pervasive influence that modifies something or transforms it for better (good) or worse (evil)
- Symbolic of life of bondage (slavery) in Egypt – Exodus 1:11-14, 3: 7-9
- Symbolic of world system – Matthew 16:6, Mark 8:15, Luke 12:1
- Symbolic of sin – 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- Symbolic of the Kingdom of Heaven – Matthew 13:33
  - Some scholars interpret leaven as the Holy Spirit moving in the world, the flour
  - Others interpret leaven as sin moving in and through the church, the flour

# Preparation for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- All leaven was to be removed from the Hebrew's houses
- Required a great deal of spring house cleaning
- House was thoroughly washed, scrubbed, and cleaned
- This included the walls, ceiling, floors, furniture, cabinets, etc.
- Cookware was boiled in water
- Special utensils were used that had not been contaminated with leaven
- Once the cleaning was completed the family would participate in a ceremony know as the “search for leaven”

# Preparation Continued

- After dark, the head of the house would take a lightened candle and search the house for hidden leaven
- Any leaven found would be immediately removed from the house
- Many modern Jewish families participate in this housecleaning and search for leaven
- Just before Passover crumbs of leavened bread are placed in each room of the house
- Head of the home pronounces a benediction about removing leaven and proceeds to search for the hidden leaven

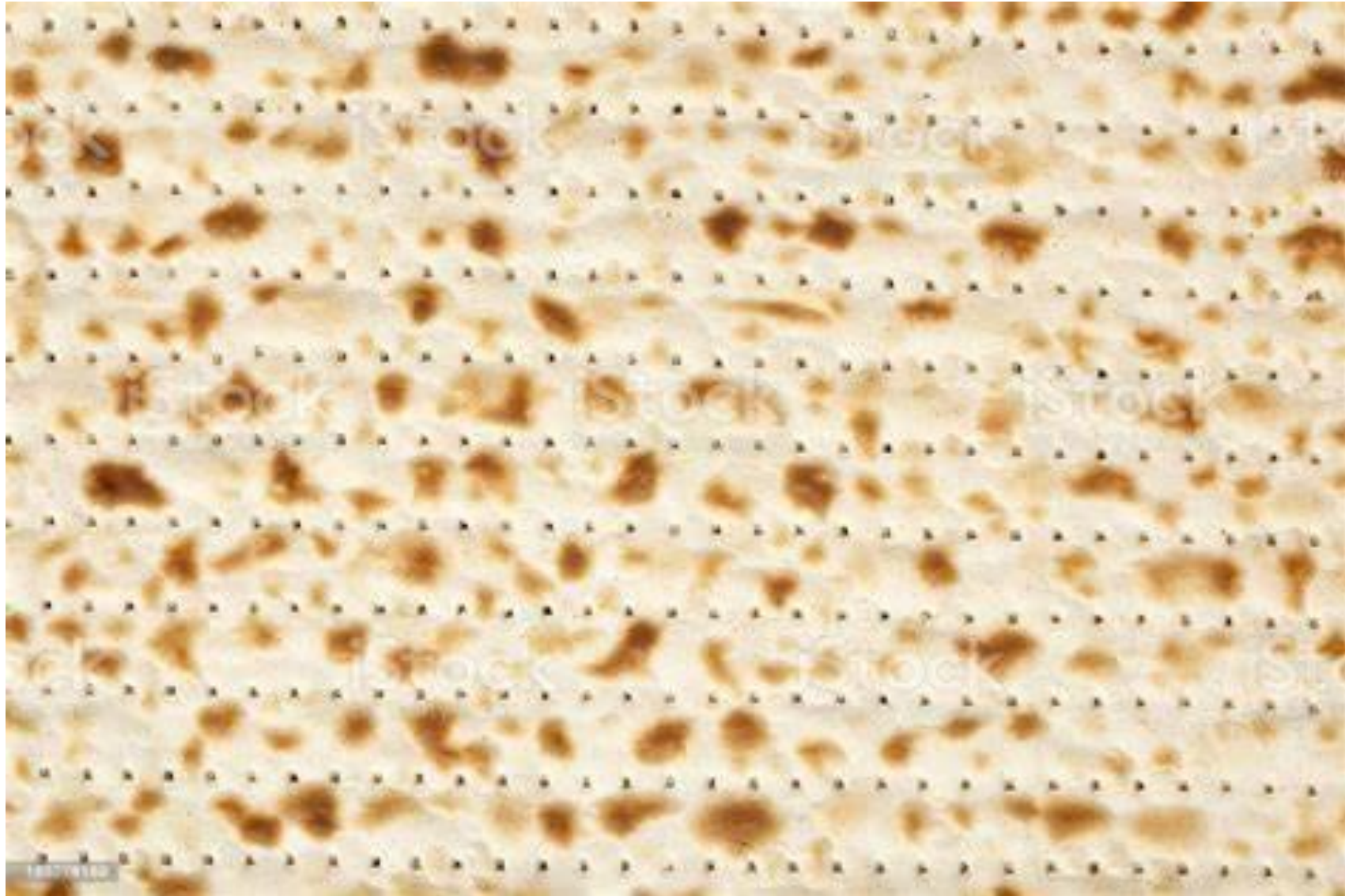
# Preparation Continued

- A lighted candle is carried to find the hidden leaven, when found care is taken not to touch the leaven
- To avoid contact with the leaven a feather is taken and used to brush the leaven into a wooden spoon
- Leaven is put into a bag and the search continues from room to room
- Once all the leaven is found and put in the bag the feather, spoon and candle are put in the bag and burned
- A prayer is offered to God asking Him to forgive the family for any hidden leaven they may have overlooked

# Picture of Christ

- Jesus fulfilled this feast as the “Bread of Life” from Heaven
- He had no leaven (sin) in Him
- Remember leaven is often used as a metaphor for sin because of its fermenting and permeating nature
- “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21)
- “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5)
- “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger” (John 6:35)
- Prophet Isaiah gave us a preview of the Messiah who would be smitten, bruised and pierced for our sins. Read and study Isaiah 53:4-5:8-10.

# Matzah – Unleavened Bread





# What did you see?

- Matzah or unleavened bread is a picture of Christ body and what He did for us
- Christ was so badly beaten he would have looked grotesque
- Bread that was pierced – a sword pierced Christ body
- Scorched or dark marks – Christ body was badly bruised
- Uneven ridges and other marks – Christ received 39 lashes
- Bread was baked with fire – bread with yeast (leaven) will continue to rise unless the process is stopped. This is done by baking, which kills the yeast thus stopping the process. This speaks of salvation and receiving the Holy Spirit. The symbol of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is fire.

# Application for You and Me

- Passover teaches us how to have peace with God through a personal relationship with Jesus as the Passover Lamb
- Passover points to the cross and leads us to salvation
- All who have a personal relationship with Jesus have peace with God
- Through the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of First Fruits we not only learn how to have peace with God but also the peace of God
- Unleavened Bread speaks to sinlessness and sanctification

# Sanctification

- Sanctification is used in the New Testament as the separation of the believer from evil things and ways.
- Sanctification is the ongoing work of God through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Sanctification is God's will for the believer (1 Thess. 4:3)
- Sanctification must be learned from God as He teaches us by His Word
- Sanctification must be pursued by the believer, earnestly and without compromise
- The Holy Character that results from sanctification cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession built up little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God and following the example of Christ

# Why Seven Days?

- Seven is the number of rest and completion
- On the first day of creation God created light – **Revelation – Christ is the Light of the World**
- On the second day God created an expanse separating the waters from the waters. There were waters below the expanse and waters above. He called the expanse Heaven – **Separated from the Living Water**
- On the third day God gathered the under the heavens into one place and dry land appeared. The land was called Earth and the waters were called Seas. God created vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which there is their seed. **The first life – Christ arose on the third day.**