

# DO YOU EAT THE BREAD?

By Don E. Haney 1-3-01

It had been 30 days now since that hectic fast-paced evening when Israel began their journey out of Egypt in such haste that they did not have time to leaven their dough or to let it rise. They ate flat bread that memorable night, with staff in hand and their booty on their backs. They had taken enough provisions from the Egyptians to last them 30 days. But they spent the first seven days of their journey eating flat unleavened bread, until they crossed the Red Sea and left Egyptian territory. Now thirty days after their journey began, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month, Israel's provisions began to run out. (Ex.16:1-3) Still weak in faith and understanding, they began to moan and complain about the days of old when they sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full. They were fearful that hunger would overtake them. But God was just beginning to show them (and us) just where man's sustenance and life comes from. They murmured their desire for meat and bread so God gave them bread from heaven and quail for meat. Let's review this account briefly in Exodus 16.

Exod 16:3       And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

4       Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

5       "And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

6       Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt.

7       "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?"

8       Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD."

9       Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'"

10       Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

11       And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

12       "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

13       So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.

14       And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. (NKJ)

This manna was used not only to teach them about God's weekly Sabbath and to test their obedience to His laws, but this was to show a basic principle – GOD IS OUR SOURCE OF LIFE!

It must have been an absolutely incredible thing to witness – God's glory in the cloud, and then God actually raining bread right down from heaven to feed His people. First Israel saw God's miracles in defeating Israel's enemies with the punishing plagues. Then they saw the cloud as a reminder of God's presence and protection from the burning desert sun, as well as a protective barrier between Israel and the Egyptians. (Ex.14:19-20) Finally they were all baptized in the sea. And as they came up out of that watery grave to a new life, they saw their enemies crushed by the mighty walls of water unleashed by the power that dwelt in that cloud. Now this same God spoke to them out of the heavenly cloud and promised to now perform miracles – NOT ONLY OF BEING SAVED FROM SURE DEATH – BUT OF BEING FED WITH LIFE SUSTAINING BREAD FROM HEAVEN! GOD WAS GOING TO RAIN BREAD RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY, right down from the cloud in heaven! Paul later called this "spiritual meat". Would you like to eat the bread from heaven?

At this time of year we usually focus upon the Days of Unleavened Bread, as being a time of coming out of sin, coming out of godless Egypt and slavery to sin. We focus upon this as a time when leaven is a type of sin. God commanded His people to put out the leaven for seven days, because leavening represented wickedness. (Ex.12 and 1 Cor.5:8) That's good, but did you know that is only half of the symbolism? Did you know God also wants you to EAT THE BREAD – the true Unleavened Bread of Life?

Notice God's instructions to Israel concerning leaving Egypt and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and let's see how it ties in with the fore mentioned manna.

Exod 12:14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

15 '**Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.** On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

16 '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.

17 'So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

18 '**In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.** (NKJ) (emphasis mine throughout this article)

Notice the first command given regarding this day is not regarding leavening – but rather to EAT THE BREAD, the Unleavened Bread. Notice again in verse 18 the command to EAT! Why? Because WITHOUT CHRIST (which the unleavened bread symbolizes, we CANNOT come out of sin, and we CANNOT have life in us! We MUST eat Christ! UNDERSTAND the command to **EAT THE UNLEAVENED BREAD**, is just as much a part of this Feast – if not more so – than putting out the leaven!

Do you EAT THE BREAD?

How does this tie in with the manna mentioned at the beginning of this article? Let's see:

Exod 16:31 And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. (NKJ)

This bread is described as a "wafer". That word in Hebrew is (tsappiyichith), it means a flat cake or flat wafer. This manna was described as being like flat bread or flat wafers that were sweet like honey. What other Biblical descriptions of the manna do we have?

Num 11:7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium.

8 The people would go about and gather {it} and grind {it} between two millstones or beat {it} in the mortar, and boil {it} in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil. (NAS)

So what are the descriptions for Manna? It was a flat wafer that was sweet and when cooked produced OIL (a symbol of God's Holy Spirit). The end result would be flat sweet oily unleavened wafers!

Now we know Christ is our Passover. Christ is the Lamb of God, offered as our Passover. CHRIST IS BECOME OUR OFFERING TO GOD FOR SIN – HE IS THE ULTIMATE OFFERING. What is the symbolism of this Manna? For comparison's sake, let's now look at how the Lamb was to be offered to God.

Num 6:14 And he shall offer his offering unto the LORD, one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering, and one ram without blemish for peace offerings, 15 And a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings. (KJV)

I SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THIS MANNA WAS ANOTHER TYPE OF CHRIST, just like the Lamb was. This manna represented OUR UNLEAVENED BREAD OF LIFE! During the Feast of Unleavened Bread we are told to EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD, because it represents Christ!

Just before the Passover and Days of ULB, Jesus performed the miracle of the Bread and fishes. (Jn.6:4-14) God was showing that those who follow the Lord need never go hungry, because they will find Christ is their life sustaining sustenance. What did Jesus say about bread a day or so later?

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

27 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." (NKJ) Christ is the bread that endures to everlasting life. So again I ask, do you eat the Bread?

This symbolism of leavening as sin, and Unleavened Bread as Christ is rich and beautiful. It is a perfect, colorful picture of God's love and plan for mankind. John understands this well and is used by God to fill up further what the manna of old was a wonderful reminder and type of. Let's see plainly now this comparison of Christ and the manna.

John 6:30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?"

31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (NKJ)

Notice further:

John 6:48 "I am the bread of life.

49 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 "This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (NKJ)

Christ is the LIVING BREAD. During the days of unleavened we are reminded of the need to put out sin and of how sin permeates our life like leavening does bread. We are commanded to put out the type of sin as a reminder. But that is only HALF of the symbolism. We are also commanded to EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD, because the Unleavened Bread SYMBOLIZES CHRIST IN US, helping us to become righteous like He is! He lives His life in us, helping us to begin to live the same obedient unleavened life that He lived in His own flesh. (Gal 2:20)

Christ gave them the miracle of the loaves of bread, and later proclaimed Himself to them as the Living Bread from Heaven, that if a man eats, he will have life! Those who come to God through Christ never need hunger physically or spiritually. He told us to seek first His Kingdom and righteousness, and all our needs would be cared for by Him. (Matt.6:33)

Did you know that the apostle Paul referred to the Manna as that SPIRITUAL FOOD THAT WAS CHRIST?

1 Cor 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,  
2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,  
3 all ate the same spiritual food,  
4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (NKJ)

Paul called the manna from heaven that sustained Israel, "spiritual food", because it was a type of Christ. They were to collect it DAILY! It could not be stored up. Neither can our righteousness or the Holy Spirit. We need daily to EAT CHRIST, and drink in of the Living Water of His Holy Spirit! But notice further what Paul said about this "spiritual food" – this heavenly bread:

1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread. (NKJ)

I ask; What kind of bread was broken as part of the Passover meal that Paul refers to? UNLEAVENED BREAD! Paul is saying clearly that Christ is both typed by the manna from heaven and the Unleavened Bread that we break at Passover. That is why we are commanded to EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD seven days following Passover, because it is to point us to Christ the TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN – OUR LIFE! This symbolism is rich and beautiful. I hope the we can all see what these things teach us and why God commanded them.

It may also be interesting to note the type of the cloud in the wilderness, from which God spoke to them of this manna. Christ was taken up in a cloud when He returned to His Father after His resurrection, and He will come again in the clouds – Just like He did in the past! (Acts 1:9-11) Christ the TRUE HEAVENLY MANNA (BREAD) FROM HEAVEN, will come again in the clouds. Those who eat **this Unleavened Bread** will live forever!

What is the practical application of this symbolism? As you take the Passover and keep the Days of Unleavened Bread for seven days, ponder the beautiful symbolism that God is teaching us. Each day during this Feast, we need to **EAT THE BREAD – THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF LIFE!**

Because then, and only then, will we be able to become unleavened, and then and **ONLY THEN** will we have life! Let the meaning of each bite of unleavened bread **SINK IN!** But more, we need to eat spiritually of Christ our Unleavened Passover. How do we do that, you may ask? The same way Christ did – through the **DAILY** contact with the Father. We need to **DAILY FEED ON CHRIST AND HIS FATHER**, through prayer. Daily feed through Bible study. Daily feed by meditation and **FOCUS** upon the Word of God. Ask for God's Holy Spirit to make us more Christ like. **PUT IN GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS AND LAWS** through the Spirit, represented by Unleavened Bread. **PUT OUT** our ways, greed, self-centeredness, vanity, and the lawless ways and sins of this world which permeate our lives and society like leavening does a loaf of bread. (Eph.4:22-32) Take time to study God's laws, statutes, and His plan which gives us Hope – eat of His word. Make the gospel the creed you live by. Pray like Christ did to be **FILLED!** Pray like Christ did for help to **BE UNLEAVENED!** We can change and grow. But in order to do it, we will need to **EAT THE UNLEAVENED BREAD DAILY!** Israel did not have the strength to come out of Egypt under her own power. Neither will we.

- Each Day of Unleavened Bread, God commands us to **EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD**, because those flat cakes represent Christ.
- Each day of ULB, when we eat Unleavened Bread, it is to remind us that only in Christ do we have the sustenance of life – **NONE WHO COME TO HIM SHALL EVER HUNGER!**
- Each day of ULB, we are to eat **Unleavened Bread, because it symbolizes Christ and humility**– and ought to remind us – that **CHRIST IS THE TRUE BREAD OF LIFE!** When we eat of Christ **WE HAVE LIFE ETERNAL!**
- Israel left Egypt which was a type of sin. We too are to come out of this world and put away her practices!
- **BUT BEFORE THEY LEFT, Israel ATE THE PASSOVER WITH UNLEAVENED BREAD!**
- Then the next 7 days, they were commanded to eat **UNLEAVENED BREAD**, as well as to **PUT OUT** any leavened bread -- or any leavening. These 7 days represent the week – the full time allotted man until the Kingdom of God!
- Then to help Israel get to the Promised Land -- and **TO SAVE THEIR LIVES** – God literally rained wafer-like bread down from heaven. This, we have already seen **WAS SYMBOLIC OF CHRIST!** But remember they had to gather it **EVERY DAY**. Seek Jesus daily! Ingest Him through Bible Study and Prayer daily!

The days of Unleavened Bread are **NOT ONLY** about putting out sin, and putting out leavening. The days of Unleavened Bread are **ALSO** about learning to come to Christ who helps us become unleavened, who strengthens us, who **GIVES US LIFE – THE LIVING BREAD!** (Isa.55:1-3)

This Feast, let's end the maligning of others. Let's put out sin. Put out self-righteousness and the judging of others. Put out wickedness and lawlessness. **PUT OUT LEAVEN**, and leavened bread. Put out the blindness of vanity and **PUT ON HUMILITY!** **PUT ON CHRIST**. Put on **GENTLENESS AND FORGIVENESS AND MERCY** and be clean! Be unleavened. **PUT ON HUMILITY AND EAT THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Deut 8:2 "And you shall remember that the **LORD** your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the **LORD**. (NKJ)

**GOD'S WORD IS LIFE!** When God says man shall die, we die. When God says, "be healed", we are healed. When God says at that Great Day, **RISE AND LIVE, WE WILL LIVE**. Let us not labor to eat that which does not give life. Let us **DAILY EAT THE BREAD** and become unleavened, and **LIVE!**