

## CHAPTER 6

# UNLEAVENED BREAD, WINE, AND MANNA: IT ALL POINTS TO CHRIST

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*I am the Bread of Life.*

—Yeshua

**I**T HAD BEEN thirty 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. Humbled, Israel ate flat bread that memorable night, in a haste-filled atmosphere. With staff in hand and their plunder on their backs, Israel departed Egypt on Abib 15. They had taken enough provisions from the Egyptians to last about thirty 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 fifteenth day of the second month, Israel's provisions began to run out (Ex.16:1–3). Weak in faith and weak in

understanding, Israel began to moan and complain about the days of old when they sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full. Our memories can be selective sometimes and influenced by the emotion of the moment. Memories of the pain of slavery were being replaced with fear and faithlessness. In actual fact, Israel had been suffering horribly in hard bondage under a pharaoh who wanted to kill all their male babies at birth (Ex. 1:16). The Israelites were fearful that hunger would overtake them on their journey and that God would leave them. But God was just beginning to show them, and us through them, just where their daily sustenance and life came from. They murmured and complained of 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.

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." 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. 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." 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. 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?" 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." 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.'" 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. And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "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.'" So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 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.

—Ex. 16:3–14

Manna was used not only to teach them about God's weekly Sabbath and to test their obedience to His laws, but also to show a basic principle: God is our source of life and sustenance!

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 of God's presence providing protection from the burning desert sun, and they saw God as a protective barrier between Israel and the Egyptians (Ex.14:19–20). Finally, Israel was baptized in the sea (1 Cor. 10:2). As they came up out of that watery grave to a new life on their way to receive a new law (Ex. 19–20), they saw their enemies crushed by the mighty walls of congealed water unleashed by the Power that dwelt in that cloud (Ex. 15:8). God spoke to them out of the heavenly cloud and promised to perform miracles—not only of being saved from sure death but of being fed with life sustaining bread from heaven! God rained life sustaining bread right from the cloud of His presence in heaven! Paul later called this manna “spiritual meat” (1 Cor. 10:3). Would you like to eat the true Bread from heaven?

The Days of Unleavened Bread symbolize coming out of sin, coming out of godless Egypt and slavery in sin to freedom and the love and wisdom of God's Royal Law. We focus on the Feast of Unleavened Bread 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; 1 Cor. 5:8). That's good, but it is only half of the symbolism. God also wants us to eat the bread, the true unleavened Bread of Life.

Notice God's instructions to Israel as they left Egypt and kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread. See how it ties in with manna:

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. *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. 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. 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. 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.

—Ex. 12:14–18, emphasis added

Notice the emphasis is on eating unleavened bread. The command to eat unleavened bread takes precedence over putting out leaven. Do you know why? In verse 18 the command is to eat because without Christ, which the unleavened bread symbolizes, we cannot come out of sin, nor can we have life! To overcome and live, we

must first eat Christ! Therefore the command to eat unleavened bread is of greater importance to this feast than putting out the leavening. Without Messiah, this feast has no meaning. So let's eat the Bread!

But how does this tie in with the manna mentioned at the beginning of this chapter? Exodus 16:31 says, "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."

This bread is described as a "wafer." That word in Hebrew is *tsappiyichith*, which means a flat cake or flat wafer. This manna was described as being like flat bread or flat wafers with a sweet taste like honey. Elsewhere we find this description of manna: "Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. 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" (Num. 11:7–8 NASB).

So what are the descriptions for manna? It was a flat wafer that was sweet, and when cooked, it produced its own oil (Num. 11:8). Oil is a symbol of God's Holy Spirit. Prepared manna produced flat, sweet, oily unleavened wafers.

Christ is the Lamb of God, offered by the Father as our Passover. Christ has become an offering to God for our sins—the ultimate offering that was made once and for all (Heb. 10:10). 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.

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, 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.

—Num. 6:14–15 KJV

Manna is a type of Yeshua the Christ, the Lamb of God. Flat manna wafers are a type of our unleavened Bread of Life. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread we are told to eat unleavened bread because it represents our Savior and Messiah. We need to take the Lord with us as we leave Egypt. We need to “eat” of Him daily! He is the Bread of Life. Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever!

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

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. 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.”

—John 6:26–27

The Christ is the Bread that endures to everlasting life. Those who hunger for righteousness shall be filled (Matt. 5:6). Do we hunger enough? Do we desire to eat the Bread?

This symbolism of leavening as a type for sin, and unleavened bread as a type for Messiah is rich and beautiful. It is a perfect, colorful picture of God’s love and plan for humankind. John understood this well.

Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” 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. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” 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.”

—John 6:30–35

Continuing:

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread

which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 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.”

—John 6:48–51

Christ is the Living Bread. During the Days of Unleavened Bread we are reminded of the need to put out sin and of how sin permeates our lives 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).

Messiah Yeshua performed the miracle of the loaves of bread, and later proclaimed Himself as the Living Bread from heaven, that if a person eats, he or she will have life! Those who come to God through Christ never need to 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).

The apostle Paul referred to the manna as that spiritual food that was Christ:

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the

cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

—1 Cor. 10:1–4

Paul called the manna from heaven that sustained Israel “spiritual food” because it was a type of Messiah (Christ). They were to collect it daily. It could not be stored up. Neither can our righteousness or the Holy Spirit be stored for future use. We need daily intake of Messiah—so that He is living IN US—and to daily drink in of the Living Water of God’s Holy Spirit. But notice further what Paul said about this unleavened heavenly bread:

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? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

—1 Cor. 10:16–17

Do you remember what kind of bread was broken as part of the Passover meal that Paul refers to? It was unleavened bread! Clearly Paul was saying that Christ is both typed by the manna from heaven *and* the unleavened bread we break at Passover and eat during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Christ came from heaven, and He is true living unleavened bread (John 6:51). The bread was broken because it symbolized Messiah’s body that

was beaten and broken for us (Isa. 53). That is why we are commanded to eat unleavened bread for Passover and the seven days of unleavened bread—eight days in total. This symbolism is rich and beautiful. May God open the eyes for all to see the beautiful lessons taught by the reflections of Passover and unleavened bread, the reflections of the body of our Lord (Col. 2:17).

It may also be interesting to consider the cloud in the wilderness from which God spoke to Israel and rained down the manna. Christ was taken up in a cloud when He returned to His Father after His resurrection, and He will come again on the clouds (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 God is teaching us. For each of eight days during these feasts we need to eat the bread, symbolizing the unleavened Bread of Life (Ex. 12:18).

*Let's put out sin. Put out self-righteousness and the judging of others. Put out wickedness and lawlessness. Put out the leaven of lawlessness. Put out the blindness of vanity and open your eyes in repentance and humility. Be clothed in humility. Put on Christ. Put on gentleness, forgiveness, and mercy. Be clean. Be unleavened. Eat the bread!*

This teaches us that only with Christ 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. We cannot put away sin on our own. We need to eat spiritually of Jesus, our Unleavened Passover, in order to have the strength and wisdom to leave Egypt and sin behind. During the feast, eat unleavened bread, ponder the depth of the symbolic meaning, and let it sink in. Drink some wine and ponder with profound gratefulness. Let us then go forward unto Him (Ex. 14:15)!

We can learn to feed on Yeshua daily through eating His words and through prayer to our Father. We can daily feed on Him through Bible study—ingesting the very Word of God. Daily feed by meditation upon the deeper aspects of the Word of God—letting it sink in to our very soul. Yeshua said a good steward of God’s Word would bring meat in due season (Prov. 15:23; Matt. 24:45; Luke 12:42). Then a good student will also eat the meat of God’s word in due season. That’s what God’s holy festivals are—the meat of God’s plan of salvation revealed in their seasons. Ask for God’s Holy Spirit to reveal His Word to us and make us more like Him. Eat from God’s instructions and laws through His Spirit, represented by water from the Rock (Ex. 17:6; John 6:35). Put out our ways, greed, self-centeredness, vanity, and the lawless ways and sins of this world that permeates our lives and society like leavening does a loaf of bread (Eph. 4:22–32). Take time to study God’s laws, statutes, and testimonies, for He gave them to us

as our heritage to enable us to be wise unto salvation (Deut. 4:6, 2 Tim. 3:15). Meditate on God's plan of salvation as pictured by His holy days as reflected by the body of our Lord (Col. 2:17). Eat the Living Word (John 1:1, 14). Make the gospel the creed by which you live. Pray like Christ did to be filled. Pray like Messiah did for help to be unleavened. Believe! When He is living in us, we can change and grow (Gal. 2:20). But to do so, we will need to eat the Bread daily! Israel did not have the strength to come out of Egypt under her own power, and neither will we.

On Passover and each day of Unleavened Bread, God commands us to eat unleavened bread because those flat cakes symbolize Christ and the humility we all need and the food of eternal life! We are to consider the incredibly painful and humiliating beatings Yeshua suffered on our behalf. He suffered in our stead (Isa. 53; Matt. 26–27; John 18–19). He is our Passover.

- On Passover God commands us to drink some wine, which symbolizes the blood of our Savior. Passover is a time to ponder and contemplate the incredible value of the blood that Christ our Passover shed on our behalf for the forgiveness of our sins (Luke 22:20; Rom. 5:9; Rev. 12:11; Heb. 9:14; 1 Peter 1:19). Let's do it with understanding and gratitude.
- During the Feast of Unleavened Bread we are to eat unleavened bread daily because those flat, beaten-down cakes symbolize Christ and His

humiliating experience. Just like the matzos are pierced to keep them from expanding, so Messiah was pierced repeatedly for us (Ps. 22:16; Zech 12:10; John 19:34). He humbled Himself and died for us, so we could have life with Him. Therefore, we too ought to be humble (1 Peter 2:21). Eat in and of Christ, for He is the food of eternal life.

- Each day of Unleavened Bread, when we eat unleavened bread, it is to remind us that only in Messiah Yeshua do we have the sustenance of life; none who come to Him shall hunger anymore.
- Israel left Egypt, which was a type of sin. We too are to come out of this world by putting away worldly ungodly practices. This is symbolized by putting out the leavening for the seven days of the feast. Be unleavened.
- Before they left Egypt, Israel had only unleavened dough (Ex. 12:34). Passover was also a day of eating unleavened bread (Ex. 12:18). As they left Egypt, they took their unleavened bread with them (Ex. 12:39). We too will need Messiah with us as we leave sin and worldliness behind.
- For eight days we're commanded to eat unleavened bread. For the seven days of unleavened bread we are commanded to put out leaven from our homes (Ex. 12:15). We are to put the leaven out on the first day (Passover day) so that we are free of leavening for the full seven days of

unleavened bread (Ex. 12:18). The seven days of unleavened bread seem to represent seven thousand years—the time allotted man until the Last Great Day in God’s Kingdom when there will be no more sin and no more death (Rev. 21:4).

- To help Israel get to the Promised Land—and to save their lives—God literally rained wafer-like bread down from heaven, which pointed to Yeshua the Christ. But remember they had to gather the manna every day. We too need to seek Jesus daily and ingest Him into our lives and hearts through daily Bible study and prayer. Walk with Him daily.

The Days of Unleavened Bread are not only about putting out sin and putting out leavening. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is also about learning to come to Christ, who helps us become unleavened, who strengthens us, who gives us life, because He is the Living Bread (Isa. 55:1–3).

As Paul taught the Gentiles, “Let us keep the feast” and end the maligning of others: “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” (1 Cor. 5:8).

Let’s put out sin. Put out self-righteousness and the judging of others. Put out wickedness and lawlessness. Put out the leaven of lawlessness. Put out the blindness of vanity and open your eyes in repentance and

humility. Be clothed in humility. Put on Christ. Put on gentleness, forgiveness, and mercy. Be clean. Be unleavened. Eat the bread!

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. 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.

—Deut. 8:2–3

Indeed, we do live by every word of God (Luke 4:4). God's Word and command for us is life (John 12:50). When God says a man will die, he dies. When God says, "Be healed," we are healed. When God says the dead will rise and live at that great day, they will live. Let us not labor to eat that which does not give life. Let us daily eat the true Bread, become unleavened, and live!