

⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7 Before Passover, Jews search their homes for any leaven. They carefully removed every bit they can find. Only then could they celebrate their deliverance from Egypt. Passover was the first day of the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread. Paul saw the Passover lamb as a prediction that came to fruition in Jesus, the Lamb of God. All the lambs that had been sacrificed in the Jewish temple were a foreshadow of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29^{vii}). He was the ultimate sacrifice for our deliverance from the slavery of sin. That is why Paul tells us to cleanse out the old leaven, meaning the sin from our lives. The fulfillment of all the Passover lambs has come, so we must rid our lives of leaven and be one with the family of God. Paul refers to that as a new lump of dough.

The author of Hebrews wrote something very similar regarding the objects in the tabernacle. *⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."* Hebrews 8:5 It is no wonder then that Paul would see spiritual truths in the laws of God for the Jewish people. In fact, all of the feasts of the Jews tell us something about the Messiah.

Let us look back for a moment and consider the exodus The Jewish people had been in Egypt for 430 years when God finally sent their deliverer (Exodus 12:40ⁱ). God raised up Moses and showed signs and wonders through him which forced Pharaoh to let them go. If you have read the story in the book of Exodus, you will remember that Pharaoh was very reluctant. All the plagues in Egypt were plagues that showed their gods were really a curse to them. The final god to go was Pharaoh's son. He would have been the next pharaoh and considered by the Egyptians to be a god. When the firstborn sons of Egypt died, Pharaoh was finally broken. He demanded that the Israelites leave. He was losing his labor force, but the price to keep them was too great. Their God was too great.

There is a very clear analogy of Egypt representing the fallen world system. Pharaoh represents the ruler of this world, which is the devil (Luke 4:6ⁱⁱ). Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world. Mankind gave up the authority God had given us in the Garden of Eden when man yielded to the serpent's temptation to doubt God and disobey. We are enslaved by sin like the Israelites were physically enslaved to construct store cities (Exodus 1:11ⁱⁱⁱ; John 8:34^{iv}). Moses is a foreshadow of Jesus, our Deliverer who brings us out of bondage and leads through the wilderness of life to the promised land (Deuteronomy 18:15^v).

To prepare for Passover, the last meal they would have in Egypt, and for the judgment on Egypt's firstborn, they first had to clear their houses of leaven. Leaven was a picture of sin. It puffs up but does not add substance. Before we partake of communion, which was the Passover meal, the Last Supper celebrated by the disciples, we must also rid our earthly dwelling, these bodies of sin. But how do we do that? The rest of the preparation for Passover will tell us how.

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according

to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,* ⁶ *and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.* ⁷ *“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.* Exodus 12:3-7 They were to choose a lamb for each family five days before Passover and live with that lamb. They would become familiar with it, just as we are to become familiar with Jesus in the Gospels. But then they would have to sacrifice it and consume it the night before they departed. Anyone who was not an Israelite could join if they were circumcised, which is a picture of the heart being open to God, for God so loved the world (Exodus 12:48,49^{vi}; Deuteronomy 10:16^{vii}; John 3:16^{viii}). The more you look into it, the more you can see that **the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed, while the Old is the New concealed.**

John the Baptist said that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29^{ix})! Jesus came over the Mount of Olives and entered Jerusalem five days before Passover, presenting Himself as the Lamb of God so that the people might choose Him as their sacrificial lamb (John 12:1^x).

Choosing Jesus as our sin bearer is the way we remove sin, pictured by leaven, from our lives (2 Corinthians 5:21^{xi}). We partake of Jesus. That is why Jesus gave us another picture when He said we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. Listen to how He said it and the promises that came with it. ⁵³ *So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.* ⁵⁴ *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.* ⁵⁵ *For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.* ⁵⁶ *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.* ⁵⁷ *As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.* John 6:53-57 He did not mean for us to cannibalize Him, but receive His life on our behalf. As He is the Word made flesh (John 1:14^{xii}), we partake of Him every time we read God’s Word. That is the only way to keep the destroyer from entering our homes (Exodus 12:23^{xiii}). The Lord sees the blood of the Lamb on the doorposts of our hearts and does not allow the destroyer to take us.

I love the fact that they were to eat the lamb as a family (Exodus 12:3^{xiv}). God intends for our entire family to be forgiven and protected. That was the case with the Philippian jailor and with the Centurion in Caesarea (Acts 16:33^{xv}). Though they were Gentiles, their whole families took part in the meaning behind Passover. Figuratively they came out of Egypt and started their journey to the promised land.

The Israelites were instructed to put the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts and lintel so that the destroyer would pass over them. They would pour the blood in a little trough in front of the door threshold, referred to as the basin. (See Exodus 12:22^{xvi}). It kept water from coming into the house during heavy rains. They would dip a hyssop branch into it and splash it on the lintel and doorposts. (See hyssop used at the crucifixion in John 19:29^{xvii}.) If you overlay the cross on that door it is exactly where Jesus bled, head, hands, and feet. The earthly tent of our body is to have our minds that represent our thoughts, our hands that represent what we do, and our feet representing where we go, continually influenced by the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf (Romans 6:13^{xviii}).

Jesus is not only the lamb that we are to consume, but He said He is also the manna that came down from heaven that a person may eat of it and not die. ³² *Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave 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.”* John 6:32-33 He is the sustenance of our spiritual life. We should be partaking of Him daily. To consume Him is to consume the Word of God. I think most of you know the Scriptures are to be our daily bread for our spiritual lives. In Deuteronomy we are told ⁷ *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* Deuteronomy 6:7-9 That is teaching your children about Jesus, talking about Him when we sit, walk, lie down, get up. And wait a second, did we not just read something about doorposts. The blood was to be on the doorposts, so is the Word of God to be written there. Do you see the overlap. Moses wrote both expressions.

Lately there has been a lot of talk about our nation being in decline. That is because we have failed to place our priority on our relationship with Jesus and to teach our children the same. The prophet Amos spoke of a time when there would be a famine for hearing the Word of the Lord. ¹¹ *“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. ¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it. ¹³ “In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst.* Amos 8:11-13 We have Bibles in abundance, but so few read them to partake of their daily manna. The world refers to it as outdated ideas or antiquated laws. Yet, it was upon that foundation that western law was founded. No wonder then that we are distorting and overturning those laws. I hear the phrase, “You cannot legislate morality.” But most laws are moral issues. You cannot steal because God gave the possession to someone else. You cannot kill because we are made in the image of God. There are speed limits to protect you and others from harm. Laws are based on morality and morality is defined by God’s nature.

Almost 20 years ago I shared with Wayside that our public education was founded by atheists to take education away from church control and influence children with a secular mindset. It has taken over 100 years, but it seems they have prevailed. That is why there is such a fight over school choice. Indoctrinate children with the hopeless perspective that there is no God and you get what we are seeing in our society today. The only hope is to repent and return to God and His Word that He might bless us again (Psalm 33:12^{xix}).

What we need is a national Passover. Every Jewish man was required to bring his sacrifice to the temple. Families came from across the nation. As they removed the leaven, they thought of the sins in their lives that had to be swept away. As they grew to love the lamb, they thought how serious sin was that it required blood to be shed. But for us today it means getting to know Jesus of Scripture and seeing how serious our sin is that He had to die in our place. Then we must leave Egypt being led through the

wilderness of life by the Lord who is going before us, just as the cloud led the Children of Israel.

When the Israelites left Egypt, the pillar of cloud went before them. ²¹ *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.*

Exodus 13:21 Let us take the analogy to the next step. Once we receive Jesus as our Passover Lamb, we are to leave this world's system that is ruled by the devil. We forsake greed and selfishness and let the Lord lead us through this life. He goes before us. He is light in the darkness of the world. We quit following the ways of man and seek the Lord and His direction for our lives. He is leading us to the promised land where you will find houses you did not build and fields you did not plant, for Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us (Deuteronomy 6:10,11^{xx}; John 14:2,3^{xxi}). He has promised to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5^{xxii}), just as the cloud stayed with them all the way to the Promised Land. As the Scripture says, ¹⁴ *that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.* Psalm 48:14

However, we should not think that this means life will be easy. The first place the Lord led them was to a dead end. The sea was before them and the mountains on each side, with the Egyptian army bearing down on them from behind. The Israelites started whining like we are prone to do. "Moses, you led us out here to die because there were not enough graves in Egypt" (Exodus 14:11^{xxiii})! And that is indeed where God leads us, to a death to self so that we might live trusting in Him every day (1 Corinthians 15:31^{xxiv}). We recently read of this in our Corinthians study. ¹⁰ *always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.* ¹¹ *For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.* 2 Corinthians 4:10,11

When we stop trusting in ourselves, we can begin to trust in the Lord. Then people start to see Jesus in us. But as we see in the wilderness wandering, this was a lifelong lesson that many began but few completed. We saw this in the first letter to the Corinthians. ¹ *For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,* ² *and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,* ³ *and all ate the same spiritual food,* ⁴ *and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.* ⁵ *Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.* ⁶ *Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.* 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

The fact that Christ is our Passover Lamb has led us to consider the picture of the exodus and how it speaks to our lives today. But thankfully, this is not the end of the analogy. Because Jesus is our Passover Lamb, we will arrive in the promised land. We will all one day arrive at the Jordan where our journey through this life ends. We will by the miraculous power of God cross the Jordan on dry land. O death, where is your victory. O grave where is your sting (1 Corinthians 15:55^{xxv})? For Christ our Passover Lamb conquered death. This is what this day is all about. He rose victorious over the grave. He holds back the Jordan and brings us into a land flowing with milk and honey!

Jory sent out a quote from Jonathan Edwards regarding that bright land to which our Lord is leading us. *The saints in heaven shall have no difficulty in expressing all their love. Their souls, being on fire with holy love, shall not be like a fire pent up, but like a*

flame uncovered and at liberty. Their spirits, being winged with love, shall have no weight upon them to hinder their flight. There shall be no want of strength or activity, nor any want of words wherewith to praise the object of their affection. Nothing shall hinder them from communing with God, and praising and serving him just as their love inclines them to do. Love naturally desires to express itself, and in heaven the love of the saints shall be at full liberty to express itself as it desires, whether it be toward God or to created beings.

All in heaven shall flourish in immortal youth and freshness. Age will not there diminish anyone's beauty of vigor, and there, love shall abide in everyone's heart as a living spring perpetually springing up in the soul or as a flame that never dies away. And the holy pleasure of this love shall be as a river that is forever flowing, clear and full, and increasing continually. The heavenly paradise of love shall always be kept as in a perpetual spring, without autumn or winter, where no frosts shall blight, or leaves decay and fall, but where every plant shall be in perpetual freshness, bloom, fragrance, and beauty, always springing forth, always blossoming, and always bearing fruit. The leaf of the righteous shall not wither (Psalm 1:3). And in the midst of the streets of heaven, and on either side of the river grows the tree of life, which bears twelve manner of fruits and yields her fruit every month (Revelation 22:2). Everything in the heavenly world shall contribute to the joy of the saints, and every joy of heaven shall be eternal. No night shall settle down with its darkness upon the brightness of their everlasting day.^{xxvi}

Why is this our glorious hope? Because Christ our Passover lamb was sacrificed for us. He conquered death and the grave! He promised that He has gone to prepare this place of us and will come again to receive us so that we may be with Him forever (John 14:3^{xxvii}.) **Heaven is the presence of Jesus. We taste it now, but it will be our every breath then.** If you have not placed your faith in Jesus, this resurrection Sunday is the perfect time to begin. Confess your sins to Him. Thank Him for taking the justice you deserve. Receive His forgiveness. Begin feasting on His words. Follow Him through the wilderness of this life and into the promised land, our heavenly home.

Questions:

- 1 What does 1 Corinthians 5:7 tell us?
- 2 Why did the Israelites see the created world as a picture of spiritual things?
- 3 What led up to the Exodus?
- 4 What is the relationship between the Old and New Testament?
- 5 What does the Bible tell us to eat? What does that mean?
- 6 What famine are we experiencing and why?
- 7 Who led the Israelites? Who leads us? To where?
- 8 What illustrates the difficulty of our journey?
- 9 What is the warning in the first letter to the Corinthians?
- 10 Review the Jonathan Edward's quotes.

²⁰ *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20,21*

ⁱ **Exodus 12:40 (ESV)**

⁴⁰ The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.

ⁱⁱ **Luke 4:6 (ESV)**

⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Exodus 1:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

^{iv} **John 8:34 (ESV)**

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

^v **Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

^{vi} **Exodus 12:48-49 (ESV)**

⁴⁸ If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it.
⁴⁹ There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you."

^{vii} **Deuteronomy 10:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

^{viii} **John 3:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

^{ix} **John 1:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

^x **John 12:1 (ESV)**

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

^{xi} **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{xii} **John 1:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

^{xiii} **Exodus 12:23 (ESV)**

²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

^{xiv} **Exodus 12:3 (ESV)**

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

^{xv} **Acts 16:33 (ESV)**

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

^{xvi} **Exodus 12:22 (ESV)**

²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.

^{xvii} **John 19:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

^{xviii} **Romans 6:13 (ESV)**

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

^{xix} **Psalms 33:12 (ESV)**

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

^{xx} **Deuteronomy 6:10-11a (ESV)**

¹⁰ “And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant-

^{xxi} **John 14:2-3 (ESV)**

² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

^{xxii} **Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)**

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

^{xxiii} **Exodus 14:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?”

^{xxiv} **1 Corinthians 15:31 (ESV)**

³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

^{xxv} **1 Corinthians 15:55 (ESV)**

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

^{xxvi} Jonathan Edwards, “Heaven is a World of Love” pgs. 62,74

^{xxvii} **John 14:3 (ESV)**

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.