

Pesach & The Feast of Unleavened Bread 2021

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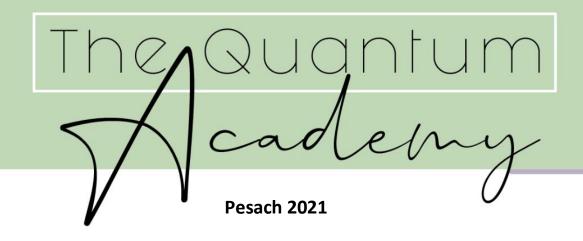
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### **Exodus 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> "This day is to be a memorial for you. You are to keep it as a feast to Adonal. Throughout your generations you are to keep it as an eternal ordinance.

- Ordinance an authoritative decree or direction
- Eternal lasting or existing forever; without end.

From the very beginning God had instructions and rules, but He also gave us the gift of free will, it is up to us whether we choose to follow His rules out of love for our Heavenly Father.

But with the free will, comes a huge responsibility, because whatever we choose will have consequences. And He gives specific warnings as well in terms of what those consequences will be. It is up to us to choose: blessing or curse?

### Deuteronomy 11:26-28

 $^{26}$  "Behold, today I am setting before you a blessing and a curse—  $^{27}$  the blessing, if you listen to and obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am

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commanding you today; <sup>28</sup> and the curse, if you do not listen to and obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today....

But people don't like the word "commandment", they "feel" it is legalistic. And we know that we are not to be governed by what we "feel" but by what is written in the Word of God! So, let's have a look at the Hebrew word used for Commandment:

- Commandment in Hebrew Mitzvot
- Mitzvot "Loving instruction of God"

Is that not beautiful? It means the loving instruction of our Heavenly Father! Just as any parent who loves his or her child has rules, so does our Heavenly Father. And the rules you have for your children, is it to punish them? No! It is to protect them. It is to teach them right from wrong.

I always find it so sad when people say: "I am not under the law"- because you are actually saying "I am not under the loving instruction of the Father". And unfortunately, when you live that way, it also shows in the fruit of your life. Just think of an unruly child with no

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discipline, it is the same thing.

Lots of confusion came into the believing community concerning "the law" due to translation issues, and not understanding the context of the Hebrews who wrote the New Testament, like Paul. I suggest you watch the below series from 119 Ministries for more information what Paul meant when he said we are "free from the law".

## **The Pauline Paradox Series 119 Ministries**

I also want to remind you that God does not get confused, He does not make mistakes, and He does not change His mind. We see this in *Malachi 3:6* and *Hebrews 13:8*.

In John 14: 15 Yeshua says: "If you love me, you will keep my commands". Where do we find His commands? In the first five books of the Bible. Remember, when Yeshua walked on earth, there was no New Testament. He became the "Living Torah / Living Old Word" to show us how to be obedient to the Father.

# Where do we find one of the first loving instructions of God?

Genesis 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup> ADONAI, God, took the person and put him in the garden of 'Eden to cultivate and care for it. <sup>16</sup> ADONAI, God, gave the person this order: "You may freely eat from every tree in

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the garden <sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You are not to eat from it, because on the day that you eat from it, it will become certain that you will die."

- 1) Cultivate and care for the garden some translations have it as "guarding" the garden.
- 2) Do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Interesting that one of the first things he commands man to do after creation is what to eat and what not to eat. And this is still something that He is concerned with today. I suggest you watch the below teachings from Jim Staley and 119 Ministries for more clarity on what God considers food and what not.

To Eat or Not to Eat Part 1

To Eat or Not to Eat Part 2

**Acts 10 - Peter's Vision by 119 Ministries** 

What was the first instruction that Adam ignored? To cultivate and care for or to guard the garden. Because if he was guarding the garden, the serpent would never have gotten into the garden in the first place! And so, this is a telling example for us of what happens when we are not guarding! The serpent comes in to steal, kill and destroy.

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What was the curse that came when Adam was disobedient to the commandments of God? Death entered the world. What does the word curse mean in Hebrew?

- Hebrew word for curse Aror, "this means the absence of God, where God is not present"
- God is life, where God is absent, it leads to death.
- Disobedience = sin = death.

When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, did they immediately die? No, but the process of death was introduced into the earth. But their spirit man died that day, and that is why we need to be "born again". Through the sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb, Yeshua, we have the opportunity again to have our spirit man come alive and walk in intimacy with the LORD.

Another valuable lesson to learn from this is that our sin also affects others. We are not the only one to pay the price for our disobedience. Like Adam's sin is still affecting all of us today, our disobedience affects the generations that come after us.

## What happened next?

Genesis 3:21

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<sup>21</sup> ADONAI, God, made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Where did God get the skin to make the garments from? An animal had to die, something that was innocent had to lay down its life to atone for their sin. Sin strips us naked. God in His grace and through the blood of the Lamb covers us with a mantle of salvation.

Another consequence was that God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, and from being in His presence and walking with Him in intimacy.

There is no form of disobedience that is not sin. There is no sin that does not lead to death. There is no death that does not also affect your children and their children and their children.

The only cure for sin, and death, is repentance and the Blood of the Lamb.

## Pesach and the Blood of the Lamb

At Pesach the Israelites had to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes as a sign for "death to pass over". In other words, the innocent lamb that is a picture of Yeshua, had to die so that death (the wages of sin) could pass over. Today the blood of our Messiah is placed on the doorposts of our hearts. But we keep this beautiful feast of Pesach (Passover) because God commands us in His Word to keep this forever!

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### Exodus 12:14

<sup>14</sup> "This will be a day for you to remember and celebrate as a festival to ADONAI; from generation to generation you are to celebrate it by a perpetual regulation.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has the definition for the word Perpetual as follows:

"1a: **continuing forever**: everlasting perpetual motion. b(1): valid for all time a perpetual right. (2): holding something (such as an office) for life or for an unlimited time. 2: occurring continually: indefinitely long-continued perpetual problems. 3: blooming continuously throughout the season."

Every year when we celebrate Pesach, we are reminded of God's grace to turn back from our sin, to repent, and to come back to His commandments. By celebrating this festival, we are also commemorating the freedom from Egypt and the costly price paid by our Messiah! And this brings us to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Because this is a time for searching out the leaven (sin) in our lives, and to deal with it.

No sin is hidden. If we do not deal with our sin ourselves, God will in time reveal it so we have to face it and deal with it. Look at what He did with Pharoah who killed the baby boys

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of the Israelites. Pharoah had a "brilliant" plan to hide what he did. No bodies, no crime. He simply disposed of the "evidence" in the Nile. How must the parents of those babies have mourned? Not even a little body to bury. But God sees everything! And He is just. What is the first plague that He brings upon Egypt? He turns the Nile into blood. And by doing so He achieves these three things:

- 1) He shows the Israelites that He is a God that sees. He sees their pain and affliction, and the murder of their babies.
- 2) He exposes Pharaoh's sin for the whole Egypt to see.
- 3) He brings punishment on the Nile who was worshipped by the Egyptians.

You see, there is nothing we can hide from God! Deal with your secret sin now in private, before He exposes it in public.

## **The Feast of Unleavened Bread**

At Pesach we also begin the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

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### Exodus 13:6-10

<sup>6</sup> For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, nor shall there be leaven within the borders of your territory. <sup>8</sup> You shall explain this to your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' <sup>9</sup> It shall serve as a sign to you on your hand (arm), and as a reminder on your forehead, so that the instruction (law) of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a strong and powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at this time from year to year.

There are also numerous accounts in the New Testament of Yeshua and His disciples keeping the feast of Pesach and Unleavened Bread. As well as of those after Yeshua left, who continued to spread the gospel, and also keeping these feasts and Sabbaths.

### 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup> Your boasting is not good. Don't you know the saying, "It takes only a little leaven to ferment a whole batch of dough?" <sup>7</sup> Get rid of the old leaven, so that you can be a new batch of dough, because in reality you are unleavened. For our Pesach lamb, the Messiah,

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has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> So let us celebrate the Feast not with leftover leaven, the leaven of wickedness and evil, but with the unleavened bread of purity and truth.

### Some lessons on Leaven

The word leaven has two applications in terms of what it means and how it is used:

- The first is what is used to allow dough to rise.
- Secondly it can also mean that which is left behind, that which is not dealt with. This
  comes from a time where instant yeast did not exist, through the process of making
  sourdough, there was always a piece of the old dough pinched off and left behind to
  use in a fresh batch of dough again later on.

Whether you use sourdough or instant yeast, when making bread, the dough needs time to rise. This is also how sin works. When we are idle and have time on our hands, we are more likely to fall into the trap of sin. That is why we should keep ourselves busy with the study of the Word of God, and working in His Kingdom, so that sin does not have time to develop in our lives.

The other lesson we can learn from this is that we should deal with sin quickly. If sin is identified, be quick to repent, before it has time to grow and develop in your life.

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Just as an old peace of the sourdough is broken off and kept to use in a fresh batch of dough, sin also spreads from one person to another. And before you know it, it can even infect a whole community! That is why we need to guard like Adam was commanded to guard.

Leaven consists of small microorganisms called yeast, yeast feeds on the sugar in the dough and that process releases natural gasses that allow the dough to rise. Sin does the same thing in our lives, it eats up all the sweet (the blessings, the good things in our lives) and in return we start getting puffed up with self-importance and pride.

That is what happened to Satan, he got puffed up with pride and he decided that he does not have to be obedient to God, he will do things his way. And the moment we start thinking like that, alarm bells should be going off! May God haver mercy on us so that we do not allow the character of Satan to manifest through us. May we humble ourselves in obedience and do the will of our Father.

Just once a year for only a week are we commanded by God to live out this prophetic act of getting rid of the leaven (sin) in our lives. Why is this expected of us? Every time we eat the Matza (unleavened bread) we are reminded to search our hearts for any pride, haughtiness, sin, rebellion, self-importance, etc.

# Pentecost / Shavuout and the wave offering

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There are three "foot festivals" where the children of God were commanded to go up to Jerusalem to worship, this was when the Temple was still in service.

- Pesach
- Shavuot
- Sukkot

All these feasts are connected on so many levels, but what I want to focus on today is the connection between the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Shavuot. Shavuot is known also as the feast of Pentecost, and we know this is associated with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

During the feast of Shavuot, we are commanded to bring a "wave offering" of leavened bread.

#### Leviticus 23:17

<sup>17</sup> You must bring bread from your homes for waving — two loaves made with one gallon of fine flour, baked with leaven — as firstfruits for ADONAI.

See there is also a place for good leaven, but only after we have dealt with the leaven of sin.

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This good leaven is the leaven of the Holy Spirit. We know that God's Word says that if we humble ourselves, He will raise us up. If we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and to humble

us, then instead of getting puffed up with ourselves, we get filled up by the Holy Spirit. And when we are filled up by the Holy Spirit, we can start to live according to the character of God and display the fruit of the Spirit.

The brining of this wave offering of leavened bread is also a picture for us of how we are to be formed into a wave offering for God. Because to make this bread, the dough with be kneaded, and this is symbolic of the difficult times of our lives that shape and form us. And just when you think: "thank goodness the kneading is done now!"- you get popped into the oven to be baked. But this process of kneading and baking, is the times in our lives when we die to ourselves and become like our Messiah. He wants us to release a sweet aroma, just like freshly baked bread. People should "smell" this sweet aroma, and be drawn to us, and wonder: "what makes this person different". How we treat others, even in our difficult and stressful times, should awaken in them a hunger for the Bread of Life, so that we can share the Gospel of the Good News of our Messiah with them.

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