



Pastor Scott Velain

HAPPY NEW YEAR PASSOVER IS APPROACHING!

The first thing that I would like to say before we even begin our study into the Passover, Is Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that we have actually made it through to 2018. Now, I know that we probably have a lot of new viewers out there who may be viewing this teaching for the first time, and you may be wondering why I am wishing you happy New Year's on March 17 of 2018. Most unstudied Christians will proudly proclaim that 17 March could not possibly be New Year's Day, however... I would submit to you my friends that if you are a Christian... today most assuredly is New Year's Day. Not according to the Gregorian calendar, not according to the institutions of men, not according to today's modern-day denominational charters of men, and not according to their so-called "early church fathers"... but according to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, today is New Year's Day.

Now I also know that there are going to be many modern-day professing Christians that will be listening to this video either today on March 17, 2018, or at some time in the future, who have never heard these things taught before. I also know that there will be many of our elderly brothers and sisters whose hair is well on the way to turning silver, who have sat in church pews for most of their lives, some of them, for 30, 40, or even 50 years or more, who have never heard this teaching before. And to those brothers and sisters I would like to say, welcome. Welcome to the truth, and again I would like to point out that the truth that we will speak here today is not the truth according to today's modern-day version of Christianity. The truth that we will speak here today is not the truth according to the so-called "early church fathers" of today's modern-day version of Christianity. The truth that we will speak here today is not the truth according to over 5000 different Christian denominational charters of men, or their colleges, or their institutions. The truth that we will speak here today, comes directly from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his God breathed Scriptures that he gave to us so that we would know the truth without having to ask the institutions of men, and their so-called "early church fathers", and their so-called denominationally challenged empires of dirt.

What most modern-day Christians fail to understand, is that the truth does not originate with men. The truth does not originate with any Pastor, Priest, Bishop, or Pope, the truth originates from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son who is, Yeshua, Hamashiach, Jesus the Messiah. This truth is conveyed to each and every one of his people through his Ruach Hackodesh, (the Holy Spirit of God) and no one else. If it is the truth of men that you are seeking, if it is the truth of men that you stand on, if it is the truth of men that you have built your house upon, then you have built your house in the sand. Matthew 7:21-27:

Mat 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

Mat 7:23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Mat 7:24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Mat 7:25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Mat 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Mat 7:27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

If you are new to this teaching here today, I want you to stop right here for just a moment and consider what our Messiah is telling us. Not everyone who calls on him and says “*Lord, Lord*” is going to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is very profound, because it goes directly against what many of today’s modern day denominational charters teach. In fact, it is 180° away from what many of today’s modern-day Christian denominational charters teach. And yet, there are modern day professing Christians in the world today who firmly believe that all they have to do is confess with their mouth that they believe and call on Jesus in order to be saved.

To many modern-day would be, professing Christians have never read the book for themselves. Too many modern-day would be, professing Christians have been seeking after the wisdom of men rather than seeking after the wisdom of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son. Too many modern-day would be, professing Christians have been sold a bill of goods that is as worthless as a Catholic indulgence. And if you do not know what a Catholic indulgence is, I highly suggest you Google it. A Roman Catholic indulgence is a worthless piece of paper signed by a worthless imposter wearing pagan garb that says “*because you put enough money in the coffer; or climbed so many stairs on your knees, your sins are forgiven you.*” According to the Roman Catholic Church that is. Not according to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son mind you... but according to the harlot that rides the beast who holds a golden cup full of the blood of the martyrs of our Messiah, you can buy indulgences from the Roman Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church will forgive you of your sins. This my friends, is blasphemous on its face.

Today’s teaching is not a teaching that should be taken lightly. Today’s teaching is not a teaching that should not be tested. Today’s teaching is not a teaching that will be accepted by the lost, or the denominationally challenged. Nor will it be accepted by many men who have been trained up by their seminary schools, and college professors, and so-called “early church fathers”. Even though they themselves call themselves “Pastors”, “Priests”, “Bishops”, and “Popes”. They will openly reject the truth that we will speak here that is found within the pages

of our God breathed Scriptures, and the reason that they will reject this teaching that is found within the very pages of our God breathed Scriptures, is because they have put their faith in men, and not God. They have sold their souls to the institutions, and the brick-and-mortar buildings and basilicas chocked full of men who have also sold their souls to the wisdom of men, and their philosophers, and their so-called “early church fathers”, and their professors, and their doctors.

The truth is my friends, that we have a choice to make. Will we follow after the wisdom of men and their denominational empires of dirt, or will we follow after the wisdom of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son? That is the question that you will have to answer here today as we speak the truth concerning the anniversary of the death of our Messiah who is Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus the only begotten son of Yahovah our Elohim.

As we were saying... today, March 17, 2018 is indeed “*New Year’s Day*” according to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. This is not something that I simply say as a Pastor, this is not something that we simply say as a ministry, this is what the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob says very clearly, very plainly, and very exactly. Let’s turn to Exodus 12:1-2:

Exo 12:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

Exo 12:2 “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

The first thing that we need to understand concerning our Father’s calendar, is that his months start with the New Moon. If we examine exodus chapter 12 verse two closely, we will find that the English word “month” here is a translation of the Hebrew word “*Chodesh*” which means “*the new moon, monthly*”, or “*the first day of the month*”, according to Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions.

חֹדֶשׁ

chôdesh

BDB Definition:

1) the new moon, month, monthly

1a) the first day of the month

1b) the lunar month

Part of Speech: noun masculine

A Related Word by BDB/Strong’s Number: from H2318

And as we continue to read a few verses down in verse six, we find that 14 days from this “*new moon*” is our Father’s Passover, and we see this verified in verse 11. So, I just want to make this abundantly clear. According to what we find in our Bibles, New Year’s Day is not on January 1. For the Christian, New Year’s Day is 14 days before the Passover when a new moon hangs dark the sky. Anyone telling you anything different, quite frankly is either lost, or a liar.

According to the world, New Year's Day is indeed on January 1st because they have openly chosen to change the times and the laws of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. They have taken it upon themselves to redefine time itself, which was created by the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob by the way. But this is nothing new. This my friends is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. This is not all that they have changed. This is not all that they have ignored. This is by far not all that they have done to the times and the laws of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son.

Our main focus today will be centered around exodus chapter 12 verses one through 11, and I would suggest to you that exodus chapter 12 verses one through 11 condemn the Roman Catholic "Ash Wednesday", and the Roman Catholic "Palm Sunday", and the Roman Catholic "Good Friday", and the Roman Catholic "Easter". Our Messiah himself destroys these man-made festivals with one shot across the bow found in Matthew chapter 26 versus one and two:

Mat 26:1 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,

Mat 26:2 "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Our very own Messiah completely destroys the Roman Catholic "Ash Wednesday, and the Roman Catholic "Palm Sunday", and the Roman Catholic "Good Friday", and the Roman Catholic "pagan Easter" with one shot across the bow from Matthew chapter 26 versus one and two. In his own red letter words he clearly tells us that he was crucified on Passover. But is anyone listening? How many modern-day professing Christians today in our time have read these red-letter words for themselves or ever questioned the Roman Catholic Ash Wednesday, and Palm Sunday, and Good Friday, and Easter? How many modern-day professing Christians would dare stand in the midst of their congregations and speak the truth that our Messiah spoke in his own red-letter words? I tell you the truth my friends, not very many. We'll come back to this as we move forward, but as for now I want us to observe our modern-day calendar so that we can make sense of what we're reading here in exodus chapter 12:

MARCH 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 FULL	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 LAST	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 NEW
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 FIRST
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 FULL

NEW YEARS DAY! = New Moon = March 17th
Exo 12:2 "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you."

LAMBS ARE SELECTED = March 26th, 2018!
Exo 12:3 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.

PASSOVER DAY = March 30th!
Exo 12:6 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.



As we can clearly see, according to our modern-day calendar, March 17th (which is today as of the recording of this teaching), is actuality the beginning of a new month according to our Father in Heaven. For those of you who may have just joined us, the Gregorian calendar that we keep today is not the same as God’s calendar. Each month of God’s calendar begins with a “*new moon*”. A “*new moon*” is when the moon does not give its light in the night sky.

Many Jewish rabbis, and those who are Torah observant will often times argue about when the “*new moon*” is in the sky. Some will argue as we do, that a new moon is when the moon does not give off its light and hangs dark in the sky, but others will argue that a new moon is not until you see the Crescent sliver of light that comes from the new moon, which can occur anywhere from 2 to 3 days after the “*new moon*” depending on atmospheric conditions. Some of our brothers and sisters will proclaim that the Israelites were too ignorant to have known when a new moon would occur without seeing the sliver of the new moon. But we contend that even the Mayans knew when a new moon was, and they did not need to see the sliver of light from the new moon in order to know that the new moon was indeed occurring. The truth is, that many of our ancient predecessors had a better understanding of the sun moon and stars than even NASA does today. And so, the idea that they would not have known exactly when a new moon was occurring simply does not hold water according to what we know through historical documentation and archaeology, not to mention, what we see in the Scriptures, that we will not get into here today for time’s sake. The important thing to understand is that the new moon (whether when it is completely dark or when it is when you see the first sliver of light), always signaled the beginning of our Father in Heaven’s new month.

So now that we know and understand that our Father in Heaven’s months each begin with a new moon, how is it that we know this new moon is the first new moon of the new year? The answer to this question can again be found in our Scriptures. The Passover itself was to be

initially kept to remind us of how God rescued his people from Pharaoh in Egypt. The Passover is to commemorate the Exodus when God led Moses and his people out of the land of Egypt and out from under the hand of Pharaoh. This took place in what is known as the month of “Aviv”. The first month of God’s calendar is the month of “Aviv”, and “Aviv” means “*Young barley years, or barley, or the month of the year forming, of greening of crop, of growing green Aviv*” according to Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions. Exodus 13:4:

Exo 13:4 Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out.

אָבִיב

'âbîyb

BDB Definition:

1) *fresh, young barley ears, barley*

2) *month of ear-forming, of greening of crop, of growing green Abib, month of exodus and passover (March or April)*

Part of Speech: noun masculine

A Related Word by BDB/Strong’s Number: from an unused root (meaning to be tender)

And so, to make a long story short, we have two witnesses that our Father in Heaven has provided for us so that we can properly identify the first new moon of his new year. One, is the new moon itself. The second witness, is when the barley is “Aviv” or “Ripe”. When we see that the barley is “Aviv” or “Ripe” in the fields, that first “new moon” is the first “new moon” of the month and the beginning of our Father in Heaven’s new year. To commemorate that we left Egypt in the month of “Aviv”, we are instructed to bring the Passover sacrifice and celebrate the feast of Unleavened Bread at this time of the year. Deuteronomy 16:1:

Deu 16:1 “Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

Something else worth noting here in Deuteronomy chapter 16 verse one, is the English word “observe”. If we take a look at the original Hebrew word written in the original Hebrew manuscripts, we find that it is the Hebrew word “shamar” which means not only to keep, but to “guard”, to give heed, to have charge of, to keep watch and Ward, and to protect.

שָׁמַר

shâmar

BDB Definition:

1) *to keep, guard, observe, give heed*

1a) *(Qal)*

1a1) *to keep, have charge of*

1a2) *to keep, guard, keep watch and ward, protect, save life*

1a2a) *watch, watchman (participle)*

1a3) *to watch for, wait for*

1a4) to watch, observe

1a5) to keep, retain, treasure up (in memory)

1a6) to keep (within bounds), restrain

1a7) to observe, celebrate, keep (sabbath or covenant or commands), perform (vow)

1a8) to keep, preserve, protect

1a9) to keep, reserve

1b) (Niphal)

1b1) to be on one's guard, take heed, take care, beware

1b2) to keep oneself, refrain, abstain

1b3) to be kept, be guarded

1c) (Piel) to keep, pay heed

1d) (Hithpael) to keep oneself from

Part of Speech: verb

A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: a primitive root

It's almost as if he knew, that we would indeed profane this most holy and sacred day. We were not only told to keep it, but to guard it, and to protect it. I daresay my friends, we as God's people have done a poor job of guarding, and protecting our Father's Passover, which was the exact day that our Messiah was crucified upon the cross.

You see the original Passover was all about coming out of Egypt for the early Israelites. Coming out of Egypt meant that they could come out of sin. It meant that our Father in Heaven had rescued them from the evil. It meant that our Father in Heaven wanted to keep us separate and apart from the world. Coming out from under the evil hand of Pharaoh meant that God's people could once again worship the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. It was a rebirth for the early Israelites. A new life, a new beginning, and the promise that came directly from our Father in Heaven who promised to bless them abundantly if they would only walk in his ways and keep his commandments and his precepts and his appointments. Deuteronomy 30:11-20:

Deu 30:11 "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.

Deu 30:12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

Deu 30:13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

Deu 30:14 But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Deu 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

Deu 30:16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

Deu 30:17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship

other gods and serve them,

Deu 30:18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

Deu 30:20 loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

This is exactly what our Messiah rang in when he took his last breath while hanging upon the cross. It was a new beginning for God's people. He had rescued them from sin. He had taken his people out from under the hand of the evil one, and given them a new life, he had restored them as children to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. He had once again set before them life and good, death and evil. He had once again given them a choice to keep his Father's commandments by walking in his ways and keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules so that God could once again blessed them. But if their hearts turned away, to this very day... they will indeed surely perish. What most of today's modern-day professing Christians do not understand, is that their Messiah is there Passover Lamb. First Corinthians 5:7:

*1Co 5:7 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.*

Many modern-day professing Christians have several felonious objections as to why they do not keep the Passover as we Christians are commanded to do, and we will throw many of these felonious objections to the ground through Scripture as we journey through this study which will ultimately result in several separate studies that we will finally complete in the next few weeks. But I urge you to take the time and test the truth that we will be putting in your hearing over these next few weeks, because the truth that we will be putting in your hearing is worth more than all the refined gold that you could ever find upon the face of the earth. This truth cannot be bought at any price, it's worth cannot be measured, and its value cannot be weighed. This truth is a treasure that we can all take with us and store up as treasure in the life to come.

Before a modern-day Christian can understand the biblical fact that their Messiah died for them on Passover day, they must first understand how our father in heaven laid out his spring feast days.

Passover

Death, Burial, and Resurrection, Timeline

Inclusive Reckoning

According To Scripture!

Wednesday 13th		Thursday 14th		Friday 15th		Saturday 16th		Sunday 17th	
Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day
		Last Supper Yahshua (Jesus) Arrested	Day 1 Crucifixion 3pm Afternoon Burial Just Before Nightfall	Night 1 In Tomb	Day 2	Night 2 In Tomb	Day 3	Night 3 In Tomb	Disciples Find tomb empty just before sunrise!
		Passover Day		Unleavened Bread A High Sabbath Day		7th Day Sabbath		First Fruits	

A biblical day starts at dusk and ends at dusk.

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According to Scripture, our Messiah would have partaken of the Passover early Wednesday evening because he knew that he was going to be crucified on Passover day according to his own red-letter words found in Matthew 26 versus one and two. During that Wednesday evening shortly after washing the apostles' feet and telling them that one of the apostles would betray him, he was arrested. After being falsely tried by both the Sanhedrin, and the Roman government, he would be crucified and finally take his last breath at about 3 PM in the afternoon Thursday afternoon. This would have been day one.

They had to get our Messiah off the crossing in the tomb before nightfall that Thursday evening, because at nightfall the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to begin. We must remember that God's days do not run from midnight to midnight. God's days begin at sundown, and end at sundown. Unleavened bread began on Friday, and Friday began Thursday night at sundown, and lasted until Friday night at sundown, which then became Saturday. What's important to understand is that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is known as a "high Sabbath". Just like the seventh day Sabbath, no work is to be done on the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The feast of Unleavened Bread lasts for seven days. The first day of Unleavened Bread is a high Sabbath, and the seventh day of the feast of Unleavened Bread is also another high Sabbath. Let's verify this through Scripture before we go any farther. Leviticus 23:1-8:

Lev 23:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:2 "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

Lev 23:3 "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a

holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.

Lev 23:4 “These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them.

Lev 23:5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover.

Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

Lev 23:7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.

Lev 23:8 But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”

There is clearly a lot to see and take note of here in these first eight verses. The first thing that I want us to see is who these feast days belong to. Many modern-day professing Christians will wrongly proclaim that Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, along with Firstfruits, and Pentecost (also known as “Shavuot”) all belong to the Jews, and that’s why they don’t have to keep them, but that’s not at all what our God breathed Scriptures tell us. Our Father in Heaven tells us that these feast days belong to him not to any man. And we can clearly see that in Leviticus chapter 23 verse two, and again in verse five. Another thing that I would like us to make note of is the fact that our Father tells us very clearly in verse three, that “*for six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to Yahovah in all your dwelling places.*” Notice that there is nothing here about a new moon. It tells us that six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day is his seventh day Sabbath (so much for the so-called “lunar Sabbath” that we often hear about these days). Also notice, that it says and I quote “*on the seventh day is a Sabbath*” not on the first day of the week. There is no such thing as a first day of the week Sunday Sabbath that can be found anywhere within the confines of our God breathed Scripture. A first day of the week Sunday Sabbath has not been commanded by any high priest, not by any prophet, not by any apostle, and certainly not by the only begotten son of God, or God himself. It’s not in there, and you can’t find it, and the reason you can’t find it, is because it’s not in there.

Once again in verse five we see that “*in the first month, on the 14th day of the month at twilight, is Yahovah’s Passover.*” Let there be no doubt in anyone’s mind, that the Passover is in God’s first month, on the 14th day of his first month at twilight. And now we get into the point that I was trying to make concerning the layout of our Father’s feast days. Verse six tells us that, and I quote “*on the 15th day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to Yahovah, for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.*” Now I want all you modern-day Christians out there to take notes here in verse seven. It says and I quote “*on the first day (of unleavened bread) you shall have a holy convocation, you shall not do any ordinary work.*” And in verse eight it tells us that on the seventh day of unleavened bread, is also a holy convocation, and you shall do no work. This is why they had to have our Messiah in the ground before the Sabbath day. The next day was not the seventh day Sabbath, it was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

which was a high Sabbath, and this is where many modern-day unstudied Christians lose their way.

Looking at our chart that shows the timeline of the death, burial and resurrection of our Messiah, we can see that our Messiah was in the ground before the sun went down on Thursday evening. Why? Because once again our Father's days run from sundown to sundown. So, at sundown it became the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread which was also a high Sabbath when no work could be done, and this would be day two, that our Messiah would be in the ground.

Now before we go any farther it's important that we all know and understand that our Messiah said that he was going to be in the ground for three days and for three nights, not two nights and two days, which is what you get from Friday to Sunday. There is no mathematical way that you can get three days and three nights from a Friday crucifixion to a Sunday morning resurrection. So, one of two things is going on here. Either our Messiah is a liar, or man is a liar. You choose which one. Matthew 12:39-40:

Mat 12:39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Mat 12:40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

So, which is it my friends, you choose. Is our Messiah a liar, or his man the liar? They can't both be true. At sundown Friday evening the seventh day Sabbath would begin, and again no work could be done. This would be our Messiah's third day in the earth. As of sundown on Saturday evening we find our Messiah still in the ground for his third night. Sunday morning while it was still dark Mary comes to the tomb to finally finish anointing our Messiah with oil, but the stone of the tomb had been rolled away, and our Messiah had already risen. John 20:1:

Joh 20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

The Passover was often times called "*The Day of Preparation*", because it is on the Passover that we are to prepare for the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is again a high Sabbath. On Passover day we are commanded to get all of the leaven out of our households. "*Leaven*" is "*yeast*". Anything made with yeast is to be gotten out of our households. If you have bread, or cupcakes, or any kind of baked goods that use yeast, we are to remove those things from our homes during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because "*leaven*" (also known as yeast) is a representation of sin. If you are without "*leaven*", then you are said to be without sin. Listen to what Paul says to the church at Corinth about celebrating the festival of the Feast of Unleavened Bread without "*leaven*" or "*yeast*" (also known as sin) in our lives. First Corinthians 5:7:

1Co 5:7 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.

*1Co 5:8 **Let us therefore celebrate the festival**, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

There are a few things that we need to make mention of found in these two Scriptures. Number one, is that “leaven” is indeed a representation of sin. And number two is, that Paul himself always lived in obedience to the law of God, and therefore always kept the feast days. Again, we find Paul telling us in verse eight to celebrate the festival of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, not with the old leaven of sin, or with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

What most modern-day Christians do not understand, is that Paul always lived in obedience of the law of God. Which meant that Paul and all of the apostles, always kept our Father’s feast days. And I want us to notice that this is written in first Corinthians when Paul was talking to the church at Corinth well after the death, burial, and resurrection of our Messiah. So, don’t let anyone tell you that Paul and the apostles did not live in obedience to the law of God, because according to Scripture he most certainly did live in obedience to the laws of God. And just so that we can re-verify this through Scripture more definitively, I’d like us to turn to Acts chapter 21:18-24:

Act 21:18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

Act 21:19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Act 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,

Act 21:21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

Act 21:22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

Act 21:23 Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

*Act 21:24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, **but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.***

Paul oftentimes spoke to many different audiences, and many groups of people. Sometimes Paul was speaking in a synagogue full of Jews, and at other times, he may have been speaking to a group of Gentiles who were completely new to the Torah and the laws of God. And intermixed with these Jews and Gentiles, Paul often spoke to the Gnostics, and the Epicureans, and astrologers, and those who were accustomed to worshipping Angels, and who worshiped the sun and the moon and the stars. And so, at times Paul’s message was misunderstood. The Jews were trying to teach the new converts that it was circumcision that saved them. Others were trying to teach that it was baptism that saved them. Some were trying to teach them that they needed to

pray to Angels. And so, Paul's message was not always exactly the same when confronting each of these very different groups of people. And so, Paul was oftentimes misunderstood. James and the elders at Jerusalem had been told by some of the Jews there, that Paul was preaching against circumcision and that he was teaching them not to keep the customs of the Jewish people, but Paul was never preaching against circumcision. Paul was simply preaching that circumcision was not what saved you. Circumcision does not save you any more than baptism saves you. Only the grace of God saves a person. If we love God, we will then do what God asks us to do because this is the love of God, (1st John 5:3), but it is not what saves us. It is indeed by grace through faith that we are saved, but this does not in any way negate, or do away with our good works. But notice what James tells us in acts chapter 21 verse 24. What does he say to Paul? He says very clearly and I quote *"take these men Paul, and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. This way, all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you Paul, **but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.**"* says James, who was the head of the Jerusalem Council and also the brother of our Messiah.

And as for those of you who believe that works are dead, and all you have to do is run around saying *"I believe, I believe, I believe"* like some birdbrain parrot, I would once again turn you back to the Scripture found in James 2:14-26:

*Jas 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can that faith save him?***

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,

Jas 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

*Jas 2:17 **So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.***

Jas 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

*Jas 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe—and shudder!***

*Jas 2:20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, **that faith apart from works is useless?***

*Jas 2:21 **Was not Abraham our father justified by works** when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?*

*Jas 2:22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and **faith was completed by his works;***

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

*Jas 2:24 **You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.***

Jas 2:25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

*Jas 2:26 **For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.***

Many Christians today have been wrongly taught so many things, that it is hard to keep up with all of the deception that we have been swimming in for so many years. Many Christians

wrongly proclaim that they do not keep the Passover today because they are not Jewish, or because they belong to a new Gentile church that is separate and apart from the Jews. Once again, only the ignorant and the unstudied would ever proclaim such nonsense. Galatians 3:27-29:

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

For even more truth concerning the fact that there is no Jew or Gentile or slave or free, and that there is not even a male and a female in the eyes of our heavenly Father, you can also read Romans chapter 11.

The truth is, that every Christian should know and understand that our Messiah died on Passover day, and not the Roman Catholic “*Good Friday*”. All four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all agree that our Messiah died on Passover day. And just to verify that through the Scripture I would once again like to take you through each one. As we walk through each one of the Scriptures found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, I want us to remember that the “*Day of Preparation*” was also known as Passover day, because Passover day came the day before the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and during Passover day we are commanded to prepare for the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is again a high Sabbath. Exodus 12:15-17:

Exo 12:15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Exo 12:16 On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you.

Exo 12:17 And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

And so, once again there was much preparation to do during the Passover, not to mention the Lamb that was to be slaughtered for each household so that the Passover meal could be observed. So once again, Passover day was also known as “*the Day of Preparation*” for the feast of unleavened bread. So now that we understand how our Father’s feast days worked... let’s turn to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and verify the fact that our Messiah did indeed die on the Day of Preparation, also known as, the Passover.

MATTHEW:Mat 27:62 The next day, that is, after THE DAY OF PREPARATION, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate Mat 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember how

that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Mat 27:64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

*MARK:Mar 15:42 And when evening had come, since it was **THE DAY OF PREPARATION**, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

*LUKE:Luk 23:54 It was **THE DAY OF PREPARATION**, and the Sabbath was beginning. Luk 23:55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Luk 23:56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.*

*JOHN:Joh 19:31 Since it was **THE DAY OF PREPARATION**, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.*

Once again my friends, our Messiah was and is our Passover Lamb. He himself was slaughtered while the lambs for each family were being slaughtered at the temple, and as they sat down to eat their Passover lambs, the apostles remembered the red-letter words of our Messiah, telling them that the bread was his body that they had to eat, and that the wine was his blood that they had to drink in order to ring in the new covenant. Luke 22:19:

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

*Luk 22:20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you **is the new covenant in my blood.**"*

Next week in part two of "Happy New Year the Passover Is Approaching" will go more into depth concerning this "New Covenant" that was poured out in our Messiah's blood, and we'll identify what this new covenant did to his people, and what it continues to do for those who pick up their crosses and follow him. We'll also talk a little bit about how to properly celebrate the Passover. What is a Passover Seder, and do we need one? What is truth, and what is tradition? If I'm traveling, can I keep the Passover on another day? All these questions and more will be answered in the continuation of this study, so be sure to join us next seventh day Sabbath at 9 AM Eastern standard time.