



Pastor Scott Velain

## Exodus 23c The Concept of Sabbaths and Feasts

Last week as we ventured into Exodus chapter 23, we spoke about several different aspects of our Father's justice system that he is laying out here before the house of Israel here in Exodus chapter 23. We spoke about not spreading false reports about people within the assembly, and not joining hands with the wicked to be a malicious witness. We also spoke about not falling in with the majority to do evil and we spoke about the fact that the majority is not always seen as righteous in the eyes of our Father in heaven. In fact, I would submit to you that today, the majority is seldom times seen as righteous in the eyes of our Father in heaven. And we spoke about the fact that it was indeed the majority that shouted for the crucifixion of our Messiah, and for an unknown murderer to be set free from prison.

We spoke about the fact that we should not pervert justice when it comes to a poor man's dispute, and that we are to keep ourselves far from false charges that are being made against our brothers and sisters. And in Exodus chapter 23 verse seven, we are warned not to kill the innocent and the righteous because our Father will indeed not acquit the wicked.

According to our Father's justice system we are not to take bribes from anyone because a bribe blinds the clear-sighted, and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. And we also spoke about why it is that our Father tells the house of Israel not to oppress the Gentile that is traveling with them. He continues on to tell the house of Israel to remember that they themselves were outcasts and Sojourners, and Gentiles in the eyes of the Egyptians who had condemned them to slavery.

But now, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the book of Exodus our Father changes gears and begins to talk about something else that we should sit up and take notice of, and that is the concept of his sabbaths.

And so, before we go any farther here this evening, I'd like us to return to Exodus chapter 23 and just refresh ourselves concerning exactly what it does say, and exactly what it does not say. Starting with Exodus chapter 23 verse 10, I'd like us to read through **Exodus chapter 23 versus 10 through 33 E1**

*Exo 23:10 "For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield,*

*Exo 23:11 but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your*

people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the field may eat. You shall do likewise with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

**Exo 23:12** “Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

**Exo 23:13** “Pay attention to all that I have said to you, and make no mention of the names of other gods, nor let it be heard on your lips.

**Exo 23:14** “Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me.

**Exo 23:15** You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. None shall appear before me empty-handed.

**Exo 23:16** You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

**Exo 23:17** Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord GOD.

**Exo 23:18** “You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with anything leavened, or let the fat of my feast remain until the morning.

**Exo 23:19** “The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. “You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

**Exo 23:20** “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

**Exo 23:21** Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.

**Exo 23:22** “But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

**Exo 23:23** “When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out,

**Exo 23:24** you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces.

**Exo 23:25** You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you.

**Exo 23:26** None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

**Exo 23:27** I will send my terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

**Exo 23:28** And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.

*Exo 23:29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you.*

*Exo 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.*

*Exo 23:31 And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.*

*Exo 23:32 You shall make no covenant with them and their gods.*

*Exo 23:33 They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”*

Before we dive into examining these many different ordinances that are being laid out before us here in Exodus chapter 23, I'd like us to stand back from the forest just a little bit so that we can examine the trees if you will.

I want us to understand that our Father in heaven always creates unity by means of division. What does that mean, “*that our Father in heaven always creates unity by means of division*”? Yah always sets up principles that by their very nature, become dividing lines. Man is given the choice to stand on one side, or the other. If man chooses to stand on Yah's side, and on Yah's principles, then he is at unity with his Father in heaven. But... if man chooses to stand on the other side (the side of the world), he has unity with men, but conflict with his Father in heaven.

We have to understand that the very reason that the world hates Yah's originally chosen people who we call “*Jews*” today, is because (generally speaking) they have dedicated themselves to obeying Yahovah the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob regardless of the consequences, and this automatically puts them in conflict with the world.

The Jews have been in conflict with the world from the very beginning because they choose by and large, to set themselves apart from the world, in order to worship the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And I would submit to you that this is exactly why modern-day Christendom has fallen so far away from worshiping the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Today's modern-day version of Christianity, and their denominational empires of men, and their councils of men, over the centuries, have hated the Jewish people with such an insatiable appetite of hatred and what we know as anti-Semitism, that they have separated themselves from anything and everything Jewish including the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Anti-Semitism, and the black hearted hatred of the Jewish people that Catholicism has established throughout history, has led modern day Christendom down a path of wickedness, and into a darkness that causes them to be blinded from the truth of the very God breathed

Scriptures that they hold in their very hands, and yet... deny.

Think about it for just a moment my friends. Why is it that we today, have to go back and read our Bibles from the beginning in order to find the truth? The very reason that we have to go back and read our Bibles from the beginning in order to find the truth, is because we were never taught to read our Bibles from the beginning in order to find the truth. And why is it that we were never taught to read our Bibles from the beginning in order to find the truth? The very reason that we were never taught to read our Bibles from the beginning in order to find the truth, is because today's modern-day Christendom by enlarge, has preprogramed Yah's people not to read the book from the beginning because it's all been done away with. And why do they say that the beginning of the book is all been done away with? Not because that's what it says in our Bibles, but because that's what the councils of early Catholicism have ingrained into the religion of Catholicism, which has now spread to her daughter Protestant churches around the world, who now keep her man-made, pagan first day of the week Sunday sabbath, and her man-made, pagan "*Good Friday*" and her man-made pagan, "*Lent*", and her man-made, pagan "*Easter*" and her man-made, pagan "*Christmas*" and the list goes on and on, none of which are found in the God breathed scriptures that we hold in our very hands.

It was through the very hatred of the Jews, that the religion of Catholicism had proclaimed that the law of the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had all been done away with. And it was through the very hatred of the Jews that Catholicism high jacked true Christianity and turned it into a modern-day pagan religion wrongly called... Christianity. It was through the very hatred of the Jews, that the religion of Catholicism had proclaimed that the law of Yahovah, and his prophets, and the writing of the Psalms, and his justice system were thrown into the back seat so that their new man-made created version of the God of Israel... "*Jesus*"... could replace him. Even though that's not what the true Yeshua Jesus ever taught or stood for, or preached during his ministry while he was with us.

This new God of Israel that they have created for themselves, has come to replace his Father, and to celebrate his own birthday, and create his own sabbaths, and establish his own pagan feast days, and nod and wink when we transgress his Father's law because it really doesn't matter to him anyway, because your once saved always saved, and do as thou wilt is now the whole of the law for you, because that's what their definition of salvation is all about... "*grace apart from the law*", "*dispensationalism*", "*replacement theology*", "*do as thou wilt is the whole of the law*", oh... and don't forget that one very precious Old Testament Levitical law of tithing... because that's the one and only Old Testament Levitical law that that they want you to remember so that they can rob you and your children of 10% of your income.

The very reason that today's Christian church has steadily lost its power, is because it has stopped being a set apart people. The European Enlightenment of the 18<sup>th</sup> century has thought to create for itself a new Gentile church, in order to make the church as attractive to the world as possible, and by doing so, they themselves have made themselves friends of the world, while maintaining the façade of being religiously righteous, and holy.

Today's newfound era of the mega-church, is nothing more than the European Enlightenment of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, that's driven by nothing more than the philosophies of men, and their desire is to never divide, but to always find ways to unite through compromise.

You see man has replaced Yah's justice system that creates unity, with compromise and consensus. "*The majority rules*" has replaced and for all intents and purposes done away with Yah's justice system. "*Tolerance*" ... has replaced our obligation to discern between good and evil. Oh pastor, don't you know that you have to have tolerance? Oh pastor, don't you know that you have to compromise? Oh pastor, don't you know that you have to be in line with the majority?

My Messiah commanded me to pick up my cross and to follow him... not you. Oh, pastor now you've done it, now you've offended me! Really?

My Messiah tells me that if I am not a set apart people, and that if I am not a pariah to the world, and if I'm not doing what his Father has told me to do... then I am not with him or of him. In fact, he tells me that not everyone who calls on him is going to enter the kingdom of heaven... but only... the one who does the will of his Father in heaven.

Being a set apart people, and a pariah to the world, is what we have been called to. Yeshua did not come to abolish the Torah, which is indeed his Father's justice system for his people. Yeshua was the most Torah observant man in the history of mankind. What we as modern-day Christians must remember... is that everything that our Messiah said came either verbatim, or in principle directly from the Old Testament. **E1**

As we move down through Exodus chapter 23 versus 10 through 12, we once again see the establishment, and the ordination, and the sanctification, of what we know as the seventh day Sabbath. But I want us to also understand the very concept of the seventh day Sabbath.

Here in Exodus chapter 23, we can clearly see that the seventh day Sabbath is being applied in a very physical, very earthly sense, but if we look closer... we can also see that the seventh day Sabbath is being applied in a very spiritual sense as well as an earthly and physical sense. As we ventured through our studies into the book of Genesis several months ago, we saw Yah set up the concept of the seventh day Sabbath through creation. Our Father worked for six days, and then on the seventh day he rested. It was the seventh day that he made holy, and not just symbolically holy, but literally holy.

Our Messiah told his followers that the Sabbath was not made for Yah, but that the Sabbath was made for man. What we as modern-day Christians need to understand is that every principle of Yah has both an earthly physical side to it, and a heavenly spiritual side to it. Our Father in heaven established his seventh day Sabbath as holy both in the physical world, and in the spiritual world. Our Father's seventh day Sabbath has a very tangible, very physical benefit

connected to it. That very tangible, very physical benefit that comes from resting on the seventh day, is a physical rejuvenation that comes from resting one day out of the week. And this does not apply only to two human beings. I want us to notice that this seventh day Sabbath is also directly connected to a 7 year Sabbath for the land so that it would not be sown and would be able to rest and to lie fallow so that the land itself and Yah's creation could also rest, and so that poor people would be able to come and eat, and what they leave... the beasts of the field were able to eat. Even the animals on the seventh day Sabbath are commanded to rest on our Father's holy, sanctified, and ordained seventh day Sabbath. But... there is also a spiritual benefit that comes with those who love Yah enough to hear and obey the ordinance of his holy, sanctified, and ordained seventh day Sabbath. Let's jump ahead just a little bit into **Exodus chapter 31 verses 12 through 18 E2**

*Exo 31:12 And the LORD said to Moses,*

*Exo 31:13 "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.'*

*Exo 31:14 You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

*Exo 31:15 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death.*

*Exo 31:16 Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever.*

*Exo 31:17 It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'"*

*Exo 31:18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*

What I want us to notice about this commandment concerning our Father's seventh day Sabbath is not only the physical benefit that will be experienced from resting every seventh day Sabbath, but also the spiritual benefits of resting on our Father's holy, ordained, and sanctified seventh day Sabbath. Notice that in Exodus chapter 31 verse 13 we are told that keeping this seventh day Sabbath, is a sign between us and our Father in heaven. And keeping this seventh day Sabbath, was not just commanded until Yah's only begotten Son arrived. You won't find that nonsense anywhere within the confines of your Bible. That's not what the Scripture says. Yah says that we are to keep this holy, ordained, sanctified, seventh day Sabbath throughout our generations. The spiritual implications of keeping his holy, ordained, and sanctified seventh day Sabbath are astounding. It is a sign between him and us, that we are indeed his set apart people. In Exodus chapter 31 verse 14 we are told that it is holy for us. What does that mean, "it is holy for us"? What we need to understand is only Yah can make something "holy". Man does not hold the power to make anything "holy". If something is "holy" it is ordained, and has been

established, by the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob himself, and not by a man.

If there is anything that we can take away from our Father's seventh day Sabbath, it's this; the holiness, and the blessings, and the very purpose of our Father's seventh day Sabbath, is only relevant to Yah's set apart people.

Human beings, animals, and the very earth itself is commanded to rest on this holy, sanctified, and ordained day through the oversight of man who Yah left in charge of the earth. And I want us to understand that even if an atheist rests one day out of the week, he will receive a physical rejuvenation just like Yah's people, but... he will not receive the spiritual benefit that Yah has ordained for his set apart people. Just because an atheist rests one day out of the week, this does not make that one day holy for him, nor is it a sign between Yah and the atheist. When Yah commands his Angels to mark his people in the forehead, I would submit to you my friends that they will be looking for this sign. It will be this sign that will mark us as Yah's set apart people who love him enough to do his will, not in order to be saved, but because he has saved us through the redemption of his only begotten Son. **E1**

In Exodus chapter 23 verse 13, Yah begins to now teach the house of Israel how they are to love him, and how they are to respect him, and the obligations that they now have not only because of the love that he has already shown for them, but for the steadfast love that he will continue to show for them in the future. Yah commands the house of Israel to pay attention to everything that he has said to them, and not to even make any mention of the names of other little "g" gods, or to even let it be heard on their lips. Why? Because he knows that these other little "g" gods are going to be the very same other little "g" gods that are going to lead his beloved Israel astray. Knows what these other little "g" gods are going to do to steal his bride away from him. He knows the deep dark evil of these other little "g" gods, and the power that they hold over his bride because of her flesh.

And it is because he knows the deep dark evil power that these other little "g" gods hold over the flesh of his bride, that he continues on in Exodus chapter 23 verse 14, to show the house of Israel how they are to repeatedly come to him three times every year and to keep his feasts to remember him.

So far, we've seen the house of Israel has been told not to make images of these other little "g" gods, and not to worship these other little "g" gods, and not to even talk about, or invoke the names of these other little "g" gods, but the house of Israel is once again found to be much like us today. The house of Israel was always looking for a loophole, always looking to push the envelope if you will. Is that picture of Jesus that I have hanging on my wall really a graven image? Does it really matter which day I keep the Sabbath, as long as I keep a day set aside for him? Does it really matter which day I remember the anniversary of his death? Is it really wrong to celebrate Jesus birthday? Is it so bad that this statue reminds me of his blessed mother Mary? Is it really wrong from me to trade the Passover for Easter? Once again, tolerance, and compromise is the way of man, not the way of Yah. What Yah says will stand until the end of

time, what man says will wither away and be blown like dust into the wind. Mans version of righteousness does not, and will not ever exceed the righteousness of Yah. When the Apostle Paul tells us to set the wicked one outside of the assembly and to turn them over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh so that they can be saved on the day of the Lord... Paul is not inserting his own will of “tolerance” and “compromise” into the equation like the assembly at Corinth was. Paul is not boasting in himself about how he can save the wicked person... Paul knows that if he **does not** set the wicked person outside of the assembly, so that that wicked person will **not** be handed over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh... that person will not be saved on the day of the Lord. In other words... Paul knows that by not setting the wicked person outside of the assembly he would become part of the problem, and not part of the solution, and he would not be standing in Yah’s divine instruction to truly save that person by setting them outside of the assembly not only for their own good... but the good of the flock. We are always much farther ahead to hear and obey his divine instruction than we are to follow after our own human hearts. His ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not our thoughts for his ways and his thoughts are far above and beyond our ways and our thoughts. Knowing this... we should be wise enough to simply hear... and obey what his instruction is, that is... if we truly do love him enough... to trust him.

We see here in Exodus chapter 23 verse 14, that our Father in heaven gives the house of Israel plenty of things to do to remind them of who he is. Yah tells the house of Israel that three times each and every year, they are to keep these feasts to him. The feast of Unleavened Bread, which is when the barley is ripe, or “*abib*”, in the month of Abib, and the feast of Firstfruits, and what is known as the Feast of Ingathering, which is also known as “*Sukkot*” or “*the feast of booths*”, and is sometimes called “*Tabernacles*”. And I pray that these names don’t confuse you, but it is these three times of the year that Yah commands us to keep these feasts to him so that we will always remember who he is, and what he has done for us, which will always be more than any other little “g” god could ever promise, let alone keep.

In the book of Leviticus, we’ll find that these festivals will be discussed the much greater detail, and it is these three times of the year when the house of Israel was to gather around where Yahovah was. And although there will eventually be seven separate appointments that we will be commanded to keep in order to love, and to honor Yah... these three times of the year are special times because the house of Israel is to journey to a very specific place to celebrate these three feasts.

Back then, when they were out in the wilderness, the wilderness tabernacle continually moved from place to place, and therefore, wherever Yah was, that’s where his set apart people were to come to honor him. Later on, in the future, once the house of Israel moved into the land of Canaan (which is now modern-day Israel) they would come to where the temple was built in Jerusalem. And this is exactly where the temple will be during the millennial reign of our Messiah in the very near future. And just like the seventh day Sabbath, these three commanded festivals, also have an enormous spiritual element to them that we won’t get into right now, but we will dive into as we continue to walk through our Father’s Torah very near future. But what I

want us to understand here today, is that it is these three celebrations that set Israel apart from all other nations and all other little “g” gods that have ever been known throughout history, and that’s why our adversary hates them so much and has worked so hard to hide them under the façade of today’s modern-day version of Christianity.

I want us to also noticed that all three of these festivals are agriculturally based. Each one of these festivals has to do with agriculture, and harvesting. The first festival occurs in the spring and has to do with the harvest of the barley. This first festival is called the Passover, and also sometimes referred to as “*The Feast of Unleavened Bread*” or “*Matzah*”, and it is used to celebrate Yah’s deliverance of his people from the slavery of Egypt. The second appointment also has several different names. It is sometimes called “*The Feast of Weeks*”, and is also sometimes called “*Shavuot*”, but today’s modern-day Christendom knows it best as “*Pentecost*”. And of course, this last appointment is at the end of the year in the fall, and is probably best known as “*The Feast of Tabernacles*” or “*Sukkot*” which is also referred to as “*The Feast of Ingathering*” here in Exodus chapter 23.

All of these three appointments that the house of Israel has with our Father in heaven have a very deep-seated spiritual meaning, and purpose that we won’t get into here today but we will get into as we move forward into the book of Leviticus. But I also want us to understand that by the time we reach Leviticus Yah will have established seven different appointments that he will call the house of Israel to each and every year to remind them not only of what he has done in the past for them, but what he is about to do in the future for them as well.

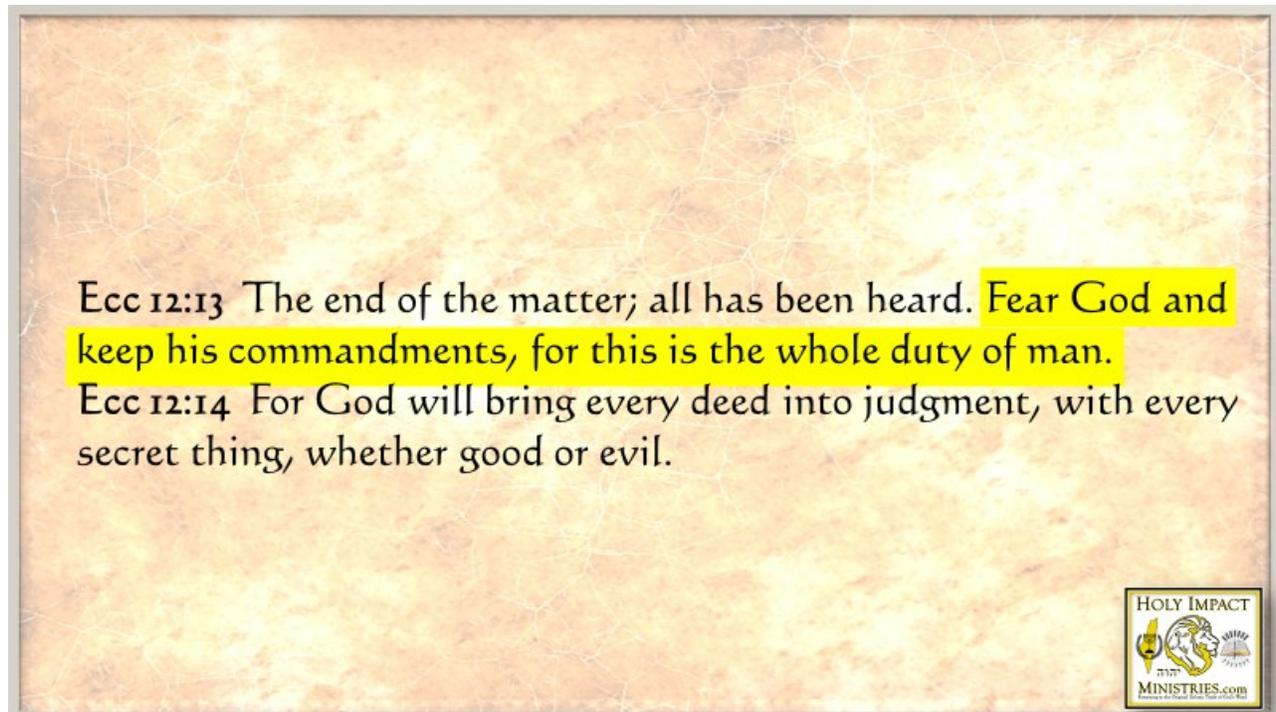
And as we study these appointed times that we see listed here in the beginning of our Bibles, I want us to contrast these appointed times and these appointed feasts, with man’s appointed times, and man’s appointed feasts. They are not the same my friends, far, far from it!

Today’s modern-day version of Christianity will by and large proclaim that the apostle Paul did away with the biblical appointments of the Old Testament, even though we see Paul running from place to place in order to be at these very important appointments, just as our Messiah was always at each and every one of these appointments including the feast of dedication, also known as Hanukkah. There was not one of these appointments that we read about here in the book of Exodus, or that we’ll read about in the book of Numbers, or Deuteronomy or all throughout the Bible, that our Messiah did not keep, and that the apostles after him did not keep. These seven appointments that we will see given to the house of Israel by Yah point directly to his only begotten Son, and our Messiah.

Yeshua died on Passover day to become our Passover Lamb, he would be unleavened, and without sin, and would cause us to be unleavened and without sin, and he was raised up on firstfruits to wave the sheaf offering before his Father to signal the new incoming harvest, and he sent the Ruach Hokadesh on Shavuot. All four of these first springtime appointments all pointed directly to the first coming of our Messiah, and the last three appointments that we see in the fall all directly point to the return of his second coming in the very near future. The feast

of trumpets is the first of the last three appointments that happens in the fall, that announces to us that something very great, and very majestic is heading our way. The day of atonement which is the second of the last three appointments, calls for the bride to be ready, and to lower herself in humility and to bow down and afflict herself, and ask for the forgiveness of any lingering sin that she may have in her life so that she will be ready for the coming of her bridegroom who will come for her to tabernacle with her forever which points us directly to the feast of Tabernacles, also known as “*Sukkot*”.

These appointments that we practice each and every year are put in place for us to remember each and every year what the whole duty of man truly is. **(sern 1)**

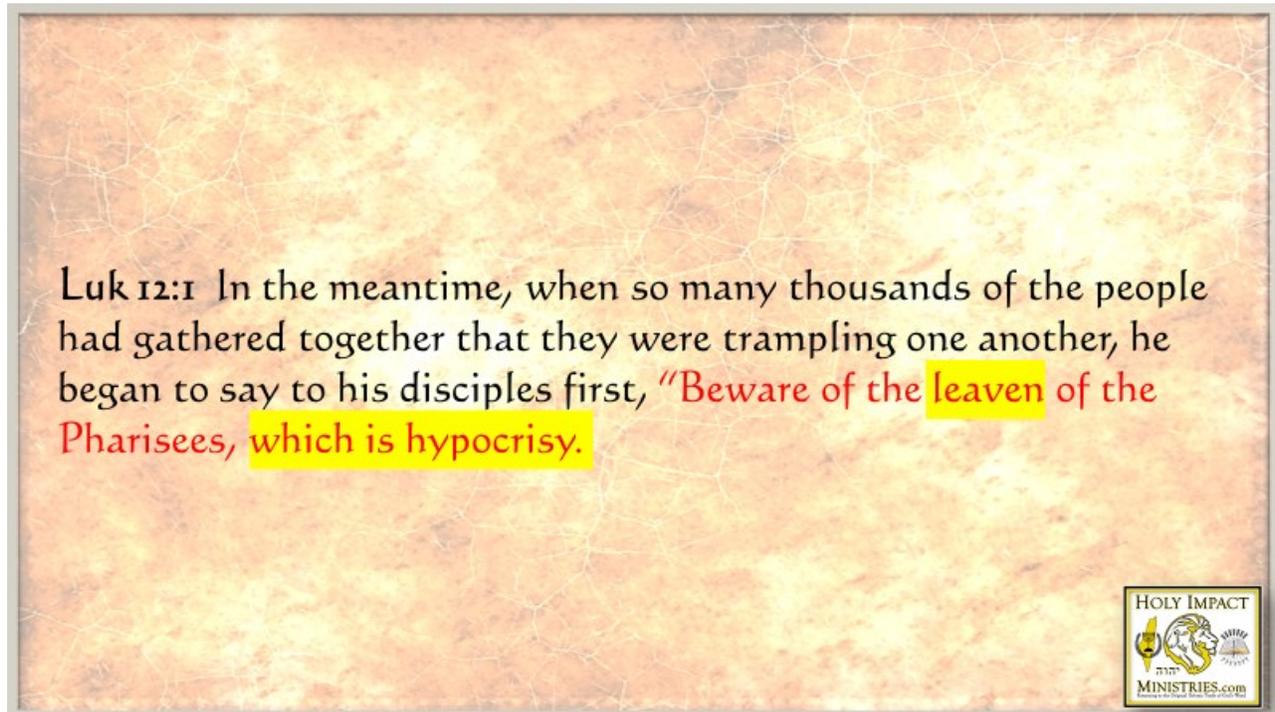


Moving forward as we take a look at Exodus chapter 23 verse 18, we see that Yah tells the house of Israel not to offer the blood of his sacrifice with anything leavened. Once again, leaven is yeast, and yeast is synonymous with “*sin*”. And this is one of the major reasons why Passover day is so important. We are commanded on Passover day (which is also known as preparation day), before the feast of Unleavened Bread begins the very next day, that the house of Israel was to remove all of the Leven (or yeast) not only from their homes, but from there cities as well. Once again, the spiritual significance of removing all of the yeast from your house, represented removing all of the sin from your house.

Today many people who are coming back to the Torah, and trying to do things correctly according to the Torah wrongly mistake removing the yeast from their houses as being Torah compliant. Once again, we must be able to spiritually discern what it is that we are supposed to be removing from our houses on Passover day. Many people will remove bread and cakes, and cookies from their homes wrongly thinking that they are pleasing their Father in heaven,

when in reality what they should be removing are their videotapes and DVDs of Hollywood created death and mayhem, movies with homosexuals in them, religious statues or pictures, and any pornographic material, anything that causes us to sin is what we should be removing from our houses . This is what should be removed from our houses, not just cakes and cookies, and bread.

And I want us to understand the concept of yeast being synonymous with sin. Let's turn to **Luke chapter 21 verse one (scrn2)**



Hypocrisy is saying one thing, and then turning around and doing another, and this is what the scribes and the Pharisees were infamous for doing. Consider what our Messiah says directly to them in **Matthew chapter 23 versus one through three (scrn 3)**

Mat 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,  
Mat 23:2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,  
Mat 23:3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the  
works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.



Once again leaven, or yeast, is symbolic with hypocrisy which is what the Pharisees were best known for. And by the way, the next time someone asks you where Jesus commanded anyone to keep the Torah... all you have to do is point them to Matthew chapter 23 versus one through three. The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses seat, which is also known as the "*bema seat*", and you can Google that if you'd like to, but what that means is that while they were seated on Moses seat (also known as the "*bema seat*") they could only recite the law word for word, they could not expound upon it unless they got up out of the seat of Moses and move away from the seat of Moses. So, while the Pharisees and scribes were seated in the seat of Moses, they were preaching and teaching the truth because they were quoting directly from the Torah word for word. And we must remember, that they were not quoting the New Testament. The New Testament had not yet been written, and would not be written until about 90 years after the death, burial, and resurrection of our Messiah. The New Testament was still unfolding in real time when our Messiah spoke these very words. And so, right here in Matthew chapter 23 versus one through three, we are hear our Messiah in his own red-letter words telling the crowds and the disciples to do and observe whatever the scribes and the Pharisees told them while seated on the seat of Moses reading the Torah to them. The problem was that they were hypocrites, and they did not practice what they were preaching, which is symbolic with the "*leaven of the Pharisees*" which is sin (the transgression of the law).

I'd like us to also turn to **first Corinthians chapter 5 verses seven and eight (scrn 4)**

1Co 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened (without sin). 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 note of here in first Corinthians chapter 5 verses seven and eight. The first thing that we need to see is that the apostle Paul is once again equating leaven (or yeast) with sin. And he's also equating leaven (or yeast) with malice and evil. And I want us to pay particularly close attention to what the apostle Paul tells us in first Corinthians chapter 5 verse eight. Paul says and I quote, "*Let us therefore celebrate the Festival*". What Festival is Paul telling us to celebrate? What Festival has to do with removing leaven from your houses? The Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened bread. This is the Festival that Paul is telling us to celebrate right here in first Corinthians chapter 5 verse eight.

You see my friends; today's modern-day version of Christianity can't even get the writings of the apostle Paul straight let alone the gospel message of our Messiah. Let's also turn to **Galatians chapter 5 verses one through 13 E3**

Gal 5:7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Gal 5:8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you.

Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Gal 5:10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is.



I want us to see very clearly what Paul is talking about here concerning leaven. Paul is clearly talking about wolves in sheep's clothing right here in Galatians chapter 5 verses seven through 10. Paul is telling the church at Galatia that whoever this is that is preaching things that are not the truth, will indeed bear the penalty for what they are doing.

Paul tells us very clearly to set the evil person outside of our assemblies because a little leaven leavens the whole lump. My friends, if we do not set evil people outside of the assembly, that leaven will leaven the whole lump. That lie will cause others to also lie. That false doctrine will cause others to also teach false doctrine. That false prophet, or prophetess will cause others to want to be false prophets and false prophetesses. **First Corinthians chapter 5 versus one through 13 E3**

*1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.*

*1Co 5:2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.*

*1Co 5:3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.*

*1Co 5:4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,*

*1Co 5:5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.*

*1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*

**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.

**1Co 5:9** I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—

**1Co 5:10** not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

**1Co 5:11** But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

**1Co 5:12** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

**1Co 5:13** God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

I want us to clearly see what leaven is according to the apostle Paul. According to the apostle Paul in first Corinthians chapter 5 verses seven and eight, leaven (or yeast) is a representation of malice and evil.

And I also want us to understand what is being said by the apostle Paul right here in first Corinthians chapter 5 verse three. In first Corinthians chapter 5 verse two Paul tells us to let this evil person who has committed this sin be removed from the assembly. And in first Corinthians chapter 5 verse 13 Paul once again says and I quote, “*purge the evil person from among you*”. And the apostle Paul clearly tells us that if someone bears the name of brother, and claims to be your brother, or your sister... and he or she is guilty of sexual immorality, or greed, or is an idolater, or a reveler... (and a reveler is someone who causes dissension, and backbiting, and gossip, and division amongst the assembly)... if that person is a reveler, or a drunkard, or swindler, that we are not even supposed to be eating with such a person. And Paul tells us right here in First Corinthians chapter 5, that we are indeed to judge those who are inside the assembly and are claiming to be our brothers and sisters.

We must remember what the commission of an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelists, Pastor, or Teacher is commissioned for according to Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 through 14. We are commissioned to equip the saints for the work of ministry, and to protect them from being children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, and craftiness and deceitful schemes. That’s the job of a Pastor... Prophet, Evangelist, or Teacher... not to teach human tolerance and compromise that suits the human heart.

Let me ask you this my friends, how many assemblies today are setting the wicked people outside of the assembly? How many assemblies are today drawing a line in the sand, and calling their brothers and sisters to accountability? How many assemblies today have been leavened, with the yeast of sin that has spread all throughout their assemblies because they did not remove the evil person from among them? Think about that my friends. Why are today’s assemblies in

the condition that they are in today? Why are there homosexual pastors and priests among the ranks of today's modern-day Christendom? Why is everyone these days proclaiming themselves to be prophets and prophetesses? Why is there so much backbiting going on within the assemblies, why is so much gossip going on within today's assemblies, and division? Because evil people are not being put outside of the assembly where they belong. A little leaven... leavens the whole lump. Those who do these things and continue to do them with out remorse or repentance should indeed be set outside of the assembly for their own good, not just for the assembly.

And so, this is why Yah tells the house of Israel not to offer the blood of his sacrifice with anything leavened, because that Leaven represents the very sin that he knows is a contagious cancer that spreads like wildfire, it is sin, the very sin that they will soon commit. It is a cancer, that is highly contagious, and is not to be tolerated by his set apart people according to our Fathers justice system.

And with that being said, we will close our study into the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the book of Exodus and pick up where we left off next Wednesday at 7 PM Eastern standard time, but before we do, I would like to once again ask everyone within the sound of my voice to please, please take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet. Bow your head, and bend your knee, and face the holy promise land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here today be true, or not.

Ask, seek, and knock, and the door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end, you and I will surely walk through the Gates of his soon coming kingdom together.

I'm pastor Scott Velain with Holy Impact Ministries, and I would like to thank everyone within the sound of my voice for sharing your time with us here today to comb through our Fathers God breathed Scripture to see if these things be true, or not.