

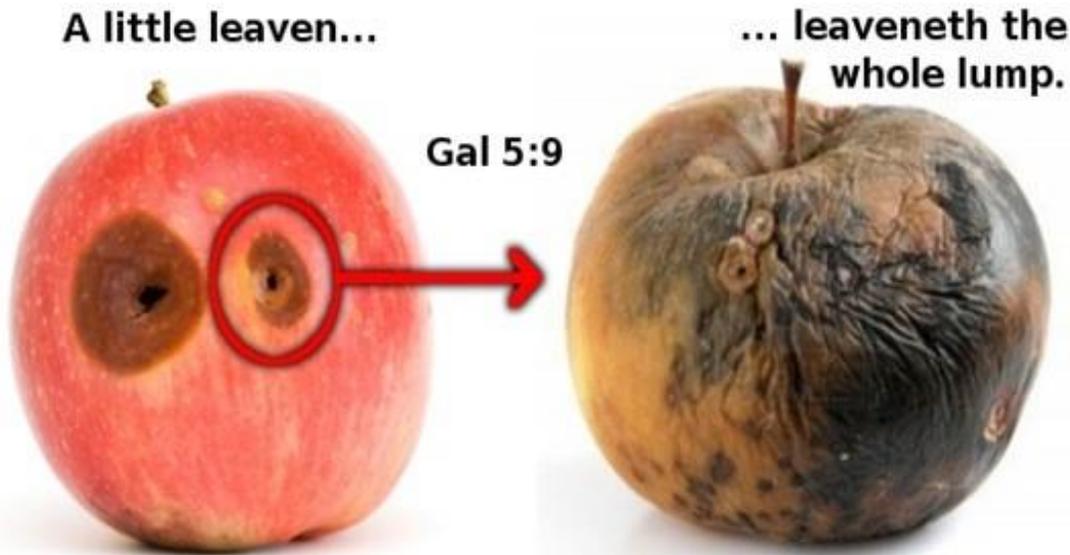
# So it begins

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By Joseph F. Dumond

February 24, 2017



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News Letter 5852-047

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The Shemitah Year-The Acceptable year of Yehovah  
The 27th day of the 12th month 5852 years after the creation of Adam  
The 12th Month in the Seventh year of the Third Sabbatical Cycle  
The 3rd Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle  
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes, Famines and Pestilence  
The Year of letting the land rest  
The Sabbatical year that begins March 10, Aviv 2016 and goes to Aviv 2017

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February 25, 2017

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Shabbat Shalom to The Royal Family of Yehovah,

This Sabbath, February 25, 2017 is the 28th day of the 12th month. Sunday will be the 29th day with the crescent moon potentially being sighted Sunday evening. It will not be the easiest moon to site as it will be low on the horizon and could be obscured by atmospheric conditions.

So all the dates I am about to share with you could be the next day. We will have to *wait and see*. (Hmmm, I wonder if that expression comes from this very thing. We must *wait and see* the crescent moon before we know when the month begins)

If the New Moon is sighted Sunday evening Feb 26 then Sunday Feb 26, 2017 and Monday Feb 27 is the 1st day of the 1st month of the 5853rd year since the creation of Adam and the Sabbatical year will officially be over.

Lev 23:4 These *are* the appointed feasts of Jehovah, holy convocations which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons. 5 In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, between the evenings, is Jehovah's Passover,

Sunday evening March 12 and Monday day March 13 is the 14th of Nisan. Sunday evening is when you would do the last supper that Yehshua did with the Apostles and do the foot washing. We went over this in our Newsletter [Between the Evenings](#).

Monday day at 9AM is when Yehshua was hung on the tree. At 3 PM this day is when He died. He was then buried before sunset when the 1st day of Unleavened Bread began.

Mat\_27:57 When the evening had come, a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, came, who also himself was Jesus' disciple.

Mar\_15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, who also waited for the kingdom of God, came and went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Joh\_19:38 And after these things, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews) begged of Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission. Then he came and took the body of Jesus.

Joh\_19:39 And Nicodemus also came, who at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. 40 Then they took the body of Jesus and wound it with linens with the spices, as is the custom of the Jews to bury. 41 And in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one yet had been placed. 42 There, then, because of the Preparation of the Jews, because the tomb was near, they laid Jesus.

Joh\_19:31 Then the Jews, because it was Preparation, begged Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the sabbath. For that sabbath was a high day.

Monday evening March 13 and Tuesday March 14 is the 15th day of the 1st month. It is the High Holy Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You are to eat unleavened bread for 7 days from the 15th day until the 21st day of the 1st month. It was at midnight this night that the Death Angel passed over the Israelites and killed all the first born of Egypt. Then early that morning as the sun rose they left Egypt.

**Num 33:3** And they pulled up *stakes* from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month. On the next day after the Passover the sons of Israel went out with a high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Lev 23:6 and on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened *Bread* to Jehovah. You must eat unleavened *bread* seven days. 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no work of labor, 8 but you shall offer a fire offering to Jehovah seven days. In the seventh day *is* a holy convocation. You shall do no work of labor.

The Evening of Sunday March 19 and Monday March 20 is the 7th day of Unleavened Bread. It too, is a Holy Day and no work is to be done.

Saturday evening of March 18 and Sunday day of March 19 is the wave sheaf day.

We are not to eat any new grain, barley, until the wave sheaf offering has been done. We know that Sunday is the wave sheaf day by the scriptures that tell us to count 7 sabbaths and the day after the 7th Sabbath is the 50th day. This can only be done when you start your count on the Sunday during the days of Unleavened Bread.

**Lev 23:14** And you shall eat neither bread, nor parched grain, nor green ears, until the same day, until you have brought an offering to your God. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 15 And you shall count to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete. 16 To the next day after the seventh sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new food offering to Jehovah. 17 You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two-tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour. They shall be baked with leaven, first fruits to Jehovah. 18 And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bull, and two rams. They shall be *for* a burnt offering to Jehovah, with their food offering, and their drink offerings, a fire offering of sweet savor to Jehovah. 19 Then you shall sacrifice one he-goat for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the first fruits, a wave offering before Jehovah, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to Jehovah for the priest. 21 And you shall proclaim on the same day *that* it may be a holy convocation to you. You shall do no work of labor. *It shall be* a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

This wave sheaf day is the day the first fruits of barley are waved. This is why we must have barley to perform this commandment. And this is why we must watch and wait for the barley to be ready. You know it is ripe when you can either roast it to remove the last of the liquid so that you can grind the seeds into flour and to be waved before Yehovah.

**Lev 2:1** And when anyone will offer a food offering to Jehovah, his offering shall be *of* fine flour. And he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it. 2And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests. And he shall take out of it his handful of flour and its oil, with all its frankincense. And the priest shall burn the memorial of it on the altar, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor to Jehovah. 3And the rest of the food offering *shall be* Aaron's and his sons', most holy of the offerings of Jehovah made by fire. 4And if you bring a sacrifice of a food offering baked in the oven, *it shall be* unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil. 5And if your offering *is* a food offering on the griddle, your offering shall be of fine flour unleavened, mixed with oil. 6You shall break it in pieces and pour oil on it. *It is* a food offering. 7And if your offering *is* a food offering in the frying pan, it shall be made *of* fine flour with oil. 8And you shall bring the food offering that is made of *these* things to Jehovah. And when it is presented to the priest, he shall bring it to the altar. 9And the priest shall take from the food offering a memorial of it, and shall burn *it* on the altar. It is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor to Jehovah. 10And that which is left of the food offering *shall be* Aaron's and his sons: *it is* most holy of the offerings of Jehovah made by fire. 11Any food offering which you shall bring to Jehovah shall not be made with leaven. For you shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of Jehovah made by fire. 12As an offering of the first fruits, you shall bring them to Jehovah. But they shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet savor. 13And every sacrifice of your food offering shall you season with salt. And you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your food offering. You shall offer salt with all your offerings. 14And if you bring a food offering of your first fruits to Jehovah, green ears roasted by fire, grains of a garden, you shall bring near for a food offering your first fruits, 15And you shall put oil on it and lay frankincense on it. *It is* a food offering. 16And the priest shall burn it as incense with its memorial offering from its grains and from its oil, besides all its frankincense, a fire offering to Jehovah.

We also know you begin the count for Pentecost from the wave sheaf day as the scriptures above show you. You are not to harvest any grain before you make the wave offering. This is why it is so important to take the very first of the ripe (aviv) barley. The first sickle in the barley is done that Saturday evening during the days of Unleavened Bread. It cannot be cut before this time.

Deu 16:9You shall count seven weeks to yourselves. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time you began *to put* the sickle to the grain.

Last year in 2016 we had this huge controversy as to which month was the first month. Then in May we read about the Jews in Israel who were harvesting wheat a full month before Shavuot which is when you offer the first fruits of the wheat. Last year we had [pictures of Orthodox Jews](#) racing to harvest wheat May 3, 2016. This was a full month before many of those who disagreed with us last year kept Shavuot in June. Last year Yehovah, through his grains, showed us when the Holy Days were to have been kept.

This year is a perfect example of what Yehshua said concerning the coming of the Messiah.

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father.

No one can know the day or the hour because you must wait and watch for the barley to be ripe or aviv. And then you must wait and watch for the moon to be sighted. Some believe you must have barley first before you can declare the new year after the moon has been sighted. This was the reason for the controversy last year. We believe that the word aviv means the month the barley ripens in. From the time the moon was sighted there will be another 21 days for the barley to mature. It could very well be ripe enough to either be roasted or prepared into flour by March 19.

We wait on Yehovah to reveal His timing to us. We wait to see if the barley will be ripe. We wait to see when the new crescent moon is visible.

No one can know the day or the hour because of these two variables. It is no different than when Israel moved each time the cloud moved from the tabernacle. They, like us today, wait and watch to see what Yehovah is going to do and then once we see it, we then begin the countdown to each of the Holy Days.

Num 9:15And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, even the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was upon the tabernacle, looking like fire, until the morning. 16So it was always. The cloud covered it, and it looked like fire by night. 17And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the sons of Israel pulled up *stakes*. And in the place where the cloud stayed, there the sons of Israel pitched their tents. 18At the command of Jehovah the sons of Israel pulled up *stakes*, and at the command of Jehovah they pitched. As long as the cloud stayed upon the tabernacle they rested in camp. 19And when the cloud stayed long upon the tabernacle many days, then the sons of Israel kept the charge of Jehovah and did not journey. 20And so when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle, according to the command of Jehovah they remained in their tents, and according to the command of Jehovah they pulled up *stakes*. 21And so when the cloud stayed from evening to the morning, and the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they pulled up *stakes*. Whether by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they pulled up *stakes*. 22Whether *it was* two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud stayed upon the tabernacle, remaining on it, the sons of Israel stayed in their tents and did not journey. But when it was taken up, they pulled up *stakes*. 23At the command of Jehovah they encamped, and at the command of Jehovah they pulled up *stakes*. They kept the charge of Jehovah at the command of Jehovah by the hand of Moses.

From the Foundation of the world, why do we deleaven our homes

Immediately after the Passover comes a festival that shows us the next step in the plan of Yehovah. After Yehshua is sacrificed as the Passover Lamb and we have been forgiven for our sins, those who accept this sacrifice and repent, then how do we continue to avoid sin, since we must go on living in newness of life? How do we live as Yehovah's redeemed people? We find the remarkable answer in the symbolism of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

When Yehovah freed Israel from slavery in Egypt, He told His people that for “seven days you shall eat unleavened bread” (Exodus 12:15). Verse 39 further explains:

“And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.”

The leavening process, which makes bread rise, takes time. The Israelites had no time to spare when they left Egypt, so they baked and ate flat bread. What started out as a necessity continued for a week. Yehovah appropriately named this time the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6), or Days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12:3).

When Yehshua came to earth as a human, He observed this seven-day festival sometimes called the Feast of Passover by the Jews because the Passover meal was eaten on the very first day of Unleavened Bread. Yehshua kept it as a child and later as an adult (Luke 2:41; Matthew 26:17). The early Church kept it as well.

Did you know that long before there was ever an Exodus we can read how Abraham and Lot both kept the Days of Unleavened Bread 430 years before the Exodus?

**Gen 19:1** And there came two angels to Sodom at evening. And Lot sat in the gate of Sodom. And Lot rose up to meet them when he saw *them*. And he bowed himself with his face toward the ground, 2 and said, Behold now, my lords, please turn into your servant’s house and stay all night, and wash your feet, and *you shall* rise up early and go your way. And they said, No, but we will stay in the street. 3 But he urgently pressed on them, and they turned in to him and entered into his house. And he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Gen 18:1 Later, the LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre. As Abraham was sitting near the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day, 2 he glanced up and saw three men standing there not far from him. As soon as he noticed them, Abraham ran from the tent entrance to greet them and bowed low to the ground. 3 “My lords,” he told them, “if I have found favor with you, please don’t leave your servant. 4 I’ll have some water brought to wash your feet while you rest under the tree. 5 I’ll bring some food for you, and after that you may continue your journey, since you have come to visit your servant.” So they replied, “Okay! Do what you’ve proposed.” 6 Abraham hurried into the tent and told Sarah, “Quick! Take three measures of the best flour, knead it, and make some flat bread.” 7 Next, Abraham ran to the herd, found a choice and tender calf, and gave it to the young men, who went off in a hurry to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, placed the food in front of them, and stood near them under the tree while they ate.

In both cases Abraham and Lot offered to wash their feet and they ate unleavened bread. At the last supper Yehshua washed the feet of the Apostles and the days of Unleavened Bread were to begin one day later.

Yehovah gave His earliest instructions concerning this festival to the Israelites as they prepared to leave Egypt.

Exo 12:14 ““This day is to be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. You are to celebrate it as a perpetual ordinance from generation to generation. 15 You are to eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day be sure to remove all the leaven from your houses, because any person who eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh will be cut off from Israel. 16 Also, on the first day you’re to hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day you’re to hold a holy assembly. No work is to be done during those days, except for preparing what is to be eaten by each person.

This is where we get the expression of spring cleaning. It comes from De-leavening our homes.

Each year as the Israelites observed this feast, it reminded them of Yehovah’s deliverance of their forefathers from Egypt. The Creator instructed,

“Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt” (verse 17, NIV).

The exodus from Egypt remains as a foundational reason for observing this feast today. Just as Yehovah delivered ancient Israel, He delivers us from our sins and difficulties, but there is more.

Yehovah also on this day delivered the world from the evilness of Sodom and Gomorrah. And also on this day or the very first day of Unleavened Bread Yehovah made the covenant with Abraham.

**Gen 15:1** Some time later, a message came from the LORD to Abram in a vision: “Don’t be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great.” 2 But Abram replied, “Lord GOD, what can you give me since I continue to be childless, and the heir of my household is Eliezer from Damascus? 3 Look!” Abram said, “You haven’t given me any offspring, so a servant born in my house is going to be my heir.” 4 A message came from the LORD to him again: “This one will not be your heir. Instead, the child who will be born to you will be your heir.” 5 Then the LORD took him outside. “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if you can!” he said. “Your descendants will be that numerous.” 6 Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness. 7 The LORD spoke to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land as an inheritance.” 8 But he replied, “Lord GOD, how will I know that I will inherit it?” 9 The LORD responded, “Bring me a three year old cow, a three year old female goat, a three year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 So Abram brought him all these animals and cut each of them in half, down the middle, placing the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. 11 When birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun began to set, Abram was overcome with deep sleep, and suddenly a frightening and terrifying darkness descended on him. 13 Then the LORD told Abram, “You can be certain about this: Your descendants will be foreigners in a land that isn’t theirs. They will be slaves there and will be oppressed for 400 years. 14 However, I will judge the nation that they serve, and later they will leave there with many possessions. 15 Now as for you, you’ll die peacefully, join your ancestors, and be buried at a good old age. 16 Your descendants will return here in the fourth generation, since the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet run its course.” 17 When the sun had fully set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a fiery torch passed between the animal pieces. 18 That very day the LORD made this covenant with Abram: “I’m giving this land to your descendants, from the river of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—19 including the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

Exo 12:39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not stay, neither had they prepared any food for a journey for themselves. 40 And the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt *was* four hundred and thirty years. **41** And it happened at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even it was on this very day, all the armies of Jehovah went out from the land of Egypt. 42 *It is* a night to be much kept to Jehovah for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This *is* that night of Jehovah to be kept by all the sons of Israel in their generations.

Gal 3:15 Brothers, I speak according to man, a covenant having been ratified, even *among* mankind, no one sets aside or adds to *it*. **16** And to Abraham and to his Seed the promises were spoken. It does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, “And to your Seed,” which is Christ. 17 And I say this, A covenant having been ratified by God in Christ, the Law (coming into being four hundred and thirty years after) does not annul the promise, so as to abolish it. 18 For if the inheritance *is* of Law, *it is* no more of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by way of promise.

What about Noah, did he keep the Passover before there was an exodus?

We read that the flood came on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the second month.

Gen 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, in the seventeenth day of the month, in this day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of the heavens were opened up.

It is my position that Noah was unclean due to the fact that he had to bury his Grandfather who died in the year of the flood. Lamech Noah's Father had died 6 years before the flood.

Because Noah was unclean for 7 days he could not take part in the Passover in the 1<sup>st</sup> month. That year of 1656 after creation is the same year as 2181 B.C. In that year of 2181 B.C. the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month was May 20 and it was a Wednesday. The flood came not on the 14<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month as they would have been the preparation day and the Holy Day of Unleavened Bread. But the 17<sup>th</sup> day was a day during the days of Unleavened Bread and it was the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the week.

Did Adam and Eve keep the Passover time?

After Adam and Eve sinned Yehovah covered their sin by clothing them in animal skins. Those animals were sacrificed for their sins. Atoning for their sins. Passover.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Before we continue let's look at a few other things.

Rev 13:8 And all dwelling on the earth will worship it, those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain, from the foundation of the world.

1Pe 1:17 And if you call on *the* Father, who without respect of persons judges according to the work of each one, pass the time of your *earthly* residence in fear, 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from *your* fathers, **19** but with *the* precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; 20 indeed having been foreknown before *the* foundation of *the* world, but revealed in *the* last times for you, 21 those believing in God through Him, He who raised Him up from *the* dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

How is the death on the tree on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month connected to the foundation of the world?

Most try to explain this by going to Genesis.

Gen 3:14 And Jehovah God said to the serpent, Because you have done this you *are* cursed more than all cattle, and more than every animal of the field. You shall go upon your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. 16 To the woman He said, I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception. In pain you shall bear sons, and your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you.

Indeed when you read the commentaries, Eve thought the birth of Cain was that promised One that Yehovah told them about. How so or when did He tell them? Adam, along with Seth, studied the stars and the constellations. The story of the promised Messiah is written in the stars. This is for another discussion, but this is where Eve learned this indirectly from Yehovah.

Yehshua was slain from the foundation of the world. Have we answered this? Not quite. Take a look at the week of Unleavened Bread. It represents the 7,000 years for Mankind. Yet the 14th day precedes this millennial week.

Now look at the Feast of Sukkot. It too, is a millennial week. The first 7 days are the same 7,000 years for mankind. But then the 8th Day represents the 8th Millennium. This 8th day represents the 8th Millennium and is the wedding night.

So before the week of Unleavened Bread, The Messiah is slain from the foundation of the world. He was slain before this 7,000 year period of time began but it took place on the 4th day of the week, in the 4th Millennium. Also, the Temple was built at the beginning of the 4th Millennium and it was destroyed before the end of the 4th Millennium in 70 C.E. The 5th millennium began in 85 C.E.

Now notice Yehshua's teaching about leaven, which expands the meaning of this feast.

During Yehshua's ministry He performed two miracles in which a few fish and loaves of bread fed thousands of people. After one of these incidents, when His disciples had gone around the Sea of Galilee, they forgot to bring bread with them. So Yehshua told them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

The disciples thought Yehshua was referring to their lack of bread. However, He was using the occasion to teach them by calling on the symbolism of leaven. Yehshua asked them, "How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then the disciples "understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (Matthew 16:5-12, NASB).

Some of the members of the religious establishment of Yehshua's day appeared to be righteous, yet they secretly practiced sinful behaviour. Yehshua let them know He knew their hearts. They may have appeared righteous to other people, "but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:28).

The Days of Unleavened Bread remind us that with Yehovah's help we must remove and avoid all types of sin 'symbolized by leaven' in all areas of our life. Putting sin out of our lives is what these 7,000 years are for.

Symbolically we do this by cleaning our homes and our places of business and our cars and removing any bread or bread products that contain leaven or yeast from them.

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the apostle Paul taught the same spiritual lessons as Yehshua, invoking the comparison of sin to leaven. In the context of reprimanding the Corinthian congregation for its divisions, jealousies and tolerance of sexual misconduct, Paul wrote: "Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Yehshua, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

The church at Corinth was obviously and unmistakably keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread, to which Paul repeatedly alluded. However, Paul used the Corinthians' faithful obedience in keeping the feast physically (removing leaven from their homes) as a basis to encourage them to celebrate this feast with proper understanding of its spiritual intent.

Today removing leaven from our homes for seven days reminds us that we, too, through prayer and Yehovah's help and understanding, must recognize, expel and avoid sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is thus a time of personal reflection. We should meditate on our attitudes and conduct and ask Yehovah to help us recognize and overcome our shortcomings.

Paul spoke of this much-needed self-reflection in 2 Corinthians 13:5 when he told the Corinthian church: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Yehshua the Messiah is in you "unless indeed you are disqualified."

Paul explained the significance of the phrase "Yehshua the Messiah is in you" in Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Yehshua; it is no longer I who live, but Yehshua lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of Yehovah, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

These seven days of self-examination prove invaluable in helping us to devote our lives to Yehovah. This week-long period also pictures our eventual triumph over sin. As Yehovah delivered the ancient Israelites from enslavement to Egypt, so He delivers us from our enslavement to sin (Romans 6:12-18).

We learn by doing. We learn spiritual lessons by doing physical things. Performing the task of deleavening our homes reminds us to vigilantly watch for sinful thoughts and actions so we can avoid them. Yehovah knows that, in spite of our good intentions, we all sin.

Many years after his conversion, Paul described the powerful human tendency to sin.

“I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of Yahweh according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank Yahweh-through Yahshua the Messiah! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of Yahweh, but with the flesh the law of sin” (Romans 7:21-25).

Paul knew life itself is a battle with sin. The Bible speaks of “the sin which so easily ensnares us” (Hebrews 12:1). We have our own part to play in struggling to overcome sin. Yet, paradoxically, we must rely on Yehovah to help us. Paul explained this to the Philippians by telling them to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is Yehovah who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13, King James Version).

Our observance of the Days of Unleavened Bread helps us realize our need for Yehshua’s help in overcoming our weaknesses. Yet this feast is certainly a time for rejoicing because Yehshua freely gives us the help we need. Yehshua, the Lamb of Yehovah, was sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins, thus unleavening, or cleansing our lives. He continues to help us live obediently through Yehovah’s Spirit dwelling in us.

Paul tells us in Rom 2:13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

James tells us it is the doers of the law who will be justified.

Jas 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Let’s read what James also has to say about doing things.

James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your F6 works, and I will show you my faith by my F7 works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? F8 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” F9 And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Some brethren do not believe we should keep the days of Unleavened bread. Some do but they say you do not have to remove the leaven from your homes.

The bible says we do have to keep this time forever, and that you do have to remove the leaven, and that by doing so you are acting out your faith by your works.

I am sharing this message now with you so that you have time to begin to clean one room or two a week before the Days arrive. You will see as you move your fridge and stove how the crud has piled up over time and how hard it is to remove. This is the same as sin sneaking in to your lives and you not knowing it until one day it is exposed. Then you see how hard it is to remove or correct that sin. It is not easy.

You will learn by doing. Please consider doing the necessary work in cleaning your home so that you will be ready for the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Always remember that as you move closer to Yehovah, He moves closer to you. When you stop, so does He and He waits for you to make the next move.

The more you learn and practice, the more that will be revealed to you. But if you do nothing, you learn nothing.

May your spring cleaning be bountiful in teaching you many lessons from the scriptures.