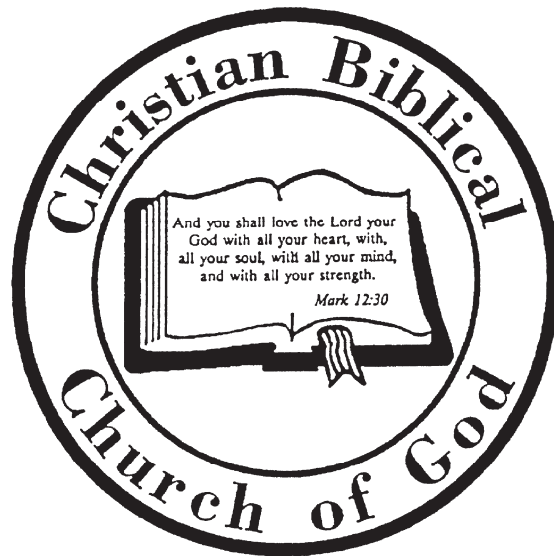


Day 49 & Pentecost 2020



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

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Events Leading Up to Jesus' Last Passover

(Sabbath Before Passover)

Fred R. Coulter—April 4, 2020

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Sabbath before Passover! This is the first time in ten years that we've had a Passover in the middle of the week.

On rare occasions there's that ten year gap where there are no Passovers in the middle of the week. However, including this year, in the next five years, there will be three Passovers with the Passover in the middle of the week.

We want to look at some of the events leading up to the Passover. We will see that the Passover Sabbath—or the Sabbath before Passover—is the 10th day of Nisan, and is the day that the Passover lamb was to be selected. We will see that Jesus was selected on that Sabbath before the Passover.

Let's begin and we'll do a study covering parts of the last six days leading up to Jesus' last Passover. You can follow through in *A Harmony of the Gospels!*

John 12:1: "Now, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had died, *and* whom He had raised from *the* dead. There they made a supper *for* Him, and Martha served; and Lazarus was one of those who sat with Him" (vs 1-2).

This anointing of Jesus was the first of two. We will see a little later in Matt. 26 that two days before the Passover He was anointed in the house of Simon the leper. So, the account goes on showing:

Verse 3: "Mary then took a pound of pure spikenard ointment worth a great price *and* anointed Jesus' feet, wiping His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the aroma of the ointment."

Then Judas Iscariot brought up a problem of waste, v 5: "'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred silver coins, and given to *the* poor?'" Now he said this, not because he cared for the poor, **but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and carried what was put in it**" (vs 5-6)—*the incidentals for Christ and the apostles!* He carried the bag for payment for it.

Judas was snitching out of the bag himself, and he wanted to sell the ointment to put the money back in the bag. But Jesus said:

Verse 7_[transcriber's correction]: "... 'Let her alone; she has been keeping it toward the day of My burial. For you have the poor with you always...'" (vs 7-8).

Outside a crowd was gathering, because just a few days before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. The people wanted to see Lazarus and Jesus. Even the scribes, Pharisees and priests were wanting to kill not only Jesus, but Lazarus.

Verse 9: "Then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there. And they came, not only because of Jesus, but also that they might see Lazarus, whom He had raised from *the* dead. But the chief priests took counsel in order that they might kill Lazarus also" (vs 9-10).

We're going to see that many of the things that were done leading up to the time two days before the Passover, that Jesus brought great confrontation to the religious leaders, the scribe, the elders, the Sadducees, the Pharisees and challenged them. What they did, they made a religion overlapping and coming around all the laws and commandments of Moses. That was basically what is known today as *Judaism!*

Here's why they wanted to kill Lazarus, v 11: "Because by reason of him, many of the Jews were leaving *them* and believing in Jesus."

All of this took place on the 8th of Nisan, and of course, the day begins at sunset. That was the 1st month and the 8th day, Wednesday night. Then Thursday, the day portion we have quite a few things happen here.

Verse 12: "On the next day, a great crowd *of people* who had come for the Feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, took branches from palm trees and went out to meet Him, and were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed *is* He Who comes in *the* name of *the* Lord, the King of Israel'" (vs 12-13).

Quite a thing! This was ***not*** Palm Sunday! *Nor was it a Palm Sabbath!* This was a Thursday. Think of this for a minute. If this was happening on the Sabbath, don't you think that the religious authorities would attack the disciples and the people for breaking off branches on the Sabbath and strewing them in the road? *Of course they would have!*

Verse 14: "Now, after finding a young donkey, Jesus sat upon it, exactly as it is written."

Many Scriptures are fulfilled! How are they being fulfilled exactly the way that should be, by the events that were taking place. I am sure that many of

the angels were orchestrating the timing of these events. God was sending them also to inspire the people to come to Jerusalem.

Verse 15: “Fear not, daughter of Sion. Behold, your King comes, sitting on a colt of a donkey.’ And His disciples did not understand these things at the beginning; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him, and that they had done these things to Him. Then the group that was with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb, and raised him from *the* dead, testified of *what they had seen*” (vs 15-17). *So, this was a marvelous thing!*

Verse 18: “Because of this, the people also met Him, for they had heard of this miracle that He had done.” Notice why the Pharisees were wanting to get rid of Jesus and Lazarus.

Verse 19: “Then the Pharisees said among themselves, ‘Do you see that we are not gaining in any way? Look! The world has gone after Him.’”

That’s quite a thing out there. ***They were afraid of losing power!*** Isn’t that true? The establishment: Once it’s established and corrupted, it does not want the truth, where in religion or government. People say they want the truth, but they really don’t want the Truth of God, because that would convict them of their sins.

Matt. 21—here we see the beginning of ***another confrontation*** that Jesus had with the religious authorities. It describes the Pharisees and also the Herodians. This shows where they got the donkey and the colt and brought them to Jesus.

Matthew 21:12: “And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple; and He overthrew the tables of the money exchangers, and the seats of those who were selling doves. Then He said to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,” but you have made it a den of thieves” (vs 12-13).

That’s quite a thing, and that’s exactly how it is in religion today, and exactly how it is in the government today, and how these things are and how they take place.

So, this last week of Jesus was really very powerful. You know that the angels of God were involved, Satan and the demons were involved, and Jesus and the apostles were involved.

Luke 19:41: “And when He came near *and* saw the city, He wept over it, saying, ‘If you had known, even you, at least in this your day, the things for your peace; **but now they are hidden from**

your eyes” (vs 41-42).

The spiritual blindness does not equal physical blindness. Spiritual blindness is that ***they can’t see the Truth and they can’t understand the Truth.*** As Jesus said, ‘The blind are leading the blind and they will both fall into the ditch.

Verse 43: “For *the* days shall come upon you that your enemies shall cast a rampart about you, and shall enclose you around and keep you in on every side, and shall level you to the ground...” (vs 43-44). He’s talking about the city of Jerusalem, absolutely true, that happened.

“...and your children within you; and they shall not leave in you a stone upon a stone, because you did not know the season of your visitation.’ Then He went into the temple *and* began to cast out those who were selling and those who were buying in it, saying to them, ‘It is written, “My house is a house of prayer”...” (vs 44-46).

Now let’s see what He did in the account of Mark; this becomes quite an important thing here.

Sidebar: when first studying out the last ten days of Jesus’ life, that led to understanding that only in Mark did the cursing of the fig tree cover a two-day period. I had two chronologies, that in my first Passover season in 1965 in Boise, Idaho, I wanted to do the last ten days of Jesus’ life.

I had notes from Dr. Herman Hoeh and Dale Hampton. I was using those as a guide for what I was to bring. I found out that they were off, and I couldn’t figure out where it was. So, I took a piece of paper and marked Matthew at the top and took other pieces of paper and had Mark, Luke and John.

I started the last six days before the Passover and went through everything and wrote down all of the Scriptures, which years later became incorporated into *A Harmony of the Gospels, The Last Ten Days of Jesus’ Life.*

Here in Mark 11 we find that the cursing of the fig tree occurred over ***a two-day period.*** When you look at the account in Matthew and Luke it looks like it’s the same day, but it’s not.

Mark 11:11: “And Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and *because* the hour was already late, after looking around at everything *there*, He went out to Bethany with the twelve. And in the morning, after they left Bethany, He became hungry. Then, seeing a fig tree afar off that had leaves, He went *to it to see* if He might possibly find something on it. But after coming to it, He found nothing except leaves because it was not yet *the*

season for figs. And Jesus responded *by* saying to it, 'Let no one eat fruit from you any more forever!' And His disciples heard *it*" (vs 11-14).\

Quite an interesting thing. They didn't know the season of the time of Jesus Christ. This fig tree pictures the way of Judaism. It didn't bring forth any fruit. Why? *Because the traditions of Judaism overlaid everything of the Scripture and blinded the people!*

Verse 15: "Then they came into Jerusalem; and after entering the temple, Jesus began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple; and He overthrew the tables of the money exchangers and the seats of those who were selling doves. Moreover, He did not allow anyone to carry a vessel through the temple. And He taught, saying to them, 'Is it not written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations"? But you have made it a den of robbers.' Now, the chief priests and the scribes heard *this*, and they sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the multitudes marveled at His teaching. And **when evening came, He went out of the city**" (vs 15-19).

- cursed the fig tree
- went into the temple
- did the teaching
- casting out all of the animals
- overthrowing the tables
- castigating the chief priest, scribes and Pharisees

Then when it was evening He went out and back to the Mt. of Olives!

Verse 29: "And **in the morning...**" *It was cursed one day; they went into the temple. They left and went out of the city and in the morning:*

"...as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from *the roots*" (v 20). *So, it was in the morning, day two!*

Verse 21: "Then Peter remembered *and* said to Him, 'Look, Master! The fig tree that You cursed has dried up.' And Jesus answered and said to them, **'Have faith from God'**" (vs 21-22).

This is an interesting statement because in the Greek it means *have the faith of God*, which means that faith comes from God. We know that in the New Testament it's one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. This also is what it talks about in Gal. 2, but ***through the righteousness of the faith of Jesus are we justified!*** This is a gift of God.

There's always a certain amount of faith that people can have, because people believe things. But to have ***a spiritual conviction of faith, that must***

come from God and His Spirit, not from within us.

Verse 23: "For truly I say to you, whoever shall say to this mountain, 'Be taken away and be cast into the sea,' and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he said will take place, he shall have whatever he shall say."

There's one caveat that Jesus gave in the model prayer: ***the will of God! If it is the will of God!*** It's not that people will go around and start casting out mountains and hills and all of that sort of thing. ***But something that is harder than that to do is to convert the human mind!*** That takes the faith of Jesus Christ.

Verse 24: "For this reason I say to you, all *the things* that you ask *when* you are praying, believe that you will receive *them*, and *they* shall be *given* to you."

That's a wonderful thing to understand. Look back at your life, according to the will of God the things that you have asked for, God has answered and given. Maybe not necessarily in the same measure that you might necessarily have particularly wanted, but nevertheless, ***God answers those prayers!***

There will even come a time when there will be something happen that you thought of, kind of in a glancing thought, but didn't think too much about it, and sometime later you look and back and say, ***'God answered that thought!'***

Eph. 3—this is the kind of faith that we are to have, which comes from God. He's not going to give us miracles to do so that we can show off. There has to be a purpose for everything that we ask for, according to the will of God. ***But notice this promise:***

Ephesians 3:20: "Now, to Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly..." *That's also referring to the time of the resurrection and the time when we will be in the Kingdom of God with the fullness of God!*

"...above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us" (v 20). *So, when Jesus said, "...**Have faith from God**"—or of God—that's what He meant!*

Here's another important principle that He was teaching to His apostles just before He was getting ready to be crucified:

Mark 11:25: "But when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive...**" *It says in another place, 'work it out with the one with whom you have a difficulty!'*

“...so that your Father Who is in heaven may forgive you your offenses” (v 25). *That's a very important thing to understand!* The world likes to remember and *hate!* **God wants:**

- love
- repentance
- mercy
- reconciliation
- forgiveness
- that's the whole story of the New Testament
- that's the whole purpose as why Christ came

Verse 26: **“For if you do not forgive, neither will your Father Who is in heaven forgive you your offenses.”**

Verse 27: “Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him; and they said to Him, **‘By what authority are You doing these things?....’**” (vs 27-28).

You have to have *authority* to come into the Temple of God. Thing about what He was doing:

- casting out the animals
- casting out the moneychangers
- overturning the tables
- teaching the people

They wanted to know *what authority*, because Jesus didn't get it from the high priest or the elders. Who did He get it from? “...And who gave You this authority, that You do these things?”

Verse 29: “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘I also will ask you one thing, and **if you answer Me**, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.’”

Good lesson: sometimes it's best to answer with a question. Why did He do it this way? *Because He knew their hearts!* He knew that they were after Him.

Verse 30: “‘The baptism of John, was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.’ And **they reasoned among themselves**, saying, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” He will say, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “From men”; they feared the people, because everyone held that John was indeed a prophet. And they answered Jesus by saying, ‘We do not know.’....” (vs 30-33). *That was an outright lie! They knew it was from God!*

“...Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things’” (v 33). *Quite amazing, indeed, some of the confrontations that are coming along!*

The timeframe that we have is the 10th day of the 1st month, John 12, and this will be very interesting indeed! This is quite a chapter covering many things. This is why we have the four Gospels, to put it all together so that we make sure that we have everything and all the facts that we need.

John 12:20: “Now there were certain Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the Feast. And these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee; and they asked him, saying, ‘Sir, we desire to see Jesus.’ Philip came and told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The time has come for the Son of man to be glorified’” (vs 20-23). *Remember, this on the 10th day of the 1st month!*

That's today, the Sabbath before the Passover. But the sequence was a little different and was actually a week later in the year that Jesus went through these things. But for us, the 10th day of the 1st month is this Sabbath, the Sabbath before the Passover. The 14th day of the 1st month.

Jesus continued, v 24: “Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

Jesus is giving some good parables and teachings here. Then He makes it absolutely clear. I want you to tie in the next couple of verses in John 12 together with:

John 14:6 where Jesus said: “...I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- What are we to do in our lives?
- What are we to do with our own human nature?
- What is conversion is all about?

John 12:25: “The one who loves his life shall lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life. **If anyone will serve Me, let him follow Me...**” (vs 25-26).

Then we have about counting the cost (Luke 14); that **we have to have complete dedication to God the Father and Jesus Christ!**

- not to men
- not to an organization

But to God the Father and Jesus Christ, and our conversion grows deeper and deeper with the Spirit of God as we grow in grace and knowledge! ‘That's a tremendous thing for us, brethren! Think about that!

God the Father Who rules the universe, the great Sovereign of the universe, and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ:

- our High Priest
- Head of the Church
 - ✓ They love us
 - ✓ They have called us

They have all of this that we're reading about all worked out so that Jesus would become the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world That covers all the sins of the world, because the sin of the world is what Adam and Eve did; ***they didn't obey the voice of God!*** Then human nature, with the judgment of God, became hostile against God.

Only true repentance, true baptism and true conversion can change that! ***That's by and through the love and power and will of God!***

Verse 27 is where Jesus was chosen by the Father on the 10th day of the 1st month, the Sabbath before Passover:

Verse 27: “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this *very* purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ***saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’***” (vs 27-28).

These are the very words that are at the beginning of the prayer in John 17. Let's read that so we see how it all comes together. That is talking about the crucifixion, and this was the 10th day of the 1st month when Jesus was chosen as the Lamb of God.

Here in Jesus' final prayer before He was arrested He spoke these words:

John 17:1: “Jesus spoke these words, and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come... [down to the hour] ...glorify Your own Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You’—*talking about the crucifixion*, and that's what it's talking about in John 12 about glorifying God. ***He was selected!***”

Verse 2: “Since You have given Him authority over all flesh, in order that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You did send” (vs 2-3).

Jesus had not yet received His Godship back; not until after the resurrection. That's why at that time the Father was the only true God. Jesus could not be 100% man and 100% God; that's an impossibility.

Verse 4: “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work that You gave Me to do. and now, Father, glorify Me with Your own self, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed” (vs 4-5).

Quite a prayer! Absolutely marvelous! That comes all the way down to us, because Jesus prayed for us as well. Those are things we need to keep in mind as we come to the Passover:

- as we're preparing
- as we're thinking about the foot-washing
- as we're thinking about the bread and wine

We need to do it exactly as Jesus has said, exactly in the timing that we find in the New Testament!

John 12:29: “Then the people standing *there*, who heard *it*, said, ‘It thundered.’ Others said, ‘An angel spoke to Him.’ Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice did not come because of Me, but because of you’” (vs 29-30)—***so, you would know that God the Father selected Him as the Passover Lamb to take away the sin of the world!***

Notice what else He said, and what this has done, because everything was complete up to this point.

Verse 31: “Now is *the* judgment of this world. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

This had to be done in order to get rid of Satan the devil! Then after the resurrection, his time of judgment has already been given. ***But there has to be:***

- the preaching of the Gospel
- the building of the Church
- the character and conversion of all of those whom God would call

So that with all the rest of the saints the whole of the Kingdom of God can be given to all of the sons and daughters of God at the same time.

- we still live in the world where Satan is active
- we're still subject to overcoming those things

Verse 32: “‘And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself.’ But He said this to signify by what death He was about to die” (vs 32-33).

Quite a powerful thing! He let them know that He was going to die! This confounded the Jews, because the Jews were expecting the Messiah, and:

If He's the Messiah surely He would come to us and surely He would recognize that we're the

ones who are in authority. After all, we have that authority from God.

True! But they misuse the authority! They corrupted it by the schemes of Satan the devil, rather than follow God.

Verse 34: “The people answered Him, ‘We have heard out of the law that the Christ lives forever, and why do You say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?’” *So, their spiritual blindness was quite a thing!*

Verse 35: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Yet, a little while the Light is with you. **Walk while you have the Light**, so that *the* darkness will not overtake you. For **the one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.**’”

That’s true statement, prophetic from that time down to this. You can tie that going back to John 3, that those who believe are coming to the Light, and those who do not believe do not come to the Light, because they don’t want their evil deeds exposed for what they are. This is quite a prophecy here!

Verse 36: “‘While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become *the* children of Light.’...” *Very clear:*

- ***IF*** you do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Light of the world, the Son of God, the only Begotten of the Father
- ***IF*** you do not believe that He is the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world
 - ✓ you have no life in you
 - ✓ you have no forgiveness in you

that’s the whole purpose of His

- life
- death
- crucifixion
- resurrection
- the calling of the Church

It’s all centered around this!

(go to the next track)

Let’s continue on with the last eight days of Jesus’ life, leading up to the Passover. Now we come to the 1st day of the week. This is the day of confrontation where Jesus challenges all the religious authorities—the scribes and the Pharisees—with unbelievable sharp and strong language. This was a tremendous witness to them and against them. Instead of repenting, it provoked them to greater anger and seeking to kill Jesus. *Quite a situation!*

Jesus laid it bare; He laid it out for all to understand.

Mark 12:1: “And He began to speak to them in parables: ‘A man planted a vineyard, and put a fence around *it*, and dug a wine vat, and built a tower, and leased it out to husbandmen, and *then* left the country. And at the *harvest* season he sent a servant to the husbandmen, so that he might receive the fruit of the vineyard from the husbandmen. But they took him *and* beat *him*, and sent *him* away empty’” (vs 1-3).

What He’s doing is using this parable against them to show that all through the history of Israel, they didn’t believe God, and they didn’t do what the Law and the Prophets said.

Verse 4: “And in turn, he sent another servant to them; but they stoned him and wounded him on the head, and after insulting *him* sent *him* away. And in turn, he sent still another *servant*, and they killed him; and *he* sent many others, *and* some were beaten and others were killed. Now then, he had yet one son, his own beloved. And so, last of *all* he sent him to them also, saying, ‘They will have respect for my son.’ But those husbandmen said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.’ And after seizing him, they killed *him* and cast *him* out of the vineyard. Therefore, what will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the husbandmen and will give the vineyard to others. **Have you not read even this Scripture...**” (vs 4-10).

Think about how many times Jesus said to them, ‘***Have you not read...***’ that’s quite a thing, indeed. They put all of their traditions as a fence around the laws, commandment and prophets of God, that if the people kept these traditions they wouldn’t break the commandments.

But the problem is that *these traditions were breaking the commandments themselves!* The schemes of men to make the Word of God better never work! ***You’ve got to do what God says! That’s the whole story of human life!*** The three words: **obey My voice!**

So, Jesus asked them, v 10: “Have you not read even this Scripture ‘*The Stone that the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner; this was from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes?*’” (vs 10-11).

Verse 12: “Then they sought to arrest Him, but they feared the multitude; for they knew that He had spoken the parable against them. And they left Him and went their way. **But...**” (vs 12-13).

They’re not done, they want to trip Him into rebelling against Caesar, and rebelling about paying

taxes.

“...they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, in order to entrap Him in His words. And after coming to Him, they said, ‘Master... [look at how they said this] ...we know that You are true, and *that* You court no man’s favor; because You do not look on *the* appearance of men, but You teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?’” (vs 13-14).

IF what they said, that they believed that He was sent from God, that He taught the Truth, that He wasn’t involved in politics like all of the scribes and Pharisees and priests and everything, ***WHY*** didn’t they believe Him?

It’s just like we see in many cases in religion and in politics, instead of coming to the truth—which is right in front of them—they continue their own way.

Verse 15: “‘Should we give *it*, or should we not give *it*?’ But perceiving their hypocrisy...”

We’ll talk about hypocrisy later on; He really laid it on the line in Matt. 23. He absolutely condemned them in such powerful terminology and convicting guilt against them, that that was the last great confrontation.

“...He said to them, ‘Why do you tempt Me? Bring Me a silver coin, so that I may look *at it*.’ Then they brought *it*. And He said to them, ‘Whose image and superscription *is on this coin*?’ And they said to Him, ‘Caesar’s.’ And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Render the things of Caesar to Caesar, and the things of God to God.’...” (vs 15-17).

That’s talking about more than funds and money; that’s talking about everything. Render to God what He has commanded with all your heart and faith, and believe Him!

“...And they were amazed at Him.... [at His answer] ...Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him, and they questioned Him, saying, ‘Master, Moses wrote for us that if the brother of anyone should die and leave behind a wife, but leave no children, then his brother should take his wife and raise up seed for his brother. *Now*, there were seven brothers; the first took a wife and died, leaving no seed; and the second took her and died, and neither did he leave seed; and the third likewise. And the seven had her and left no seed. Last of all the woman died also’” (vs 18-22). ***They were trying to trap Him in it!***

Verse 23: “Now then, ***in the resurrection***, when they shall arise, ***to which of them shall she be wife? For all seven had her as wife.***”

Verse 24: “Then Jesus answered them and said, ‘In *asking* this, do you not err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from *the* dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels who *are* in heaven. But concerning the dead, that they do rise, have you not read in the book of Moses about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, “*I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*”? He is not the God of *the* dead, but *the* God of *the* living. Therefore, ***you err greatly***” (vs 24-27).

Why? ***Because they weren’t following God, they were following their own religion!***

Verse 28: “And one of the scribes who had come up *to Him*, after hearing them reasoning together *and* perceiving that He answered them well, asked Him, ‘***Which is the first commandment of all?***’” *We also find this in Deut. 6 and Matt. 22!*

This is the whole basis of any relationship with God! Since God is love and you want the love of God, then you must love God. God doesn’t want your part time interest and love in Him, because:

- He wants to give us eternal life
- He wants us to be His sons and daughters in His Kingdom *forever*

Therefore, what He wants of us is complete wholeheartedness of our entire being. That’s why we have the Passover.

Verse 29: “Then Jesus answered him, ‘*The first of all the commandments is, “Hear, O Israel... [put your name there, or Church of God, people of God] ...Our one God is the Lord, the Lord. And you shall love the Lord your God...”*’” (vs 29-30).

Notice how all encompassing of everything that we are, and everything that we look forward to becoming. God hasn’t called us so that we can be good little citizens in the world. We’re to be good citizens in the world, ***true, but He has called us to His sons and daughters in His Kingdom!***

- the stakes are higher
- the goal is greater
- the way to it is more difficult

but then it’s also easy when you follow what He says here; notice that in encompasses everything about you:

Verse 30: “‘And you shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ *This is the first commandment*”—*right directly to those and all of those who were listening*, the strict

religionists following what they were following, and avoiding the Truth of God laid out from the Word of God by Jesus Christ.

Verse 31: “And *the second is* like this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

As recorded in Matt. 22, Jesus said, ‘***On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.***’

The Law and the Prophets *do not support these two commandments. These two commandments support all the Law and the Prophets, because it comes from God first to us, and us back to God!* And to our neighbor and the brethren, and even to our enemies.

That’s the whole purpose of the Passover, ***that we learn this lesson to love God this way, and not let anything become between us and God!***

- *no person*
- *no thing*
- *no idea*
- *no doctrine*
- *no religion*

We need to remember that when we’re taking the foot-washing, the bread and the wine:

- *the solemnity of it*
- *the power of it*
- *the purpose of it*

Verse 32: “Then the scribe said to Him, ‘Right, Master. You have spoken according to Truth that God is one, and there is not another besides Him; and to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *one’s* neighbor as oneself, is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices” (vs 32-33).

Verse 34: “And Jesus, seeing that he answered with understanding, said to him, ‘**You are not far from the Kingdom of God.**’

You’re close to it, but it’s one thing to read the Word, it’s another thing to agree that they are true. Yet, it’s a third thing to apply them in our lives. ***That’s the whole purpose of Christianity! The whole purpose of the Passover!***

This day of confrontation kept going, v 35: “And *while* teaching in the temple, Jesus answered and said, ‘How can the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Spirit, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for

Your feet.’” Now then, *if* David himself called Him Lord, how can He be his Son?’ And the whole multitude listened to Him eagerly. And He said to them in His teaching...” (vs 35-38).

Here are the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and all of them:

Jesus said, “...‘Beware of the scribes, who take pleasure in walking around in robes, and in salutations in the marketplaces, and in *the* chief seats in the synagogues and *the* chief places in the feasts; Who devour the houses of widows, and for a pretext make long prayers. These shall receive *the* greater condemnation” (vs 38-40).

Let’s see the final confrontation that convinced them that ***they must kill Jesus!*** This was so ignominious, so damning and so judgmental of them. Instead of accepting the Truth and repenting they sought the more to kill Him. This is an opportunity and a punishment. An opportunity if they would repent and believe, or a punishment if they felt that they had to continue in the way that they were going.

What was the ultimate penalty? ***They rejected Jesus Christ!*** The temple and the whole system were destroyed ***exactly as Jesus said it would be!*** To this day the Jews—except for a very few—refuse to believe that because of their rejection of Jesus and their sins against God, God had to send them off into dispersion into the whole world, just exactly as He prophesied in Jeremiah!

They didn’t learn the lesson when God destroyed the temple in 539_{B.C.} They didn’t learn that! In every writing of the Jews blames all the enemies. Never do you see anything like we’re going to read in Matt. 23 about their sins and their hypocrisy. Think about it, and you will see that down through history that is true and repeated over and over again.

Matthew 23:8 “But you... [the disciples] ...are not to be called Rabbi; for **one is your Master, the Christ,** and all of you are brethren. Also, do not call *anyone* on the earth your Father; for one is your Father, Who *is* in heaven” (vs 8-9).

Here you have the whole Catholic Church saying that they represent Christ, and that they are the true religion of God. ***They are breaking one of the most simple and easy to understand Scriptures!*** They call their pope—the leader—‘holy’!

Verse 10: “Neither be called Master; for one is your Master, the Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant.” (vs 10-11). ***That’s what all the elders to do and serve the brethren:***

- to teach the Word of God
- to teach the love of God
- to teach the things in season

Now is the Passover season and time to really understand, again, *the greatness of the love and mercy of God and His sacrifice, and how Christ willingly laid down His life, and what He did to become that sacrifice!* So that it sinks deep into our heart, mind and being, and becomes a very part of our spiritual nature.

Verse 12: “And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled; and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted.” *If you exalt yourself under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt you in due time at the resurrection!*

Verse 13: But **woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**... [double-minded; sanctimonious pretenders] ...For you devour widows' houses, and as a pretext you offer prayers of great length. Because of this, you shall receive *the greater judgment.*”

Did they not receive the greater judgment? Yes, indeed!

Verse 14: **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven before men; for neither do you yourselves enter, nor do you allow those who are entering to enter.”

You have all of your traditions that you place as more important than what God has commanded! So, Jesus is really bringing the confrontation in full power, because *He knows that this is going to seal their decision to crucify Him!*

Verse 15: “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you travel the sea and the land to make one proselyte, and when he has become one, you make him twofold more a son of Gehenna than yourselves.”

Think about that for a minute! What is He saying? *If you keep doing what you're doing, you're destined for Gehenna fire!*

Verse 16: “**Woe to you, blind guides,** who say, ‘Whoever shall swear by the temple, it is not binding; but whoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is obligated *to fulfill* his oath.’ **You fools and blind!**...” (vs 16-17). *Morons! Idiots!* (Greek: ‘idiotes’)

“...For which is greater, the gold, or the temple, which sanctifies the gold? And *you say,* ‘Whoever shall swear by the altar, it is not binding; but whoever shall swear by the gift that *is* upon it, he

is obligated *to fulfill* his oath.’ **You fools and blind!** For which is greater, the gift, or the altar, which sanctifies the gift? Therefore, the one who swears by the altar swears by it, and by all things that *are* upon it. And the one who swears by the temple swears by it, and by Him Who dwells in it. And the one who swears by heaven swears by the Throne of God, and by Him Who sits upon it” (vs 17-22).

Verse 23: “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, but you have abandoned the more important *matters* of the law—judgment, and mercy and faith....”—*the love of God* (Luke 11) *they have abandoned it!* How did they abandon it? *By placing their traditions as supreme!*

“...**These you were obligated to do, and not to leave the others undone**” (v 23).

This condemnation is absolutely something! It made them vehemently angry so that they would crucify Him.

Verse 24: “**Blind guides,** who filter out a gnat, but swallow a camel! **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but **within you are full of extortion and excess**” (vs 24-25).

We can learn some lessons here, v 26: “**Blind Pharisees!** First **cleanse the inside** of the cup and the dish, so that the outside may also become clean.”

That’s the whole purpose of Passover and Unleavened Bread: **conversion of the heart and mind, with the washing of the Word of God and His Holy Spirit!** The writing of the Word of God in our heart and mind so that we can love God with all our heart, mind, soul, strength and being. That’s the whole purpose of it. Jesus was tell them to take care of the inside: **your heart, mind, thoughts!**

Verse 27: “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful *on the outside*, but within are full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness. Likewise, you also outwardly appear to men *to be* righteous, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (vs 27-28).

Isn’t that a tremendous truth of all religionists and politicians, because they were religious and politicians.

Look at how bad the policies of the politicians are in America today. Look at what they have done in lying, hypocrisy, hatefulness; the media and all who are against law and order and truth! No society can be run by lawlessness. Nothing

can exist or get done.

Same way with the Church. You can't have Christianity without the laws and commandments of God, because those are things that God wants us to do. Those are the works that God wants us to walk in and to do.

To say the Law has been done away makes all the Protestants lying hypocrites, just like the scribes and Pharisees. *It hasn't been done away!*

Verse 29: **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you build the sepulchers of the prophets, and adorn the tombs of the righteous; and you say, 'If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets'" (vs 29-30).

But they're about ready to partake of the blood of Jesus Christ!

Verse 31: "So then, you are testifying against yourselves, that you are the sons of those who killed the prophets, and *as for* you, you are filling up the measure of your fathers" (vs 31-32).

Notice how this continues; this is a heave lambaste to confront them for coming to arrest and crucify Him. They in their own minds will think that they are doing service to God.

Verse 33: "**You serpents, you offspring of vipers,** how shall you escape the judgment of Gehenna? Because of this, behold, I send to you prophets and wise *men* and scribes; and *some* of them you shall kill and crucify, and *some* of them you shall scourge in your synagogues, and *some* of them you shall persecute from city to city; so that **upon you** may come all the righteous blood poured out upon the earth, from the blood of Abel the righteous, unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. **Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation**" (vs 33-36).

- Did that happen? *Yes, it did!*
- Are the words of God true? *Yes, they are!*

This is why God wants us to understand the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and to understand the deep meaning of the Passover.

As we prepare for the Passover this coming Tuesday night, let's keep all these things in mind!

Verse 37—here's how Jesus felt about it: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *you* who kill the prophets and stone those who have been sent to you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her brood under *her* wings, **but you refused!** Behold, your house is left to you

desolate. For I say to you, you shall not see Me at all from this time forward, until you shall say, '**Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord**'" (vs 37-39).

Matthew 26:1: "Now, it came to pass *that* when Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days the Passover takes place, and the Son of man is delivered up to be crucified.' Then the chief priests and the scribes and the elders of the people assembled together in the court of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas; and *they* took counsel together for the purpose of seizing Jesus by treachery, and killing *Him*. But they said, 'Not during the Feast, so that there will not be a riot among the people.' Now, when Jesus was in Bethany, in Simon the leper's house" (vs 1-6). *This is a different one, the first anointing was in Lazarus' house!*

Verse 7: "A woman came to Him with an alabaster flask of ointment... [the second anointing] ...very precious, and poured *it* on His head as He sat down *to eat*."

Then Judas went and got the 30 pieces of silver and set out to betray Jesus!

Let's take everything we need to do in preparation for the Passover and understand that we need to examine ourselves (1-Cor. 11). If we examine ourselves and confess our sins, that we do not fall into the judgment of God!

When we come to the Passover at the beginning of the third day, that we will come with an attitude and understanding that we need to have, *so that we worthily take of the Passover through the worthiness of Christ; not because of our worthiness, but because of:*

- God's love
- God's mercy
- God's grace
- God's forgiveness

Have a meaningful, deep and profound Passover!

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 12:1-3, 5-19
- 2) Matthew 21: 12-13
- 3) Luke 19:41-46
- 4) Mark 11:11-24
- 5) Ephesians 3:20
- 6) Mark 11:25-33
- 7) John 12:20-24
- 8) John 14:6
- 9) John 12:25-28

- 10) John 17:1-5
- 11) John 12:29-36
- 12) Mark 12:1-40
- 13) Matthew 23:8-39
- 14) Matthew 26:1-7

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Galatians 2
- Luke 14
- John 3
- Deuteronomy 6
- Matthew 22
- Luke 11
- 1 Corinthians 11

Also referenced: Book: *A Harmony of the Gospels* by
Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo
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The Spiritual Battle in the Mind

First Day of Unleavened Bread

Fred R. Coulter—April 9, 2020

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the Feast of Unleavened Bread! Here we are still going forward toward the Kingdom of God, and like it has been all down through the history of the Church, the expectation of the return of Jesus Christ is always out in the future.

How far, we don't know! But in the meantime, we are to continue to grow in grace, knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. We are to do it every Sabbath, every Holy Day, every Feast, in fact, *every day of our lives*, as we will see with this Feast of Unleavened Bread.

I want to show you the consistency of God as we find beginning in Exo. 23. I want you to see the pattern that God has set, and why that is so important.

Exodus 23:12: "Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your handmaid, and the stranger, may be rejuvenated. And **be watchful in all that I have said to you...**" (vs 12-13).

Don't forget what God has said. Think of this, because the next verse with the Feast, and I want you to compare that with the holidays of the world.

"...And make no mention of the name of other gods, **neither let it be heard out of your mouth**" (v 13).

What happens when they substitute Sunday for the Sabbath? *They get all the holidays of the world, and the other gods and Satan the devil!* So cleverly packaged, so truly deceived that they don't even grasp it, though they know they are pagan.

Verse 14: "You shall keep a Feast unto Me three times in the year. You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And no one shall appear before Me empty" (vs 14-15). *Then it lists the other Feast days!*

Exo. 34—this is after the golden calf. This is after God had to write the Ten Commandments all over again, because Moses broke the tablets when he saw what the children of Israel were doing. God had him cut two more tablets of stone, take them, and God wrote the Ten Commandments again. Notice how consistent that God is:

Exodus 34:18: "You **shall keep** the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You **shall eat** unleavened bread seven days... [not an option] ...as I commanded you, in the time of the month Abib, for in the month Abib you came out from Egypt."

Verse 21: "You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel" (vs 21-23). **Consistent!**

Deut. 16—consistent again, because God is *the same yesterday, today and forever!* Remember that when anyone starts arguing about the holidays of this world, and that you don't need to keep the Feasts of God because 'we're under a New Covenant.' You can tell them that, 'yes, we're under a New Covenant so we can understand the Truth of the Bible.' Not that we can substitute the things of God with the things of Satan the devil.

Deuteronomy 16:16: "Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which **He** shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And **they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you**" (vs 16-17).

So, when we take up the offering, which we will in a minute, look at:

- your blessings
- what God has done
- what God has given you
- how He has given understanding and Truth from His Word
- how He has dealt with you with His Spirit
- how God has given us the greatest and most precious promises of all

The ultimate goal of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to become like God!

Leviticus 23:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, "**Concerning the appointed Feasts** of the LORD...'" (vs 1-2).

These are **appointed times**, established by

God in resetting the calendar on the fourth day of the re-creation week. That calendar is so accurate that you can go forward in time into perpetuity, and you can go back in time. Notice that the ministers and elders have no choice; they cannot add to and they can't take away from.

“...which you shall proclaim to be Holy convocations, even these are **My appointed Feasts**. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, a Holy convocation. You shall not do any work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings” (vs 2-3). *Same thing: Exo. 23, Exo 34, Deut. 16!*

Verse 4: “These are the appointed Feasts of the LORD, Holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month... [according to the Calculated Hebrew Calendar] ...between the two evenings... [between sunset and dark] ...is the LORD'S Passover” (vs 4-5).

We've already had that, the Lord's Passover and ***the Night to Be Much Observed to the Lord***. That's not some sort of feast that some man invented. That's what God says it is.

Verse 6: “And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD. **You must eat unleavened bread seven days**. On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation. You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days....” (vs 6-8).

Since there are no more sacrifices, we take up offerings on the Holy Days. This is the beginning of the Feast season, which started with the Passover. But now the beginning of the Feast to give us meaning and understanding as to:

- why we are here
- where we are going
- what God is doing
 - ✓ to us
 - ✓ through us
 - ✓ in us

To prepare us for the Kingdom of God!

With that in mind and remembering the blessings that God has given you, we'll take a pause and take up an offering now.

(pause for offering)

The greatest mystery of man and all mankind in the world is:

- Why are human beings so well-intended, but so evil?

- Why do they have such great potential, and yet, it all ends in catastrophe?

That's the whole reason for the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Leaven during the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures sin, human nature, evil, which is naturally in us. But the reason that it is leavened is because the action of leaven cannot be seen, but you can see the results of it. When bread is rising, with leaven in it, you can see the action of the leaven making the bread rise. But you can't see the leaven.

Likewise, why are human beings evil? *That goes back to the original sin of Adam and Eve and their disobeying the voice of God!* You know what happened there; God gave His judgment against Adam, Eve and the serpent, and also gave the first prophecy of the coming of the Messiah to save man from his evil.

Let's look at what happened to all human beings, every one of us all the way down through history. We know from the account in Gen. 3 that that sin was so grievous, so absolutely horrible right before God that the two that God created with His hands and gave into their minds a language so He could communicate with them. He gave them every opportunity in the Garden of Eden, but they turned their backs on God and followed Satan the devil.

So, the whole environment was changed. Now thistles and thorns being in the field of crops, and with sorrow and difficulty and labor and things like this. Not only that, it was passed on to all their progeny, all mankind, all men and women everywhere, every nation, makes no difference.

Romans 5:12: “Therefore, as by one man... [Adam] ...sin entered into the world...” *This is human sin!* It's not talking about Satan's sin, which occurred before the creation of Adam and Eve.

“...and by means of sin came death... [that's what God said to them, ‘dust you are and unto dust you shall return’] ...and in this way death passed into all mankind...” (v 12).

Every man and woman has the death gene! That's why Paul writes, ‘As in Adam we all die!’ Only through Christ shall we all be made alive, *with eternal life!* Adam could have stopped it when Eve said, ‘This looks good, let me pick it.’ Adam should have told her to throw it down and don't bother with it. He should have turned around and cast the serpent out of the Garden of Eden. *But he didn't!*

God judged Adam because Adam *listened to the voice of his wife*, which is actually the repeating of what Satan said, *instead of listening to God!* So,

sin—or death—passed into all mankind!

“...and **it is for this reason that all have sinned**” (v 12). *When you have a nature of death, you also have a nature of sin!* Without the Holy Spirit of God, with the world going the way that it did and following the way of Cain, and coming on down to the time of the Flood.

Just like Jesus said, ‘As it was in the days of Noah before the Flood, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.’ They were eating and drinking, and building and all of this. They didn’t know that the Flood was coming until it came upon them! Likewise, it’s going to be with the return of Christ.

I want to focus in on the conduct of people. I want you to think about the world today as I read this, and think about all the things that come along that look really, really good, but are enticements to evil.

Genesis 6:5: “The Lord saw...” *God has seven spirits traveling all the time seeking those who are seeking God!* He knows what’s going on everywhere at all times through that and through the power of His angels and through Satan the devil and the demons.

“...that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination...” (v 5).

Have you ever just sat down to think and your imagination is just kind of running wild. What do you usually end up with? *Something that’s not too good!* Once in a great while you may have a good thought that way, but that’s rare.

“...of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually” (v 5).

- Isn’t that the way that the world is today?
- Isn’t that the way that the Christianity of the world is today?
- Isn’t that the way of the societies?
- Isn’t that the way of the governments? *Yes!*

That’s why God has called us *so that we*—through loving God and keeping His commandments, Sabbath and Holy Days—*can be converted and changed* so that we can rule the world with Christ! *So, the stakes are high!*

So bad was it that God was sorry, v 6: “And **the LORD repented that He had made man on the earth**, and He *was* grieved in His heart. And the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the crawling thing, and the fowl of the air; for I repent that I have made them.’ **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD**” (vs 6-8).

We’re all here because of Noah! You need to think about that!

Let’s see what Jesus said that human nature was really like. I want to call your attention to something that we find in another account of when the rich man came to Jesus and said, ‘Good Master...’ Jesus said, ‘Why do you call Me good. There is none good but God.’

Hold on! He was God manifested in the flesh, but why did He not count Himself good? *Because He had to carry the law of sin and death within Him in order to condemn sin and death in the flesh!* So, He was not good as God is good as a spirit being. Let’s see what Jesus said about human nature, and this is from birth. All you have to do is read *Psa. 51*. It tells you that this is the natural state of human beings:

Mark 7:21: “For from within, out of the hearts of men... [and women] ...go forth evil thoughts...”—*all kinds of evil thoughts!*

Who is one of the great purveyors today—not the only one—that introduces children to sin and evil under the guise of fun, games and excitement? *Walt Disney! Universal Studios! Television! Movies! All of these things!* Look at them, they’re all filled with evil.

A lot of evil thoughts seem very good to people, because they get a benefit. Remember, *Satan always gives a benefit*, but that benefit is a *curse from within!*

“...adulteries, fornications, murders” (v 21)—*the leading crimes everywhere in the world with all human beings in every nation and society!*

Verse 22: “Thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; all these evils go forth from within, and **these defile a man**” (v 22-23).

That’s why Christ came, to save us from our sins. Conversion is not just so that we have better exterior behavior. There are a lot of people who have good behavior. But it is the conversion of the heart and the mind, and that’s what God wants. *That we will see is the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!*

1-Cor. 4 helps to understand about:

- the sin within us
- the righteousness that we need to follow
- what God wants us to do
- why leaven is pictured as a type of sin

It’s because it puffs up!

1-Corinthians 4:6: “Now these things, brethren, I have applied to Apollos and myself for your sakes; that in us you may learn not to think of *men* beyond what is written, **so that no one among you is puffed up on behalf of one of us against the other.**”

That’s what they were doing! ‘I’m of Apollos, I’m of Paul, I’m of Christ, I’m of Peter, I’m of whatever...’ That’s puffed up!

Verse 7: “For what makes you superior to others? And **what do you have that you did not receive?....**”

I want you to think about that statement in everything that you have. Everything you have you have received beginning with your very being, and that came from God. Everything else came from God came through other people, and God has provided that, so that we don’t get all puffed up, leavened up to exalt men! That’s the opposite of what Christ wants. They were so puffed up that they were about ready for the Kingdom of God. *It doesn’t work that way!*

“...But if you also received *it*, why are you boasting as if you did not receive *it*? Now you are satiated. Now you have been enriched. You have reigned without us.... [they were thinking that they were better than the apostles] ...And I would that you did reign, so that we also might reign with you. For I suppose that God has made us apostles last, as it were appointed to death; for we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We *are* fools for the sake of Christ, but you *are* wise in Christ...” (vs 7-10).

- Isn’t that the way it becomes?
- Isn’t that why God had to punish His Church and scatter it?
- *Yes, indeed!*

“...we *are* weak, but you *are* strong; you *are* glorious, but we *are* without honor” (v 10). *What a thing that Paul had to fight!*

Verse 11: “To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and wander without a home; and we labor, working with our own hands. When railed at, we bless; when persecuted, we bear *it*; when reviled, we entreat; for unto this day we are as *the* refuse and *the* off-scouring of the world” (vs 11-13). *He had a purpose in writing that!*

We will see what that is. To get to the very heart and core of human nature, and why it needs to be converted and changed. That’s what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about. ***That we do not stay***

with the way that we are! We have to continually:

- shed the evil
- shed the things of the flesh

and learn the things of God and the things of the Spirit that are far more important than anything else!

Verse 14: “I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but as my beloved children I warn you. For you might have ten thousand tutors in Christ, but *you do* not *have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I did beget you through the Gospel” (vs 14-15).

That doesn’t make him a father, he’s just using an analogy!

Verse 16: “Therefore, I am exhorting you to be imitators of me.” *Later we will see that Paul told the Ephesians to be imitators of God!*

Verse 17: “For this cause I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in *the* Lord, who will remind you of my ways that *are* in Christ, exactly as I teach everywhere in every church. Now, some of you are puffed up... [filled with vanity and great ideas of the flesh and mind] ...as though I were not coming to you; but I shall come to you shortly, if the Lord wills; and **I will know not merely the words of those who are puffed up, but the power**” (vs 17-19).

The power and Spirit of God is what we’re looking for; not human persuasion, not human things, ***but what God wants us to do!***

Verse 20: “For the Kingdom of God *is* not in words, but in power. What do you desire?... [they were really in bad shape, so Paul was giving them an option] ...Shall I come to you with a rod... [correct you, verbally beat you up so you will repent] ...or in love and a spirit of meekness?” (vs 20-21).

Why did Paul say that? *Because they were starting to make a carnal religion out of the way of God!* They were allowing sin, disaster, arguments, competitiveness and quarrels against each other.

1 Cor. 5 becomes a very important chapter for the Feast of Unleavened Bread

1 Corinthians 5:1: “*It* is commonly reported... [and known] ...*that there is* sexual immorality among you, and such immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—*allowing* one to have *his own* father’s wife”—*incest with the step-mother!*

Verse 2: “**You are puffed up...**” *Same thing that we have today with this world of the alphabet perversion!* There are so many genders that

you have to take every letter of the 26 letters of the English alphabet and that will stand for some perversion of sex.

“...and did not grieve instead, so that he who did this deed might be taken out of your midst. For I indeed, being absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged *concerning* him who has so *shamelessly* committed this *evil deed* as if I were present: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, together with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. To deliver such a one to Satan for *the* destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (vs 2-5).

That’s the total power of correction that the Church has: *disfellowshipment! You cannot have people living in gross sin while strutting around as righteous creatures!*

Verse 6: “To deliver such a one to Satan for *the* destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying *is* not good. Don’t you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”

This is why we have the Sabbath every week, and we have the annual Feasts every year when they come, because sin during the Feast of Unleavened Bread is pictured as leaven! If you don’t nip the sin in the bud and get rid of it, then it leavens and leavens! Look at what happened during the days of Solomon.

Solomon was so evil with all of his wives and concubines, and false religions, incense burning and temple building for their gods, that God had to take away the ten northern tribes from him because of his evil!

If you don’t stop sin in the beginning, it will grow and become worse! That’s the whole lesson of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Verse 7: “Therefore, purge out the old leaven...” *The attitude of the man living in sexual immorality and having that sin within the congregation, purge it out!*

“...so that you may become a new lump, even as you are unleavened....” (v 7).

Here’s a good example. They were unleavened in their homes, because we’re to get rid of the leaven in our homes. But they put up with this sexual immorality as a good thing! Why do we do all of this that we are doing, and here’s the crux of the whole matter up to this point:

“...For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us” (v 7). *His shed blood for the forgiveness of*

sin! His stripes for the healing of our sicknesses! God manifested in the flesh, the One Who gave the law of sin and death into Adam and Eve and passed on to all human beings.

Now He came and took it upon Himself and lived a perfect life and didn’t sin. He was crucified and His shed blood and body was the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world!

But it’s *not yet* given to the whole world! *It is now given to the firstfruits, those of us whom God has called at this time!*

Verse 8: “For this reason...”—*based on the very fact that Christ was our Passover, crucified on the Passover Day—the 14th day of the 1st month!*

“...let us keep the Feast... [he describes it here, the Feast of Unleavened Bread] ...not with old leaven... [not with the old sins that you still have in your life] ...nor with *the* leaven of malice and wickedness... [all these things within your mind] ...but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and Truth.” *That’s what God wants!*

- His Word is Truth
- His Spirit is Truth
- Christ is the Truth, the Life and the Way
- The Word of God is the Truth

All of this must be taken in to transform our mind and our life, and to be eaten! The Word of God says, *‘Taste and see that the Lord is good.’* That means His Word!

- it will nourish us spiritually
- it will teach us mentally
- it will correct us when we sin
- it will encourage us when we’re discouraged

All of this is in the Word of God, and God has given all of this to us now! We, in this generation, have the entire Word of God.

- What are we going to do with it?
- Are we going to be like Corinthians and let sin abound in the congregation and just let it be?

or

- Are we going to love and serve God, and do what He wants?

That’s the question! The reason that we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread is because that unleavened bread pictures sinless food!

In Gal. 5 there were quite a few things at stake, as we’ve covered in the Galatians series, but one of them was circumcision. We have covered that, but those of the Pharisaical party said, ‘It’s

impossible to be saved without physical circumcision.’ ***That’s not true!*** We’re going to show that it’s impossible to be saved without ***spiritual circumcision of the heart!***

Galatians 5:9: A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I am persuaded concerning you in *the* Lord that you will be otherwise minded; and he who troubles you shall bear the judgment, whoever he may be. But I, brethren, if I still proclaim circumcision, why am I yet being persecuted? Then the offense of the cross has been taken away. I would *that* they would even make themselves eunuchs—those who are throwing you into confusion” (vs 9-12).

- Do we have confusion today because of false doctrine within the Churches of God? *Yes!*
- Why is that? *Because they are not rightly dividing the Word of God and truly following in an unleavened sense!*
 - ✓ changing the meaning of the Bible
 - ✓ changing the meaning of doctrine

WOE to those who do that! Doctrine is important and we have to:

- guard the Truth
- guard the doctrine
- guard the teaching
- guard our mind
- guard our lives

All of that together!

Verse 13: “For you have been called unto freedom, brethren; only do not *use* this freedom for an occasion to the flesh; rather, serve one another with love. For the whole Law is fulfilled in this *commandment*: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (vs 13-14).

Notice what Paul warns if there’s leaven within the congregation, *spiritual leaven*, and you’re not loving the brethren as yourself, and you’re not loving the brethren as Christ has loved us, what happens?

Verse 15: “But if you bite and devour one another, watch out *lest* you be consumed by one another.”

How do we overcome that? *We’ve all gone through this!* That’s why we need the Feast of Unleavened Bread each year, so we can cleanout all the leaven that accumulates, that we have allowed because we haven’t been diligent enough to put it away regularly. Paul says, ‘Here’s the solution’:

Verse 16: Now *this* I say, **walk by the**

Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” *Here Paul is showing that **the spiritual battle is in the mind!** IF you walk by the Spirit:*

- loving God
- continually growing in grace and knowledge
- using the Spirit of God to lead and guide you

THEN you’re not going to fulfill the lust of the flesh!

Paul shows that it’s a ***spiritual battle!*** So, let’s understand that the Spirit of God within us is that which convicts us of sin. We’ve all got a whole lifetime of sin piled up in our mind! ***That has to be expunged!*** We will see how Paul says that is to be done.

Verse 17: “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these things are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do those things you wish to do. But if you are led by *the* Spirit, you are not under *works of law*” (vs 17-18)—*because God’s Spirit will lead you!*

Then Paul lists all the works of the flesh! Because you find sin within, don’t get discouraged; that is God’s Spirit revealing it to you. If you did not have the Spirit of God in you, you really wouldn’t know that that was sin. There would be no way. So, don’t be discouraged because ***it’s God Spirit helping you to see the evil that is still within so you can repent of it and overcome it!***

Romans 8:1: “Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit.”

We will see what that means and how—through the Feast of Unleavened Bread and drinking in of Truth and righteousness and God’s way—that we

- overcome the sin
- get it out of our lives
- grow in grace and knowledge

(go to the next track)

Romans 8:1: “Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...”

That is having this battle going on between your mind and your thoughts, and bringing your thoughts into captivity to Christ! With the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God is revealing those things to you so you can repent. If you repent there is no condemnation.

“...**who are not walking according to the flesh**, but according to *the* Spirit” (v 1). *If you’re walking according to the Spirit it means that:*

- God is first in your life
- you want to do the things that please Him
- you obey His voice
- you keep His commandments
- you keep His Sabbath and Holy Days
- you are growing in grace and knowledge through:
 - ✓ prayer
 - ✓ study
 - ✓ living

Verse 2: “Because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death.” *He didn’t take it away, but He has given deliverance:*

- through Christ
- through repentance
- through learning how to live righteously from the Word of God

Verse 3: “For what was impossible for the Law to do...” *Let’s stop right here and understand Law!*

Law tells us what to do and what not to do, *but law has no power to make you do one thing or the other! But God’s Spirit has the power*, that’s the key.

“...in that it was weak through the flesh, God having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (v 3)—*and that flesh was the flesh of Christ!* So, it’s already been condemned.

- that’s why God is *willing to forgive*
- that’s why there is *overcoming*
- that’s why there is *repentance*

All of those things are important because they come through the motivation of the Spirit of God!

The reason that Christ came was for this, v 4: “In order that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us...”

The perfect spiritual nature of the Law becomes fulfilled in us through the power of God’s Spirit. ***But*** only to those who are converted.

“...**who are not walking according to the flesh...** [who are the unconverted] ...but according to *the Spirit*” (v 4). *That’s:*

- the love of God
- the laws of God
- the commandments of God
- the Truth of God

Verse 5: “For those who walk according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh...” *They wouldn’t even be concerned with any of those thoughts, because they couldn’t know or understand:*

- what is right and what is wrong
- what is true and what is not true
- what is evil and what is righteous

It’s an impossibility!

“...but those who walk according to *the Spirit* mind the things of the Spirit” (v 5)—*that’s the things of God!*

In God’s way of life, we’re to grow in grace and knowledge, have the laws and commandments written in our heart and mind so that we can walk in the Spirit, ***and do those things that are motivated by:***

- the Spirit of God
- the love of God
- the Truth of God

That’s spiritual-mindedness!

Verse 6: “For to be carnally minded *is* death... [there’s no salvation] ...but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace... [with God now] ...because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God; neither indeed can it *be*. But those who are in *the* flesh cannot please God” (vs 6-8). ***It’s impossible to please God without the Spirit of God!***

They may be able to do some ‘good’ things, ***but that has nothing to do:***

- with conversion
- with overcoming
- with loving God

Verse 9: “However, **you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God is indeed dwelling within you.** But if anyone does not have *the Spirit of Christ*, he does not belong to Him.” *That’s quite a thing!* This is why the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

- we get rid of the sin
- we have our mind converted
- we have our mind changed
- we are conscious of truth
- we are conscious of the love of God
- we are conscious of the things of God

because we are minding the things of the Spirit of God! That’s the whole purpose of Unleavened Bread.

Let’s see how this is done; let’s see the

spiritual action of God within our mind when we repent and are baptized and receive the Spirit of God. There is something that happens in our mind that is unseen and unfelt, but it happens. The Spirit of God: if we are to grow in grace and knowledge and the Spirit of God. How is this done? **We will see that this is called the circumcision of the heart!**

Colossians 2:6: “Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him...”—*walking in the way of the Lord!* Look at all the Psalms that we have covered that He will:

- direct your paths
- direct your thoughts
- guide your way

IF you’re walking in Him, that will happen!

- yes, we’ll have trials
- yes, we’ll have difficulties
- yes, we’ll have things we have to overcome

That’s all part of being perfected! As long as we are in the flesh we’re still in the process of being perfected.

Verse 7: “Being rooted and built up **in Him**, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Think of everything that we have with the Word of God. Today we have so much, and yet, you need to understand that even if we have many, many different things, many booklets, many books, many studies, these are all necessary for us to grow in grace and knowledge.

*We can’t say, ‘Look at all that we have, we’ve got it made.’ Nonsense! **The only time we will have it made is at the resurrection!*** Keep that in mind! We know that Satan is always coming around trying to knock down what Christ has built up in us. He does this through different things:

- by people
- by means
- by practices
- etc.

Verse 8: “**Be on guard**... [we always have to have our guard up] ...**so that no one takes you captive through philosophy**...”—*the religion of this world!*

Let me state a truth that you already know: ***all philosophy is logical to the human mind, but all logic of philosophy is not true to the Word of God! But all of the Word of God is spiritually logical!*** I’ll just let you take those things and think on that!

“...and vain deceit, according to the

traditions of men... [it can be an old tradition or a new tradition] ...according to the elements of the world... [the way the world thinks, believes] ...and **not according to Christ.**”

It’s logical by philosophy to have Sunday as a day of worship. ***But it is not Truth!*** and ***It’s not according to Christ!*** Who declared Himself to be the Lord of the Sabbath? ***None other than Jesus Christ!*** Man was not made for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath was made for man, therefore, the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath Day, ***not Sunday!*** But it sounds logical, but it’s not true. ***Nor is logical according to the Word of God!***

Verse 9: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” **Do you want to know how to become like God?** *It tells us here that it’s through Christ!*

Verse 10: “And you are complete in Him, Who is the Head of all principality and power in Whom you have also been circumcised with *the* circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” (vs 10-11).

This is the circumcision of the heart! How is that done?

Verse 12: “Having been buried with Him in baptism, by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead. For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses. He has blotted out the note of debt against us *with* the decrees *of our* sins, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross” (vs 12-14).

Now let’s see how Paul describes it another way. This is the way that God:

- calls us out of the world
- gives us His Holy Spirit
- changes our heart and mind

It’s through the circumcision of the heart! That takes away the raw carnality of the heart of flesh!

Here’s where we were when God started working with us, every single one of us:

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins... [that’s why Jesus said, ‘Let the dead bury their dead’—*they’re spiritually dead*] ...in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air... [Satan the devil] ...**the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience**” (vs 1-2). *Satan is training their*

minds:

- with his way
- with his thoughts
- with his religion
- with his logic
- with his rebellion against God

It all sounds so good to the carnal mind! But notice what it really is:

Verse 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind...” *A lot of good discipline of the mind:*

- to do better
- to become better
- to increase
- to be more successful
- to make more money
- to be stronger
- to be thinner
- to be more beautiful

*Whatever! **All of those things are not of Christ!** They may have a temporary benefit, but they’re still all sin, **because they don’t lead to life!***

“...and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of *the* world” (v 4).

Then all of a sudden, one day something happened! **God intervened in your life!**

Verse 4: “But God, Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made *us* alive together with Christ. (*For* you have been saved by grace.)”

The love and grace came with the Spirit of God and began to deal in your life, and then led you to baptism, after repenting, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God. **God has a great plan for us!**

Verse 8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith...”

- you came to repentance
- you believed in Christ
- you believed in the commandments of God
- you saw your sins
- you abhorred yourself
- you abhorred your thoughts

And you had them all buried in the watery grave of baptism! When that happened you were **co-crucified with Christ!** *An amazing spiritual operation!*

“...and this *especially* is not of your own selves; **it is the gift of God**... [here’s a verse that’s a

little tricky]: ...not of works... [*our works, our ways or the traditions of men*] ...so that no one may boast. For **we are His workmanship...**” (vs 8-10). **Christ is doing a work in each one of us! Every single one of us!**

“...being created in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10). **That is *the* way of *the* Truth! Also called the way of the Lord!**

- through our yielding to God
- through prayer and study
- through keeping the commandments of God **which are the works He wants us to walk in**
- through changing, repenting, growing and overcoming
- through keeping the Sabbath and Feasts of God

we are developing and growing in the mind of Christ in preparation for the day of the resurrection!

That’s what it’s all about, and it begins with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Quite a thing indeed! Let’s see how Paul writes of this, and puts it all together for us, **so that we know that:**

- we have the Spirit of God
- God is working with us
- God is leading us
- God is teaching us
- God is giving us of His way

Colossians 1:9: “For this cause we also, from the day that we heard of *it*, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will... [the more we study the Word of God, the more we have the knowledge of His will] ...in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

All of that comes from God. This is not knowledge to puff us up and make us great of ourselves. *It is knowledge to make us spiritually strong in the Lord!* Notice that it depends on how we’re living, and the way that we live:

Verse 10: “That you may **walk worthily of the Lord...**” *That’s why we pray every day that:*

- we walk worthily of the Lord
- keep His commandments
- do what is right
- repent of our sins
- grow and overcome

“...unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God” (v 10).

That's what God wants!

Listen! There is so much in the Word of God for us that God wants us to learn, that we have to study and re-study, and go over the Word of God over and over again. ***There is no way that we can glean—even with the greatest minds that could possibly be—all that God has in His Word for us!***

It's a marvelous and a fantastic thing! Brethren, we all ought to be growing in knowledge and grace. I'm still learning things. Never can we say that 'I've been in the Church for so long, Satan has no interest in me.' ***That becomes dangerous thinking!***

Verse 11: "Being strengthened with all power... [the power of God] ...according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy."

So, there's going to be difficult times! But with joy, because we see the goal, the Kingdom of God, being sons and daughters of God, living with God forever!

Verse 12: "Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the Light."

Isn't that amazing? God the Father Himself is dealing directly in each one of our lives individually. That's something to think about. It doesn't matter who you are or where you've been or what you have done.

- it matters what God is doing with you *now*
- how you are growing in grace and knowledge *now*
- how you are overcoming *now*

Take that every day, day-by-day, by week, by month, by year for however long we may live in the flesh!

Notice what the Father has done. This is quite a statement here.

Verse 13: "**Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness...**"—*the rule of Satan the devil!* Think about that! God the Father Himself has dealt in our lives individually and particularly to accomplish that.

"...and has transferred *us* unto the Kingdom of the Son of His love" (v 13). *We're not in it, but we are under it!*

Verse 14: "In Whom we have redemption through His own blood... [on a continuous basis] ...even the remission of sins... [that's an amazing thing] ...Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* Firstborn of all creation... [by the resurrection of the

dead] ...because by Him were all things created, the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or lordships, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by Him and for Him** (vs 14-16). *And we have a part in that!* That's what's so important!

Verse 17: "And He is before all, and by Him all things subsist... [Christ is in charge] ...And **He is the Head of the Body, the Church**... [*no man*; we all submit and yield to Christ] ...Who is *the* Beginning, *the* Firstborn from among the dead so that in all things He Himself might hold the preeminence" (vs 17-18).

Christ is always going to be there at the right hand of God the Father! An amazing thing, indeed!

Verse 19: "For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell; and having made peace through the blood of His cross... [that we can have peace with God the Father and Jesus Christ] ...by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in heaven" (vs 19-20).

That is a great exaltation of Jesus Christ, and the fact of this supremacy of His existence!

Then Paul brings us back to reality, v 21: "For you *were* once alienated and enemies in *your* minds by wicked works; but now He has reconciled you." ***Get rid of the things in the mind! Be converted!*** That's where conversion is, in the mind!

Verse 22: "In the body of His flesh through death, **to present you**... [this is why He did it, present every single one of us] ...**Holy and unblamable and unimpeachable before Him; if...** [there are conditions, and those conditions always exist as long as we're in the flesh] ...indeed **you continue in the faith grounded and steadfast**, and are not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, which you have heard, *and* which was proclaimed in all the creation that *is* under heaven... [a prophecy of it clear to the end of the age] ...of which I, Paul, became a servant" (vs 22-23).

Look at what the Apostle Paul went through and everything he did to finish off the work of God as far as the writings of his epistles. It's quite wonderful thing, because the New Testament is the only, what they call, 'religious book' in the world that is written in letters, or epistles.

So, consider the New Testament ***a personal letter from God to all of us who know the will of God!*** *That's an amazing thing!*

Then Paul says concerning the mystery of God, v 26: “*Even the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been revealed to His saints.*” *You have knowledge that’s greater than any of the great minds of this world!*

Think of that, *little ole us!* God has given us that knowledge and understanding.

Verse 27: “To whom God did will... [it was God’s will to do it] ...to make known what *are* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory.**” *Get out the leaven and put in the unleaven!*

Let’s see how we do that. If very important how all of these things come about. The more you yield to God and the more you learn of the Word of God, and the more you put sin out of your life and put in the Word of God, that’s getting rid of the leaven and sin, and that’s putting in the righteousness and Truth of God. That’s quite a great and wonderful thing, indeed, when you think about it.

Romans 12:1: “I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy *and* well-pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service”:

- of love
- of Truth
- of obedience
- of serving God

Notice this command, v 2: “**Do not conform yourselves to this world,** but be transformed by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove what *is* well-pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God.” *That’s what we are to do all the time!* Quite a fantastic and marvelous thing indeed!

Ephesians 4:21: “If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, according to *the Truth* in Jesus: That concerning your former conduct... [the way you lived in the world before you were called] ...you put off the old man... [put out the leaven, bring in the unleavened] which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on the new man,** which according to God is created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth (vs 21-24).

That’s what God wants! The ultimate of being spiritually unleavened! How do we do this, because it’s a task we have to do all the time.

Verse 25: “Therefore, let each one put away lies *and* speak the truth with his neighbor, because we are members of one another. *When* you become

angry, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger” (vs 25-26).

When that happens, before the sun goes down *you repent and get rid of it!* **Do not** go to bed and have a sleepless night of tossing and turning, because you didn’t get it resolved before you went to bed.

Verse 27: “Neither give place to the devil”—*because the devil will be right there to encourage the hatred!*

Verse 28: “Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working at what *is* good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who has need. Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth... [that’s a big one] ...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not vex... [frustrate] ...the Holy Spirit of God by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption” (vs 28-30).

How do you frustrate the Spirit of God? *By not repenting when the Spirit of God reveals sin to you!*

Verse 31: “Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice... [this is how our conduct needs to be] ...and be kind *and* tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you” (vs 31-32).

Ephesians 5:1: “Therefore, be imitators of God...” **How are you going to do that?**

- with His Spirit
- with His Word
- with it begin written in your heart and mind

“...as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor” (vs 1-2). *This is what God wants us to do: put out the leaven, bring in the unleaven:*

- the Truth of God
- the love of God
- the way of God
- the teachings of Christ

Everything that there is, and that’s why we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

We’ve got the rest of this week to really put these things into practice, and to see how we can grow in them. Draw close to God in prayer, extra study, overcoming and yielding to God!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Exodus 23:12-15
- 2) Exodus 34:18, 21-23
- 3) Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- 4) Leviticus 23:1-8

- 5) Romans 5:12
- 6) Genesis 6:5-8
- 7) Mark 7:21-23
- 8) 1 Corinthians 4:6-21
- 9) 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
- 10) Galatians 5:9-18
- 11) Romans 8:1-9
- 12) Colossians 2:6-14
- 13) Ephesians 2:1-5, 8-10
- 14) Colossians 1:9-23, 26-27
- 15) Romans 12:1-2
- 16) Ephesians 4:21-32
- 17) Ephesians 5:1-2

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 3
- Psalm 51

FRC:bo
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Christ's Resurrection and Ascension to the Father

(Sabbath During Unleavened Bread)

Events leading up to and of the Wave Sheaf Offering Day

Fred R. Coulter—April 11, 2020

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread! Time marches on, doesn't it? *Certainly does! Quite a thing!*

This is a special day, and it's noted beginning in Lev. 23; we will see the instruction for this day and what it means. We know that the harvest of God spiritually is likened to a harvest of grain. So, we have the type, the physical in the Old Testament, and we have the anti-type or the fulfillment in the New Testament.

There's a special ceremony that was to be done on the day after the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread!

Another way to put it, because of the count, the waving of the Sheaf Offering had to be waved on the first day of the week **during** Unleavened Bread.

Leviticus 23:9: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, "When you have come into the land, which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest of it..."'" (vs 9-10).

God gave them the land and they entered in the spring time. Even though the inhabitants of the land planted the crop, that did not contaminate it because when the seed is put into the ground the seed disintegrates and develops a whole new stalk with many more seeds.

Some people *erroneously* say that it had to be the year after that they entered into the Holy Land, which is *nonsense!* It was *their* harvest because God gave it to them, even though they didn't plant it.

"...then you shall bring ***the premier sheaf of the firstfruits***... [a *special* premier sheaf] ...of your harvest to the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for you. On the next day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it" (vs 10-11).

This premier sheaf is picturing the resurrected Christ ascending to heaven!

Let's look at the chart in Appendix J: The Three Days and Three Nights in the Tomb and the Resurrection After the Three Days and Three Nights (pg 1280-1 in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*). This becomes very important.

The only time that this could happen, so that it pictures the three days and three nights in the grave that Christ had to be there is when the Passover is in the middle of the week from Tuesday sunset to Wednesday sunset.

Whenever we have the Passover in the middle of the week— Wednesday, the fourth day— and God reckons time from sunset to sunset. They had the Passover, Christ was arrested at midnight, and that's a type of God not passing over Christ the Firstborn/

Sidebar: Christ was the Firstborn of Mary and also the Firstborn among the dead, and also the Firstborn of the Father. All of those apply to Christ directly.

We will see the timing that took place and we will look at the Scriptures and what happened after Jesus died on the cross. But I want you to look very carefully at this chart because the Passover Day ended at sunset and that began the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Then you have three nights and three days in the grave. That's important. Sometimes the Passover occurs on a Friday and sometimes the Passover occurs on the Sabbath. But in those instances, when the Passover occurs then, you have more than three days and three nights between the beginning of the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread.

Only in the years when the Passover falls on Wednesday, the fourth day of the week, let's see what happens. We have the Passover from sunset to sunset, which then begins the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a Holy Day.

Then to the next sunset, you have the sixth day of the week, Nisan 16, and the second night, because all days are counted from sunset to sunset. This day is the preparation for the weekly Sabbath.

Go back to the Passover Day and that was the preparation day for the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. When it's finished, the next day is Friday, so we've got two whole days. Then we come from sunset Friday the Sabbath beginning at sunset and then the Sabbath Day.

As you look at the chart you have 3 nights and 3 days, and Jesus said that He would be in the tomb three days and three nights.

You can refer to this chart at anytime, and we also have it in *The Christian Passover* book, and *The Day that Jesus the Christ Died*.

So important is this that because this year, when the world has Easter Friday and then they say the resurrection is Sunday, **that is a total myth!** That is **at lie! Not true!** Besides, from Friday at sunset to Sunday morning, you do not have three full days and three full nights! *It's an impossibility! That shows you how off the mark that Catholicism and Protestantism actually is!*

Now we're going to see some of the things that took place on the Passover Day as Christ came to the end.

Matthew 27:46: "And about the ninth hour..."—*about 3-pm!*

Sidebar: The death of Christ happened in the afternoon of the Passover Day. It had to be a public and notorious thing that took place. That's why Christ was not killed at the beginning of the Passover Day when the sun went down, like the children of Israel did for the Passover.

Jesus kept that Passover and it ended the Old Testament Passover, and introduced the New Covenant Passover with the foot-washing and the bread and wine.

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' That is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'" (v 46). *Prophesied in Psa. 22!*

Verse 47: "And some of those who were standing there heard *and* said, 'This *one* is calling for Elijah.'" *But it didn't happen!*

Verse 54: "Then the centurion and those with him who had been keeping guard over Jesus, after seeing the earthquake..." *When He died there was a great earthquake!*

There was huge, very thick curtain covering the temple, and there were 12 sections to that, three sections of four. Each section represented one of the 12 tribes of Israel. This was knitted with linen and was very thick, probably 2-3 inches thick. When that was ripped, this signified, symbolically, that the way to God was open to the people.

Whereas before, the only one who had access to the Holy of Holies in the temple on earth was the high priest once year on the Day of Atonement. But now this symbolized that the way to God was opened to all whom God would call.

"... and the things that took place, were filled with fear, *and* said '**Truly this was the Son of God!**'" (v 54). *This was a tremendous and important thing, indeed, that we understand!*

Let's see how John writes of this. This becomes important, too. Everything concerning the crucifixion of Christ becomes important. Every detail was prophesied ahead of time.

John 19:28: "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had now been **finished**..."—*for the crucifixion!*

Remember that **whenever there is a finish or an ending, there is a new beginning!**

"...so that the Scripture might be **fulfilled**, said, 'I thirst.' Now, a vessel full of vinegar was sitting *there*. And after filling a sponge with vinegar and putting *it* on a *stick* of hyssop, they put it up to *His* mouth. And so, when Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is **finished**.'...." (vs 28-30). *Notice:*

- finished
- fulfilled
- finished

How far back in time does the crucifixion go?

Revelation 13:8: "...**the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**" *God had this all planned!*

There is nothing here in all the Scriptures that is happenstance! It is all worked out in every detail, and you know for sure that the angels were there making sure that it was all done according to the will of God.

John 19:30: "...And bowing His head, He yielded up *His* spirit. The Jews, therefore, so that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, because it was a preparation *day* (for that Sabbath was a High Day)..." (vs 30-31). *That Sabbath was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!*

They had the time from about three in the afternoon until the sun went down approximately six o'clock, three hours to tend to the body of Christ.

You can read in *The Christian Passover* and *The Day Jesus the Christ Died*: **28 Prophecies Fulfilled in One Day**, so that there can be no room for human error. God made sure that it was all done:

- according to the prophecies
- according to His plan
- according to the timing that He desired

Verse 32: "Then the soldiers came and

broke the legs of the first *one*, and *the legs* of the other who was crucified with Him.” *There was one crucified on the right and one crucified on the left!*

Verse 33: “But when they came to Jesus *and* saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers had pierced His side with a spear...” (vs 33-34)—*right up into and piercing His heart!*

Why? *So that every drop of blood that was sacrificed for the sin of the world would be poured out!*

“...and immediately blood and water had come out. And he who saw *this* has testified, and his testimony is true... [that's John; he watched the whole thing] ...and he knows that *what* he says is true, so that you may believe” (vs 34-35). *That's written for us!*

This is a fantastic thing that God did. Everything about Jesus, everything about His life was tremendous, indeed, and done out of love, truth, power and the things prophesied ahead of time so that there would be no excuse to say that this didn't happen.

Let's continue on and see that from the time that He died until the time that He was in the tomb.

Verse 38: “Now, after these things, Joseph (the one from Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but having concealed it for fear of the Jews) asked Pilate that he might take Jesus' body away; and Pilate gave *him* permission. Then he came and took away the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who had come to Jesus by night at *the* first, also came, bearing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took Jesus' body and wound it in linen cloths with the aromatics, as is the custom among the Jews to prepare for burial” (vs 38-40).

How was He buried? Remember that He was beaten, there was flesh and skin hanging down. What they were doing was they started at the feet and they would wrap this linen, generally about six inches wide, around the feet and legs, and then the body. They would put all of that flesh back in as they were going up to wrap His entire body.

The lie of the Catholics about the Shroud of Turin can never be true! That is a fantastic lie, because they were wrapped. The linen was wrapped; the shroud was just overlaid. How they made the shroud no one knows, *but that's a total fake and total idolatry!*

Then when they got to the head, they had a special 'napkin,' as they called, it that would cover

the head. This is how Jesus was buried.

Verse 41: “Now, there was a garden in the place where He was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.”

Why do they say that? *Tombs were not like they are today*, especially in the rocky country of Judea. So, they had caves, or tombs like caves, carved into the rocks. They had ossuaries where they would put the bones. What they did first was to take the bodies, wrap them the way that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus did, and then they would wait for all of the flesh to disintegrate, and several years afterward they would open the tomb and take the bones and put them in an ossuary.

Jesus had to be buried in a place where no one had ever been buried.

Now then, there was a great stone that was used to cover this tomb. They had the stone all cut out and ready to go, and they had a little stop to keep it from rolling down. So, when they put Jesus' body into the tomb, they took that stop out and rolled the big rock right over the entrance covering the tomb.

Verse 42: “Because of the preparation of the Jews... [for the first day of Unleavened Bread] ...they laid Jesus there; for the tomb was near.” *That's how Jesus was buried!*

Matthew 27:60: “And placed it... [the body of Jesus] ...in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and after rolling a great stone to the door of the tomb, he went away. But sitting there opposite the sepulcher were Mary Magdalene and the other Mary” (vs 60-61).

The Jews went to Pilate, and let's see what they did; v 62: “Now, on the next day, which followed the preparation *day*... [for the Feast of Unleavened Bread] ... the chief priests and the Pharisees came together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while *He* was living, “After three days I *will* rise.” Therefore, command *that* the sepulcher be secured until the third day; lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, “He is risen from the dead”; and the last deception shall be worse than the first.’ Then Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard. Go, make *it as* secure as you know *how*.’ And they went *and* made the sepulcher secure, sealing the stone *and* setting the guard” (vs 62-66).

- What does it mean to seal the stone?
- What do you suppose that they did?
- How would you seal it?

You would make a little concrete and then you would put it all around the edge of where that great

round stone was rolled down over the door of the tomb. It would dry, and it would make it even harder for anyone to try and open the tomb.

I'm sure that they put a lot of that concrete around there. Then they had guards standing there to make sure that the disciples would not come and steal the body of Jesus away.

Matthew 28:1: "Now, late on the Sabbath... [the weekly Sabbath] ...**as the first day of the weeks** was drawing near..."

- Why is that translated this way? *Because this day was the first day of the count to Pentecost!*
- How many weeks are there to Pentecost? *Seven, plus one day!*

"...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to observe the sepulcher" (v 1). *They went down to see if anything took place, because Jesus said that He was going to be resurrected!*

But they had no idea of the exact timing, so they went down right as the Sabbath was ready to begin to see what took place. Nothing had happened.

Mark 16:2: "And very early on the first day of the weeks, at the rising of the sun, they were coming to the tomb; and they were asking themselves, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'" (vs 2-3). **Why?** *Because they had prepared more spices and more anointing oils and things like this!*

Now we will see the sequence of the first one there was Mary Magdalene.

John 20:1_[transcriber's correction]: "Now, on the first day of the weeks, while it was still dark... [so Mary got up before the rising of the sun] ...Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb; and she saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb." *This was before the sun came up!*

The other women were coming and wanted to know who would open the tomb. Here's what Mary Magdalene did:

Verse 2: "Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved... [John] ...and said to them, 'They have taken away the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.'" *She didn't know!*

Verse 3: "As a result, Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. Now, the two ran together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and he stooped down and saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not enter. Then Simon Peter came following him,

and he went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin that had been on His head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself" (vs 3-7).

Let's analyze what this is telling us. If the body had been stolen away, what would they have done? *They would have taken the body with the burial cloths, the ones that were wrapped around Him!*

But they looked into the tomb and saw where the body was lying and what did they see? *They saw the cloths that had been wrapped around His body!* We don't know for sure, but it's most probably that Jesus just rose right out of the cloths. Here they are still in their wrapped condition without the body.

Think about this, because this tells us something very important: *The napkin that was on His head was folded up and put in another location!* Have you ever known of a napkin to do that by itself? Any piece of cloth to do it by itself? A self-folding cloth? *Of course not!*

What did these two things tell you? *Jesus had risen from the death and He took the napkin that was on His head, folded it up and put it in a different place!*

It was the angels who had rolled away the stone. So, this was quite a thing!

Verse 8: "Then the other disciple, who had come to the tomb first, also went in and saw *these things*; and he believed."

That's interesting; Peter was questioning what happened! John believed that He was raised from the dead, because Jesus said that He would be!

Verse 9: "For they did not yet understand the Scripture, *which decreed* that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their home. But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb... [looking again] ...And she saw two angels in white who were sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet where the body of Jesus had been laid" (vs 9-12).

How would you know where the head and feet were unless those were still in the wrapped configuration of Jesus' body? *You wouldn't!* It shows that He rose right through the cloths. Quite a fantastic thing, indeed!

What would you think if you were there and saw that? Mary was out there weeping and saw the two angels.

Verse 13: “And they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’”

What did the angels tell them?

Mark 16:3: “And they were asking themselves, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ For it was a massive *stone*. But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. And after entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right, clothed in a white robe; and they were very frightened. But he said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. You are seeking Jesus the Nazarene, Who was crucified. **He has risen**...’” (vs 3-6).

Stop and think! He was put in right at sunset—Wednesday at sunset, beginning Thursday—and you go three days and three nights. He had to be raised at sunset on the Sabbath Day.

After being raised from the dead, Jesus was probably right inside the tomb praying and thanking God, rejoicing that all of this had been done. Everything had been complete. Everything had been finished in this phase of the plan of God, that the Lamb of God Who was with God and was God had completed the mission of being the Messiah to bring the Gospel to the disciples and prepare the way for the coming of the New Testament Church and eventually the salvation of the whole world!

Notice what else the angels said, “...‘**He is not here**. Look, *there is* the place where they laid Him’” (v 6)—*indicating that all the cloths were still in their wrapped condition*, there was no need to cut them open. A spirit being can go through anything physical. So, they said:

Verse 7: “‘But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see Him, as He said to you.’ And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them; and they did not say anything to anyone because they were afraid. Now, **after Jesus had risen,...**—*coma!*”

The way the *King James* has it and other translations is ‘*after Jesus had risen early the first day of the week*’ **NO!** He was raised at sunset on the Sabbath Day, right as the first day of the week was beginning! This is the correct translation and the correct placement of the coma.

“...early *the first day* of the weeks He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went *and* told *it* to those who had been with Him, *who* were grieving

and weeping. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe *it*. Now, after these things, He appeared in a different form to two of them as they were walking...” (vs 9-12).

John 20—Mary Magdalene was at the tomb and after saying she wanted to know where they took Him:

John 20:14: “And after saying these things, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him off, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ Turning around, she said to Him, ‘Rabboni’; that is to say, ‘Teacher.’ Jesus said to her, **Do not touch Me, because I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brethren and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God**” (vs 14-17).

This was just before the time of the waving of the premier sheaf at the temple. Then Jesus ascended to the Father, which we will cover in a little bit. But this tells us something very important, that the sacrifice of God the Father for the sin of the world through Jesus Christ had to be accomplished in every way that God intended, and that all of the Scriptures would be fulfilled.

Verse 18: “Mary Magdalene came to the disciples, bringing word that she had seen the Lord, and that He had said these things to her.”

Jesus ascended, and lets understand that we will see that there is no command for any meeting of any kind do celebrate the ascension of Jesus Christ to God the Father. There is no command for a special meeting because He had been raised from the dead.

(go to the next track)

Let’s look at a couple of verses concerning Christ as the *first* resurrected, the Firstborn from the dead! The reason being is that pictures the Wave Sheaf Offering.

1-Corinthians 15:20: “But now Christ has been raised from *the* dead; **He has become the Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep.**”

Those who die in the faith are called *sleeping*; that’s their death, because they are to be awakened at the resurrection.

Verse 21: “For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came the* resurrection of *the* dead. For as in

Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ *the* Firstfruit... [*the Premiere Sheaf of Lev. 23*] ...then those who are Christ's at His coming" (vs 21-23).

No one has gone to heaven! That's a fake thing, a lie! Only Christ has been raised from the dead. No one else has been raised to eternal life!

Let's see what it says of Jesus. We know that in Matt. 18 Jesus is called *the firstborn of Mary*. We'll see in Colossians that He is also called *the Firstborn from among the dead and of God!*

Revelation 1:5: "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, **the Firstborn from the dead...**"

- Firstborn of Mary
- Firstborn among the dead

Guess what that tells us? *That's the key to understanding what it means to be 'born again.'* **The resurrection** is being *born again*. This is the way it is:

- that which is born of the flesh *is flesh*
- that which has been born of the spirit *is spirit*

Jesus also said that ***you cannot see the Kingdom of God unless you have been born of water and of spirit!*** That water is your first physical birth. You lived in a watery environment within your mother's womb. You were born of water. That's how you got out of the womb. That's when you born. To be born again is ***from flesh to spirit, or from death to life!***

Colossians 1:14—referring to Jesus: "In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* Firstborn of all creation" (vs 14-15).

People look at that verse and say that He was born before the creation. **NO!** He's the firstborn of all the creation that God is doing through the resurrection of the dead. ***We are created in Christ Jesus! Christ is to be formed in us,*** as we have read! Jesus is the Firstborn of that creation. *It didn't say the Firstborn of the creation of God!*

Verse 16: "Because by Him were all things created, the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or lordships, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by Him and for Him. And He is before all, and by Him all things subsist**" (vs 16-17).

Brethren, we need to understand what God has called us to. What a wonderful and tremendous

and powerful thing that it is that God is doing with us.

- yes, we're physical
- yes, we go through trials
- yes, as we get along in time and age, we get weak and feeble

All of these things do happen to us! It even happened to Peter. What did Jesus say to Peter when Peter said, 'What's going to happen to John over there?' Jesus said, 'What is it to you if he remain until I come! When you're old, you're going to be led around by someone where you don't want to go!' ***That's just the nature of the weakness of the flesh! It happens to all,*** and:

- we ***all*** die in Christ
- we are ***all*** raised from the dead by Christ and God the Father

That's what to keep our minds on!

Verse 18: "And He is the Head of the Body, the Church; Who is *the* Beginning, ***the Firstborn from among the dead...*** [that's what it means *of all creation*] ...so that in all things He Himself might hold the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father* **that in Him all the fullness should dwell**" (vs 18-19).

Why did Jesus do all of this?

Verse 20: "And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in heaven. For you *were* once alienated and enemies in *your* minds by wicked works; but now He has reconciled *you* in the body of His flesh through death, to present you Holy and unblamable and unimpeachable before Him" (vs 20-22). *That's why:*

- God does the calling
- God grants the repentance
- God forgives the sin through Jesus Christ
- God the Father gives us of His Spirit so we can have direct connection with God the Father in heaven above

That's the whole purpose as to why Christ came:

- why He rose from the dead
- why He's the Firstborn of all this creation of God that He is creating through those whom He is calling

An amazing thing! Think of this whoever you are, wherever you are:

The God Who made everything that there is through Jesus Christ ***has opened the way so you can***

have direct access—through prayer and study—to **God the Father**, receive the Holy Spirit of God and then develop the character of God, which the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures:

Putting out the sin of human nature and carnality, and *putting in* the righteousness of God through:

- His Holy Spirit
- His Word
- living in God's way
- prayer
- study

All of these things!

That's why we're here and that's why *this Sabbath* is such a very important day. What happened on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day, the day after that Sabbath? As a spirit being, Jesus can disguise Himself, so even those who knew Him, after He was resurrected they didn't understand it was Jesus until He made it possible for them to understand.

Luke 24:13: "And behold, on the same day, two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, which was about sixty furlongs from Jerusalem. And they were talking with one another about all the things that had taken place.... [everything that we have just covered] ...And it came to pass, as they were talking and reasoning, that Jesus Himself drew near *and* went with them; but their eyes were restrained, *so that* they did not know Him" (vs 13-16). *Amazing thing!*

Verse 17: "And He said to them, 'What *are* these words that you are exchanging with one another as you walk, and *why* are you downcast in countenance?'" *They were disappointed!*

Verse 18: "Then the one named Cleopas answered *and* said to Him, 'Are You only traveling through Jerusalem, and have not known of the things that have happened in these days?' And He said to them, 'What things?' And they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus the Nazarean, a Man Who was a prophet, Who was mighty in deed and word before God and all the people; and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him up to *the* judgment of death, and crucified Him. And we were hoping that He was the One Who would redeem Israel....'" (vs 18-21).

Everybody has misunderstood about the redemption of Israel and the kingdom coming to Israel. Back then they thought that Jesus was going to bring the Kingdom real soon. They were disappointed when he died. But look how much time

has gone since then, and how much bigger the plan of God is. The whole great magnitude of the plan of God is multiplied thousands of times greater than what has been thought.

The reason that the officials didn't accept Jesus was because Jesus didn't come and make a political alliance with them to overthrow the Romans. *So, they rejected Him!*

"...But besides all these things, as of today, the third day has already passed since these things took place" (v 21). *Hey, we were waiting the three days!* They didn't know that He was already resurrected.

Verse 22: "And also, certain women from among us astonished us, after they went to the tomb early; for when they did not find His body, they came *to us*, declaring that they had indeed seen a vision of angels, who said, 'He is living.' And some of those with us went to the tomb and found *it* exactly as the women had said, but they did not see Him" (vs 22-24). *Here He is standing right there with them!*

Verse 25: "Then He said to them, 'O foolish and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into His glory?'" (vs 25-26).

Here's what He did. You would think that this would have opened their eyes when He started this:

Verse 27: "And beginning with Moses, and from all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. And *as* they approached the village where they were going, He appeared to be going on farther. But they constrained Him, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is declining.' And He entered in *as if* to stay with them" (vs 27-29).

So, He went in that they still didn't know that it was Jesus.

Verse 30: "And it came to pass, as He sat *at the table* with them, He took the bread *and* blessed *it*; and after breaking *it*, He gave *it* to them. **Then their eyes were opened, and they knew Him**; and He disappeared from them" (vs 30-31)—*POOF! He was gone!*

Remember what Jesus said about someone being born from the dead: *born of spirit they're like the wind; you don't know where it's coming from and you don't know where it's going!* This is what happened to Jesus!

Verse 33: "And they rose up that very hour *and* returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and those with them assembled together, saying, 'In truth, the Lord has risen! And He has appeared to Simon.' Then they related the things that had happened *to them* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread" (vs 33-35).

Now then, another surprise, because a spirit being is not constrained by physical things:

Verse 36: "Now, as they were telling these things, Jesus Himself stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace *be* to you.'"

Luke 24:39^[transcriber's correction]: "See My hands and My feet, that it is I. Touch Me and see *for yourselves*; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, **as you see Me having.**" Notice that He didn't say 'flesh and blood.'

Apparently, a spirit being can appear as a human being, but that's just the way that He appears. We can appear, as we saw before in a different form, unrecognizable.

Verse 40: "And after saying this, He showed them *His* hands and *His* feet. But while they were still disbelieving and wondering for joy, He said to them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' Then they gave Him part of a broiled fish and a *piece* of honeycomb. And He took these *and* ate in their presence" (vs 40-43). *I've found that fish and honey is really good; try it sometime!*

John 20—now, here we are eight days later. We know that He was with them for forty days and forty nights doing many fantastic things, and showing the things concerning the Kingdom of God to them. Let's see what happened:

John 20:26: "Now, after eight days... [on the next Sabbath, inclusive counting] ...His disciples again were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus came after the doors were shut, and stood in the midst and said, 'Peace *be* to you.' Then He said to Thomas, 'Put forth your finger, and see My hands; and reach *out* your hand, and put *it* into My side; and be **not** unbelieving, **but believing.**" (vs 26-27).

- How about for us?
- How many times may doubts come up in our mind?

or

- Are we convicted in the Truth at all times?
In every situation, regardless of what they may be!
- God is always right
- God is always true

- His promises are always good
- He will hear us
- He will help us

The time may come when we are going to become as sheep to the slaughter! We don't know exactly when and how it's going to come, but the atmosphere in the world is building up toward it.

It doesn't matter what the circumstances are out here that should affect our belief in our heart and mind. But that we should always believe! There may be some things that we don't understand, which is true. But if we seek for understanding, God will give that, also, **IF** we need to have it.

But don't let anything take away from the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world, resurrected from the dead, the Firstborn from the dead, because that is the central thing of salvation!

Now let's see what Thomas said, it's very interesting what He said, v 28: "And Thomas answered and said to Him, '**My Lord and My God.**'"

Think about that for a minute! Where does this go back to? *The beginning of the Gospel of John:*

John 1:1: "In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Verse 14: "And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us..."

John 20:29: "Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, Thomas, you have believed; **blessed are the ones who have not seen, but have believed.**'"

That's amazing! That's what it has to be for us. God does not want us to have an empty belief. He wants us to have a belief based upon ***facts, Truth and belief!*** You've got to have the facts and you've got to have the Truth!

Verse 30: "Now then, Jesus did many other miracles in *the* presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and **that believing, you may have life through His name**" (vs 30-31)—*no other way!*

Now let's look at some prophecies concerning Jesus, concerning His resurrection, concerning how these things were in the book of the Psalms.

Psa. 108 shows the attitude of Jesus while

He was in the flesh. *Tremendous thing! Great example for us!* We have brand new booklet by James Meister: *The Prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament*. That's an amazing thing, because this is what the apostles started preaching with. Remember, they did not have the New Testament.

Psalm 108:1: "O God, **my heart is fixed**..." *Think about yours!* Is it fixed in belief of God and Christ in spite of every:

- difficulty
- obstacle
- blessing
- intervention
- trial

Whatever it may be!

"...I will sing and I will give praise, even with my glory. Awake, harp and lyre; I will awake early. I will praise You, O LORD, among the people..." (vs 1-3). **Isn't that what Jesus did with His ministry? Yes, of course!**

"...and I will sing praises to You among the nations" (v 3). *Think about what that's going to be during the Millennium!*

Verse 4: "For Your mercy is great above the heavens... [the great mercy of God in everything] ...and Your Truth reaches unto the clouds."

The conviction of the Truth and knowledge of that conviction of the Truth is how you fix your heart, that there is no wavering!

Verse 5: "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth, so that Your beloved... [Christ] ...may be delivered... [which He was] ...save with Your right hand, and answer me. God has spoken in His Holiness..." (vs 5-7). *Quite a thing, yes, indeed! That's something!*

Remember that Psa. 22 is all about the crucifixion!

Psalm 16:5: "The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup; You shall uphold my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yea, I have a beautiful inheritance" (vs 5-6)—*looking to that resurrection!*

Verse 9: "Therefore, My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices; My flesh also shall rest in safety, for You will not abandon My soul to the grave; neither will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will make known to Me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (vs 9-11)—*looking for everything of the resurrection!*

Psalm 17:15: "As for me, I will behold Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Your likeness." *That applies directly to Jesus Christ and secondarily to all of us at the resurrection!* That's quite a thing!

- Psa. 22 is the crucifixion
- Psa. 23 is the resurrection

Psalm 23:1: "The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not [be in] want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul... [through the resurrection] ...He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... [which is what He did with the crucifixion] ...I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.... [they did] ...You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies.... [all coming to kill Him] ...You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life... [on into eternity] ...and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (vs 1-6).

These are some of the thoughts of Jesus when He was resurrected!

We can apply Psa. 63 to David praying to God, and apply this to Jesus at the time of the resurrection. Why was Jesus able to endure everything He went through, and yet, remained faithful because He kept His mind always on God, and the Spirit of God in Him.

Psalm 63:1: "O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You! My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is, to see Your power and Your glory as I have seen You in the sanctuary. **Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You**" (vs 1-3).

Even while He was hanging on the cross, these may have been some of the thoughts that Jesus had. He had to have had some of the thoughts that were between Him and the Father. This may have been part of it, we don't know.

Verse 4: "Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips when I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore, in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice" (vs 4-7).

The protection of God was always hovering over Him, but He had to go through what He went

through; then be resurrected from the dead!

Verse 8: "My soul follows hard after You; Your right hand upholds me." *Then He talks about those who seek to destroy Him, who are going to take Him down!*

A lot of these Psalms tell us so many different things that we need to know.

- Psa. 22 is the crucifixion
- Psa. 23 is when He was resurrected
- Psa. 24 is His ascension into heaven, or the first day of the Wave Sheaf Offering

Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness of it, the world, and those who dwell in it, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Who shall **ascend into the hill of the LORD**? Or who shall **stand in His Holy place**?" (vs 1-3). *Christ was the first!*

Verse 4: "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to vanity and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation" (vs 4-5).

We can kind of picture this when Jesus is ascending into heaven, going to God the Father. Remember that through all the life that Jesus lived in the flesh, how they communicated and saw each other was not direct face-to-face. Here He's ascending into heaven—as we find in Acts 1—and here's what's happening in heaven above as He's coming up:

Verse 7: "Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be lifted up, O you everlasting doors; **that the King of glory may come in**.... [Jesus Christ] ...Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you everlasting doors; **that the King of glory may come in**. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah" (vs 7-10).

Let's see what it may have been like when Jesus came before the Throne of God. *Everything in the plan of God goes forward from the point of view of when Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God!* Then all the things of the prophecies

- concerning salvation for the Church
- concerning the Church
- concerning Jesus
- concerning His life
- concerning His death
- concerning His resurrection

All of those things have been fulfilled!

What did Jesus see as He was ascending to the Father to be accepted as the sacrifice for the sin of the world? Isn't it interesting that this vision was given to John, the one whom Jesus loved.

Revelation 4:2: "And immediately I was in the Spirit... [let's apply this to Jesus Christ directly] ...and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *One was sitting on the throne*.... [that's the Father] ...And He Who *was sitting* was in appearance like a jasper stone and a sardius stone; and a rainbow *was* around the throne, like an emerald in its appearance" (vs 2-3).

What is going to be like to be a spirit being and see these things ourselves, as John saw it here, and as Jesus saw when He was returning to the Father as the First of the firstfruits, as the perfect sacrifice of God.

Verse 4: "And around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. And proceeding from the throne were lightnings and thunders and voices; and seven lamps of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, *were* burning before the throne" (vs 4-5). *What a sight that must have been!*

Verse 6: "And before the throne *was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne and over the throne *were* four living creatures, full of eyes before and behind; and the first living creature *was* like a lion, and the second living creature *was* like a bull, and the third living creature had the face of a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle" (vs 6-7). *Awesome, indeed! There's the Father sitting right under these!*

Verse 8: "And each of *the* four living creatures had six wings respectively; *and* around and within *they were* full of eyes; and day and night they cease not saying, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who *is* to come.' And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to Him Who sits on the throne, Who lives into the ages of eternity" (vs 8-9).

Absolutely amazing! Quite a stunning vision that John had received with this!

Verse 10: "The twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who sits on the throne; and they worship Him Who lives into the ages of eternity, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, '**Worthy are You, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power because You did create all things, and for Your will they were created and exist**'" (vs 10-

11). *The whole plan of God just rehearsed before the Throne of God!*

Christ Who is now making it possible—through His death and resurrection—and on this Wave Sheaf Offering Day to fulfill the will of God.

Now, everything that's happening on earth in the plan of God comes from Jesus Christ through God the Father. That's something to realize and understand. Everything is on schedule according to God's schedule. We may know some of it, but we don't know all of it. We don't know how long it is until the end, the end that really comes, **but it's coming!** God the Father is going to give the word, and Christ is going to execute it!

Revelation 5:1: "And in the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne I saw a book, written within and on *the* back, which had been sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the book and to loose its seals?' But no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth was able to open the book, or to look inside it. And I was weeping greatly because no one was found worthy to open and to read the book, or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion Who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the book, and to loose its seven seals'" (vs 1-5).

Verse 6: "Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures and before the elders **was standing a Lamb as having been slain...** [Jesus Christ] ...having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that are sent into all the earth."

Who are the seven horns? *They have to be none other than the seven churches of Rev. 2 & 3, and Christ is the Head of all of those seven churches!* And being connected to Christ at the head are in one body, though they are seven.

Verse 7: "And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne. And when He took the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (vs 7-8).

That's interesting! It shows that our prayers come right up to God the Father! Amazing!

Verse 9: "And they sang a new song..." *This is the song we are going to sing*; this is enacting what's going to happen when the resurrection takes place, of all the saints, as well!

"...saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book, and to open its seals because You were slain, and did redeem us to God by Your own blood, out of every tribe and language and people and nation, and did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth'" (vs 9-10). *A summary of the whole plan of God!*

This is on the Ascension Day that Jesus went up to be accepted of God the Father. A tremendous thing, indeed! ***This is a day that is just between God the Father and Jesus Christ!*** The saints do not participate in this. The saints have no designated meeting to recognize this. But we know it from the Word of God, and we recognize it on the day of the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on that day toward the end of the day, He was resurrected from the dead.

Verse 11: "And I saw and I heard *the* voices of many angels around the throne... [I wonder what that's going to be like?] ...and *the* voices of the living creatures and the elders, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain **to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing.**' And every creature that is in heaven..." (vs 11-13). *Think about:*

- how important the plan of God is
- how important that it is that we understand and realize it
- how important that we are to God

He's called us and given us of His Spirit, and Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and everything comes to us from God the Father through Jesus Christ. Everything that we do back to God—in love, worship, service and everything—is all wrapped up in this.

"...and on the earth, and under the earth, and those that are on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying... [this is going to be such a glorious thing, that the whole creation literally cries out to God] ...**To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity.**" (v 13).

That is the Ascension Day! The acceptance of Christ for the sin of the whole world, that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve! Christ was slain before the foundation of the world and the Word of God has carried it out. His plan has gone forth and God has called us to be a part of it.

Brethren, let's rejoice in it during this Feast of Unleavened Bread, and thank God that we have this connection with Him and the understanding of His Word, and the glory of His majesty that we can

realize in our little own lives. ***We come to God with thanksgiving, love and joy! Amen!***

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Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:9-11
- 2) Matthew 27:46-47, 54
- 3) John 19:28-30
- 4) Revelation 13:8
- 5) John 19:30-35, 38-42
- 6) Matthew 27:60-66
- 7) Matthew 28:1
- 8) Mark 16:2
- 9) John 20:1-13
- 10) Mark 16:3-12
- 11) John 20:14-18
- 12) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
- 13) Revelation 1:5
- 14) Colossians 1:14-22
- 15) Luke 24:13-31, 33-36, 39-43
- 16) John 20:26-28
- 17) John 1:1, 17
- 18) John 20:29-31
- 19) Psalm 108:1-7
- 20) Psalm 16:5-6, 9-11
- 21) Psalm 17:15
- 22) Psalm 23:1-6
- 23) Psalm 63:1-8
- 24) Psalm 24:1-5, 7-10
- 25) Revelation 4:2-11
- 26) Revelation 5:1-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 22
- Matthew 18
- Acts 1
- Revelation 2; 3

Also referenced:

Appendix J: The Three Days and Three Nights in the Tomb and the Resurrection After the Three Days and Three Nights (pg 1280-1 in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*)

Books:

- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Day that Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter

Booklet: *The Prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament* by James Meister

FRC:bo
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Nothing is Impossible for God!

(Last Day of Unleavened Bread)

Fred R. Coulter—April 15, 2020

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! What a Feast this has been with everything that's been going on. It shows the Truth that *a little leaven leavens the whole lump* is the sum total of why we have Unleavened Bread. It is so that we can—with the Spirit of God—put in the righteousness of God through:

- His Word
- His Truth
- His Spirit
- living God's way
- trusting Him in everything

In everything!

Leviticus 23:6: “And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD. You must eat unleavened bread seven days.”

Tonight, after sundown, you can have whatever leaven you desire. *It's only during the Feast of Unleavened Bread that leaven is a type of sin!*

Verse 7: “On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation. You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days. In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*” (vs 7-8).

We also know that we are to give according to how God has blessed us, and think about how God has dealt with you in your life:

- rescuing you from sin
- bringing you out of the world
- granting you His Holy Spirit
- giving you understanding of His Word
- leading and guiding you in the way that you need to go

Think about all of those things when you're making up your offering! It all goes to the use of what God wants.

As you know, we are very careful with the funds—the tithe and offerings—that the brethren send, *because it's God's money!* We have to use it for every purpose for:

- preaching the Gospel
- feeding the flock

- serving the brethren
- producing to the world the things that is necessary to preach to them

We have a great many things, as you know, for your personal study. If you still have the catalog of all of our literature, go read through that catalog again and order whatever you think you need.

Living in these days when there are a lot of false prophets and false doctrines, and Satan the devil is busy and active, *we need to stay close to God in everything that we do!*

- God will bless us
- God will be with us
- God will pave the way for us

to accomplish His will be it in your life, or the life of all the brethren everywhere!

(pause for offering)

Nothing is impossible for God, and we will see that He brings us to circumstances so that we will *trust in Him, that we will have faith in God, faith in Jesus Christ!*

Just to show you how important that is, and how it relates to everything that God does, come to Psa. 148, which is quite a little Psalm. This tells us how God created everything that there is. All of these things are important for us.

Notice all the praise to God, because God deserves all the praise:

Palm 148:1: “O praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light. Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and waters that are above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD, **for He commanded and they were created**” (vs 1-5).

That's a tremendous thing! The Word of God is so powerful, so great that *He can command and it will be!* Think about this:

- God has called us
- God has promised us eternal life

Remember that *it's impossible* for God to lie! So, His Word is absolutely true. He also tells us that *'many are the afflictions of the righteous.'* Why is that? *Because when we have afflictions, we*

learn to trust in God!

We learn to look to Him! We come to various points in our lives, as we go down the pathway of life, to where there are things that happen that we can't change. We can't do anything about it **except believe God and trust in Him!** That's how God helps us to build character. This is why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Psalm 146:5: **"Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help..."** *God will help us in all our trials, difficulties, and circumstances!* That's why we have this last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. **Nothing is impossible for God!**

- God has decreed that His plan is going to be fulfilled
- God has decreed that all of those who have His Spirit and love Him and obey Him will receive eternal life at the resurrection

Regardless of the trials in the path of your life!

"...whose hope is in the LORD his God"
(v 5).

- What is our hope? *The resurrection and eternal life!*
- What is the fulfillment of that hope? *That we will be raised without sin!*

We will be changed from flesh to spirit and God has promised!

Verse 6: "...Who keeps Truth forever." *That's why the Word of God is called Truth!* It is **spiritual and spiritually understood!** *It is only understood by those who love God and keep His commandments!*

We saw with the Night to Be Much Observed unto the Lord, what a fantastic night that was, as they were leaving Egypt. They didn't go very far that first night, but God led them with the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day. He also gave them great wealth, great everything, because of destroying the Egyptians, their firstborn and everything that they had. Think about this: the children of Israel, leading up to the Passover, saw the plagues of God that came, *and awesome they were, indeed! Very powerful!*

God's Word is true, and when He said He would do it, *He did it!* Then He finally had the coup de grace to let the children of Israel go, the killing of the firstborn of all the Egyptians and all of their livestock, *which was a mass slaughter!*

The children of Israel were spared because they were in their homes and under the blood of the Lamb. Then on the day portion, as we saw, of the

Passover they came to Rameses and gathered to go, starting the Exodus! This was all organized, and they left right as the Night to Be Much Observed to the Lord was coming on! By the time the last group left the bounds of Rameses, it was already dark and God was showing that He was going to take His people and bring them to the Holy Mount to give them His laws, commandments, statutes and judgments, and that He would personally speak. The lesser ones He had Moses write down. *All from God!* But to get there...

One of the assumptions that the children of Israel had was that they were going to go to the 'promised land.' They thought that they would just scoot right along the Mediterranean seashore and come over to the 'promised land' and get it. But God had other things in mind, **because He had to give them His laws and commandments, and He had to separate them from the children of Egypt!** Here's what God did, and He took them on a little different route.

- How about your life on the path that you have been walking?
- Is it a little different than you had anticipated that it would be? *Yes, indeed!*
- Do you have circumstances that happen to you that you didn't know of? *True!*
- That you didn't expect? *Without a doubt!*

What God did is take the children of Israel, and instead of going on into the 'promised land' they took a turn south and came along the western shore of the Red Sea. At that point it was very narrow between the sea and the mountains. So, there was just enough room for the long column of the children of Israel to be there at the sea. Then Pharaoh, when he heard that they were going that way, said:

Oh, what have we done, we've let all of our slaves go. We don't know what to do. How are we going to have all the chores taken care of? We can't do them ourselves and our firstborn are dead, and the firstborn of the animals are dead. Look at us! We need to go down there and get them and bring them back.

Let's see what happened. Let's look at this; there's a parallel with this: Pharaoh is a type of Satan. Does Satan want to come and get us? *Yes, indeed! We've already cover that!*

- we need *the armor of God*
- we need *the power of God*
- we need *faith in God*

Our weapons are spiritual: trusting in God! The children of Israel didn't understand that. So, here comes Pharaoh:

Exodus 14:8: "And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And he pursued the children of Israel, and the children of Israel went out with a high hand. So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army. And they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes. And, behold, **the Egyptians marched after them**" (vs 8-10).

They were completely helpless! They had no weapons, maybe a few swords, a few spears. They had nothing! But they had the greatest defense of all; ***they had God!*** Keep that in mind when you're faced with a challenge that's greater than you, more than you can handle, more than you can think about. ***Take it to God!*** This is the whole lesson for this day.

"...And they were very afraid. And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. And they said to Moses..." (vs 10-11).

See, when something goes wrong, you impute wrong motives! 'You did this because you don't love me' or whatever.

"...Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness because *there were* no graves in Egypt?..." (v 11). *In other words:*

We're going to be buried out here in this wilderness. It would have been better if we stayed in Egypt. At least there's enough land for graves.

"...Why have you dealt this way with us to carry us forth out of Egypt?" (v 11).

Stop and think! Have you wondered why God called you? *That's what they were questioning:*

What is God doing? If He's going to give us the 'promised land' what is this all about?

Well, the truth is God has a different plan of bringing it about than the thoughts that they had. God had many things, yet, that He had to do.

Verse 13: "And Moses said to the people, ^[#1]**Fear not!**.... *One of the lessons that we're to learn:*

Don't fear, regardless of what happens, because God is there! God is always near, so there's no reason to fear.

^[#2] "...**Stand still**..." (v 13). *Don't get up there and run over to the Egyptians and say, 'Keep*

me alive and I'll go back and be your slave.'

"...and ^[#3]**see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today...**" (v 13). *Think about that!*

Salvation comes from God! Yes, through the sacrifice of Christ we have been saved from our sins. But the ultimate salvation is the resurrection, which is a command of God when the seventh trump blows.

You think about a glorious thing that that's going to be. Remember, the next Holy Day we have is Pentecost, which pictures that. We'll get to that in due time.

1. **Don't Fear**
2. **Stand Still**

Don't run off and do your own thing because you think that you have got to do it, ***rather than trusting in God!***

3. **See the Salvation of the Lord**

"...Which He will work for you today..."

"...for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, ^[#4]**you shall never see them again!**" (v 13).

4. **Shall Never See Your Sins Again**

How far does God remove our sins from us when we truly repent and yield to God? ***As far as the east is from the west!***

- sin is like the Egyptians
- sin comes from Satan the devil, who is like Pharaoh
- sin is against God

We, through the power and Spirit of God, can:

- fight against that sin
- resist that sin
- trust in God to deliver us

Verse 14: ^[#5]**The LORD shall fight for you**, and you shall be still." *Quit your stupid complaining!*

5. **God Will Fight for You**

He will take care of it, and in a way sometimes you don't even know until somewhere down the road you see that ***God did this!***

Verse 15: "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Speak to the children of Israel **that they go forward**.'" *That's what this day pictures!*

- we keep going forward

- our goal is the Kingdom of God
- our goal is eternal life
- our goal is to rule the world under Christ in the Kingdom of God

So, we must always go forward! As long as we're in the flesh, and as long as we live in this world, we're going to have to:

- fight against sin
- fight against Satan
- fight against society

But God is with us! It doesn't matter what they do to us!

Verse 16: “And you—**lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea...**”

How is that for a weapon? *A big rod in his hand and God says, 'Hold it over the sea!'*

“...and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea” (v 16).

Think about that! ***They were in an impossible situation!*** They couldn't go back north, they couldn't go to the east because the Egyptians were there and God put a spiritual wall between the Egyptians and the Israelites, and it was dark to the Egyptians but light to the children of Israel.

They couldn't go out into the water and they couldn't go further south, ***so they were in an impossible situation with the enemy right there ready to pounce!***

So, God had Moses take his rod and God caused the wind to blow and opened the sea, spread it open. This was a big deal. This wasn't a little channel like you see in most of the movies. This must have been at least ten miles wide, because the whole length of the column of the children of Israel in their marching order was a tremendously long column.

You figure a column of a million people. Maybe not ten miles, but however long it was. They were encamped in a column alongside the shore. So, when God began to divide the Red Sea... Remember, He made it dry ground that had been under the sea and was soft and mushy for how long. ***Nothing is impossible for God!*** Remember that! ***Nothing!***

So, He opened the Red Sea, and the wind blew all that night and as morning was coming they all marched in a flanking movement into the Red Sea and across to the other side. Didn't take them very long to get to the other side. They got to the other side and God lifted the division between the

children of Israel and the Egyptians.

The Egyptians saw that they were gone, that they had gone through the Red Sea. They came to the Red Sea and looked at it and thought, 'It's all dry!'

Good lesson: ***God always traps the wicked ones in their own schemes and devices, because they know nothing of God!***

Pharaoh said, 'All right, let's go!' So, they all went down into the Red Sea and when they got to the middle of it, God started knocking off the wheels, turning the dry ground into mud. They said, 'Oh, we've got to get out of here! Look at what the Lord is doing!' ***And the water came back and they all drowned!***

Talk about ***accomplishing an impossible thing by the power of God!*** That's why we have to have faith in God in everything that we do!

- He will lead us
- He will direct us
- He will teach us
- He will help us
- we will overcome sin
- we will overcome human nature
- we will overcome Satan the devil

By the miracle of the power of the Holy Spirit of God with His Word and our living God's way! That's reaching the dry ground on the other side of the sea.

Then all the people were happy! Well, you know, carnal nature took hold again, and they complained. Then God brought them to Mt. Sinai and gave them the Ten commandments. Here was another *one time* thing in the history of the world, that that many people—over a million people, maybe 1.5 million—all the children of Israel camped around Mt. Sinai.

God made a proposition for them. Whenever God does something, it starts out with a simple statement. Just like with us: ***Repent and be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit!*** That's how it starts out. That's very simple.

God didn't tell about all the things that would come upon us, and all the difficulties that we would have overcoming—did He? ***No! But we are to believe God, trust in Him, obey His voice, and do what He wants!***

So, when they got to Mt. Sinai, God called Moses up into the mountain and He gave them the proposition. Very simple. The details come later. Isn't that how it is in our lives? ***Yes, indeed!***

Exodus 19:3: “And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you unto Myself”’” (vs 3-4).

To the Holy Mountain of Zion, Mt. Sinai; God dealing with all the people directly with Moses personally, face-to-face. This was a tremendous thing, indeed!

Here’s the proposition, v 5: “Now, therefore, **if you will obey My voice** indeed...”” *Look at that! Never forget those three words: **obey My voice!***

Everything we have in the Bible is written down and is the voice of God, so no one can say, ‘God, I know you talked to them, but You haven’t talked to us. What did you say to them?’

- God had Moses write it all down!
- God had the kings write it down!
- God had the priests write it down!
- God had the Prophets write it down!

So, the Old Testament was compiled and filled with 356 direct references to the coming Messiah Jesus Christ! An amazing thing, indeed! Isn’t that something?

“...**if you will obey My voice** indeed...”—*that is don’t make any exceptions, don’t complain, but truly obey My voice, and keep My commandments!* He hadn’t given them, yet. But that was coming.

“...and keep My covenant, **then you shall be a special treasure to Me** above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation.’ **These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel**” (vs 5-6).

All of that sounded really good and wonderful, so Moses came back and told them all:

Verse 8: “And all the people answered together and said...” *Listen to this! If you make a statement like this, remember, God is going to hold you to it!*

“... **‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’**...: (v 8). *Apply that to the New Testament! Paul writes that ‘if any do not adhere to the sound words of Jesus Christ, he is ignorant and knows nothing! From such withdraw yourself!’ Same thing! ‘Keep My commandments!’ That’s what Jesus said!*

- *their* promise was a ‘promised land’

- *our* promise is **eternal life in the Kingdom of God**

So, it’s so much greater!

Then God had Moses prepare all the people and get all ready. Then as it turns out, this was on the Day of Pentecost. So, here is Mt. Sinai and all the children of Israel at the base of the mountain, and God told Moses to block if off and don’t let an animal come near and no man come near. If any do they shall be ‘shot through with an arrow’ or a dart!

Here is something that all these people experienced at the same time. **An impossible thing that God would speak to the people!**

This was to help them to understand how important it was that God was dealing with them, and what He was going to give them, and how they needed to live their lives. This was so they would have long lives and many children. They would receive the blessings of God. He would fight for them in their circumstances in conquering the ‘promised land.’ He would bless them in everything that they did.

Here is an impossible experience, a one-time experience, never happened before or after! Let’s go through the Ten Commandments, and look at them, **because this is how we are to live today with the Spirit of God in our mind:**

- to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being
- to love our neighbor as ourselves
- to love the brethren as Jesus loved us
- even to love our enemies

because God’s plan is so great that it’s going to be awesome, indeed, in the fullness of the working out of His plan! Here God comes down:

- the mountain is on fire
- the trumpets are blowing
- the wind is whirling around
- the earth is quaking
- the mighty power of God is there

then it settles down and here is a great flame of fire on top of Mt. Sinai with the smoke going up and the first thing He says:

Commandment #1; Exodus 20:2: “**I am the LORD your God**, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” **I brought you out of sin and slavery!** In the New Testament it’s the same thing with Jesus Christ!

Verse 3: “**You shall have no other gods before Me...**”—*because that’s the first thing that people like to do; add on to what God has given,*

have their own gods. Then the next thing they want to have is their own little idols.

So, *commandment #2*, v 4: “You shall **not make**... [look at all the idols that people have developed in the name of Christ] ...for yourselves any graven image, or any likeness of *anything* that is in the heavens above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the waters under the earth. **You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them**, for I, the LORD your God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me” (vs 4-5).

There’s a blessing for loving God; there’s a curse for hating God! Never forget that!

Verse 6: “But showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” *That, brethren, is New Testament doctrine!* Doesn’t that sound an awful lot like John 14-16. *That’s an expansion of it!*

This also shows that you’re not to have anything between you and the love of God.

Commandment #3; v 7: “**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain**, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

The way that the name of God is taken in vain more than anything else is *in religious services when people say that God says, when God doesn’t say!*

Commandment #4; the key to always have contact with God, and this is based upon Him making the Sabbath on the seventh day when he renewed the earth!

Verse 8: “**Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.**” *One sentence!* And everybody forgets it and goes to Sunday.

Verse 9: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter; your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your livestock, nor the stranger within your gates.... [Why?] ...for *in* six days...” (vs 9-11).

In other words, ***keeping the Sabbath lets you always know that God is Creator of everything!*** There’s no such thing as evolution.

“...the LORD made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, **the LORD blessed the Sabbath Day and sanctified it**” (v 11).

In Lev. 23 and expansion on the Sabbath Day with the Feasts and Holy Days of God. That’s how God works! He first gives a very simple proposition, then He gives the main things that need to be done, and then He gives the details of other things under it, which are called *judgments, statutes and ordinances!* Amazing! That’s how God does everything!

Commandment #5; v 12: “**Honor your father and your mother....**”

Why? Because every single one of us have a perpetual scar right in the middle of our bodies, called the navel, to let us know that we came from our father and mother. *Honor father and mother!*

It’s difficult for children to do it, and it’s difficult for parents to train children, but this is necessary so that we understand that as adults life is also going to be difficult and we have to work at it.

Jesus said, ‘My Father works and I work!’ *There’s a lot of work that we need to do in honoring your father and mother:*

“...so that your days may be long upon the land...” (v 12). *Think about how many die because they don’t do that!*

Commandment #6; v 13: “**You shall not murder.**” *The King James say ‘kill,’ but that’s not correct!*

Commandment #7; v 14: “**You shall not commit adultery.**”

Those two things that happen the worst, and most of it is because they dishonor father and mother!

Commandment #8; v15: “**You shall not steal.**”

Commandment #9; v 16: “**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**”

Commandment #10; v 17: **You shall not covet** your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.” *Instead of all the people down there saying:*

Oh what a wonderful, awesome thing that this has been. We heard the voice of God, let’s all commit ourselves to always love God and keep His commandments.

Well, that’s not what happened, but that’s what should have happened. The carnal mind does not want to do the things of God.

Verse 18: “And all the people saw the

thunderings, and the lightnings, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. And when the people saw, they trembled and stood afar off. And **they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us...’** (vs 18-19).

Isn’t that something? *Always like to place someone else between you and God!* That’s the way human nature is!

“...**You speak with us** and we will hear. But let not God speak with us, lest we die” (v 19). **God said that He did that to prove them!**

Does God prove us with trials and difficulties? *Yes, indeed!* That certainly shows the things that are important. They sinned against God later:

- made a golden calf
- refused to go into the ‘promised land’
- were turned back and had to wander a total of 40 years in the wilderness *before* they came into the ‘promised land’

When they did come into the ‘promised land’ they were outside across the River Jordan and Jericho was on the other side and God performed another great miracle. What did He do? *He made the River Jordan stop and the water backed up like a big wall, and all the children of Israel walked across over to be on the other side!*

- there they kept the Passover
- there they had the Wave Sheaf Offering
- there they had the second circumcision
- there they conquered the land of God beginning with Jericho

That was an impossible thing! High walls, big and thick; so, God used **the impossible method!** He said:

All right, what you’re going to do is walk around the city once every day for six days. Then on the seventh day you’re going to walk around it, and when I give the word, everyone is to shout.

and all the walls fell in and they went in and took the spoil! Rahab the harlot and her family were the only ones saved because they treated the spies correctly. So, **God fought their battles for them! God helped them to conquer all the land!**

But after a while the people got a little tired of that, so they didn’t put all the people of the land out! So, God said:

Because *you didn’t obey My voice*, these are going to be a thorn in your flesh so that you will know that **you have to obey the Lord God.** *He will fight your battles for you IF you trust in*

Him! But **IF** you don’t, I’m not going to fight for you.

You can go through all the history of the judges—there were some good judges, there were some not so good judges—and they had various battles here and there, but eventually they conquered the land in seven years. They divided the land, they all had their inheritance as God intended them to have it. They came into the land, God prospered them.

Then God raised up, eventually, David to take the place of Saul. God gave all the plans to David for the temple so David’s son Solomon could build the temple. They had at that time *peace, all 12 tribes!*

Solomon was king over them and they had a great dedication of the temple. You can read the tremendous prayer that Solomon gave. God put His presence, reaffirming His presence, by having a cloud of His presence enter into the temple.

Then Solomon sinned! God had to take away the ten northern tribes. There was never a righteous king of the ten northern tribes until they went off into captivity in 703-701_{B.C.}

The tribe of Judah was left, along with Benjamin. Some of the kings were very righteous. One of the kings was Hezekiah, who was a righteous king. He was one who cleansed the temple from all the idolatry and they had a great Passover and great Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Let’s see the impossible miracle that God did to save Judah and Hezekiah from the Assyrians!

(go to the next track)

It was true, the king of Assyria had come and conquered every one of the nations that is listed here. He went into Egypt and took the spoil and he had a huge army, and they were carrying the spoil back to Assyria and they camped right on the border of Judea to capture it, to take Jerusalem. They sent the commander general to speak to the children of Judah who were sitting on the wall and the officials watching it. He came to them and told them all what the king of Assyria had done, and how he got all this treasure and everything.

Now, ‘if you surrender we’ll take you off as slaves, but you will live.’ And he told them not to listen to what Hezekiah will tell you about what God will do for you.

When Hezekiah received a letter, let’s see what happened:

Isaiah 37:14: “And Hezekiah received the letter from the courier’s hand, and read it. And Hezekiah went up *into* the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying” (vs 15-15).

Notice this prayer, because we’re going to learn a good lesson from Hezekiah out of all of this:

Verse 16: “O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, who dwells *between* the cherubim, You *are* God, You alone of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made the heavens and the earth. Bow down Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib which he has sent to mock the living God. Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the countries and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire, for they *were* no gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone; so they have destroyed them. And now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand...” (vs 16-20). *Good lesson; only God can save us!*

He can intervene in our lives now to save us from whatever circumstance we are in. The ultimate salvation is the resurrection from the dead! ***That is another impossible thing that God is going to do!***

Verse 20: “And now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that **You are the LORD, You alone.**”

Verse 21: “And Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, God of Israel, “Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria.”’”

Notice how effectual a fervent prayer is. At this time Hezekiah was a righteous man. So, he prayed to God.

Verse 22: “This *is* the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him [Sennacherib], ‘The virgin daughter of Zion has despised you *and* laughed you to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem has shaken *her* head at you. Whom have you mocked and blasphemed? And against Whom have you raised *your* voice and lifted up your eyes on high? Even against the Holy One of Israel. By your servants you have mocked the LORD and have said, “By my many chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars of it, *and* its choice fir trees; and I will go to its greatest height, the finest of its forests”’” (vs 22-24). *That’s looking at the nations and looking at Israel!*

Verse 25: “I have dug and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet I have dried up all the

streams of Egypt.’ Have you not heard from long ago *how* I made it? From ancient times, even *how* I have formed it? Now, I have brought it to pass *that* you should lay waste fortified cities *into* ruinous heaps” (vs 25-26). *That’s what the King of Assyria did!*

Here they are, all out there camping. Let’s see what God did.

- you talk about God fighting for you
- you talk about God intervening to help you
- you talk about trusting God

Look! One of the greatest blessing that can happen is when you come to the point that you know that you are helpless:

- you need God
- you need His intervention
- you need His mercy
- you need His healing
- you need His love

That’s a great blessing. ***That’s why we have afflictions!***

Here’s Hezekiah with this great army out there. What could the children of the Jews do?

Verse 33: “Therefore, thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, ‘He shall not come into this city nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it *with* shield, nor cast a bank against it.... [to come up over the walls] ...By the way that he came, by the same *way* he shall return, and shall not come into this city,’ says the LORD. “For I will defend this city to save it...” (vs 33-35).

Remember what God told the children of Israel: ***Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, for I will fight for you!***

In each case, they got to the point that there was nothing they could do. Everything was against them, but God intervened!

Verse 35: “For I will defend this city to save it, for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.”

Notice what God did, v 36: “Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of Assyria....”

There they are, going to sleep at night, going to get up in the morning and prepare for battle and go up and take the city of Jerusalem, and take all the treasures and get everything that there is and kill as many as they can. So, God sent the angel and they all died in their sleep, except the king and his chief officers.

“...And they rose early in the morning, and behold! They *were* all dead corpses” (v 36).

- Can God take care an army quickly?
- Can He fight against the enemy for us efficiently?
- Does He know how to do it? *Yes, He does!*

Now let's see what happened to Sennacherib; v 37: “And Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass as he was worshipping *in* the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons struck him with the sword. And they escaped *into* the land of Ararat; and Esar-haddon his son reigned in his place” (vs 37-38). *Killed by his own sons!*

God knows how to fight for us! When God has fought for us, we don't need to do like the children of Israel. What happened? *Three days afterward they complained to God because they didn't have any water!* So, they came to Marah where there was water, and the water was bitter, and they cried, ‘We're all going to die!’

What did God have Moses do? *Cut down a tree and throw it into the water and it made the water sweet!* They all had plenty of water. **God was able to take care of it!**

Now, when we come to Hezekiah, after this great miracle and this happened, what a great thing took place? *God told Hezekiah to set his house in order because you're going to die!*

Isaiah 38:2: “Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, and said, ‘Remember now, O LORD, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart, and have done *that which is* good in Your sight.’ And Hezekiah wept with a great weeping. Then came the Word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, ‘Go and say to Hezekiah, “Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, ‘I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, **I will add to your days fifteen years**”’” (vs 2-5).

Here's the lesson: ***When a blessing comes from God don't get lifted up in vanity!*** Here's what happened. All the treasure that all the soldiers had in the Assyrian army, the children of Judah went down and brought all of the expensive things—gold, silver, copper, and all the precious stones—and put them in the treasury house of God.

The king of Babylon heard of this mighty defeat of Assyria, because this was important, because Assyria was dominating Babylon at that time. The king of Babylon was just a vassal king.

Isaiah 39:1: “At that time Merodach-Baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, **sent letters and a present to Hezekiah**; for he had heard that he had been sick, and had recovered.”

The long and the short of it is that they came and flattered Hezekiah and he got lifted up in his vanity.

Lesson: ***After God has fought your battle for you, and you have won, don't get lifted up in vanity and do something stupid like Hezekiah!***

Hezekiah got lifted up, and they said, ‘Oh what a great thing that has happened. You must be the greatest king on earth. Now you're the richest king on earth. What did they bring you?’

Hezekiah said, ‘Come and see!’ He took them and showed them everything, all the wealth and all of the treasure and things that God had given as spoil.

Verse 3: “Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, ‘What did these men say? And where did they come from to you?’ And Hezekiah said, ‘They have come from a far country to me, from Babylon.’ Then he said, ‘What have they seen in your house?’ And Hezekiah answered, ‘All that *is* in my house they have seen; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them”’ (vs 3-4). *That was very stupid!*

Don't do anything stupid after God has fought a battle for you and you win, and then you get lifted up in your own vanity.

Verse 5: “Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, ‘Hear the Word of the LORD of hosts. “Behold, the days come when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon. **Nothing shall be left,**” says the LORD”’” (vs 5-6).

That happened in the days of King Nebuchadnezzar; *took it all!*

Verse 7: “And of your sons which shall issue from you, which you shall beget, they shall take away; and they shall be officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.” *We know that was fulfilled with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego!*

Notice Hezekiah's attitude. He didn't repent! After all God did for him, and after all he repented of and prayed and asked God to spare him from the Assyrians and the armies of 180,000, and got all the treasure, everything, and then did this stupid thing! Even after God added 15 years to his life, notice his bad attitude:

Verse 8: “Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah,

‘Good *is* the Word of the LORD which you have spoken.’ And he said, ‘For *at least* there shall be peace and truth in my days.’”

That was terrible! He turned to be so selfish that he didn’t even think about what’s going to happen after he dies. Could have been different. Think of the things that could have been different. And guess who took his place? *Manasseh!* One of the most evil kings of all, for 55 years! You know the rest of the story.

Let’s come to the New Testament and see what Jesus says to us. Remember that whenever God blesses you and fights a battle for you, be thankful, be humble, and don’t be all lifted up and in a bad attitude. That won’t work!

Jesus was explaining about marriage and what it should be, and that it’s difficult for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 19:23-24).

Matthew 19:25: “But after hearing this, the disciples were greatly astonished *and* said, ‘Who then is able to be saved?’ But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘**With men this is impossible...**’” (vs 25-26).

Think about that. There are many things that are impossible for men to do.

1. they can’t raise the dead
2. they can’t bless like God
3. they can’t fight the enemies like God can
4. it doesn’t matter who you are, and how much wealth you have, if you don’t humble yourself, you’re not going to be saved

“**...but with God all things are possible**” (v 26).
Think about that as you look at your life!

- look at the things that you have been doing
- look at your sins
- look at the leaven that has come into your life this past year

and during the Feast of Unleavened Bread you have been getting them out ***asking God:***

- to help you
- to strengthen you
- to make it possible for you to overcome

and He will! “**...With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**”

Matt. 17—here’s about praying. This is what is important. *This is why we need:*

- the Truth
- the love

- the Spirit of God
- the conviction of God

to believe what God has said, and to know that He is for us and that there is nothing that is going to hold us back from receiving ***eternal life!*** Here’s what Jesus said in casting out a demon:

Matthew 17:20: “And Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your unbelief...’”

When you don’t have the faith, what do you need to do? *You need to do like the man who pleaded with Jesus to cast the demon out of his son.* He said, ‘***Lord, help my unbelief!***’ In other words, ‘***Lord, give me belief to overcome my unbelief. God will do that! God wants us to believe!***’

“...For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a *tiny* mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, ‘Remove from here,’ and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you” (v 20).

Stop and think for just a minute. What would that accomplish by moving a mountain? *Well, it would move a lot of things!* But what is more difficult than moving mountains? ***Converting the mind!*** *Converting your thoughts is more difficult than moving a mountain!* Of course, all of it has to be according to God’s will.

Let’s see where we are many times in our life, because we have a lot of things to overcome, a lot of things to put aside, a lot of things to be forgiven. Yes, we do because we’re human beings.

After going through everything in Heb. 11—by faith... Everything that is listed of the patriarchs ***by faith they believed God*** in spite of the circumstances involved.

What did He do that was impossible? What He told Sarah. Nothing is impossible with God! Here she was 90-years-old to bear her son Isaac, as God said it would be. Abraham said it would be. He was strong in faith and He believed, and Sarah also believed. Did it happen? ***Yes! At the appointed time!*** Quite an amazing thing! That’s why Sarah laughed!

‘Do you think a woman 90-years-old is going to have a child and nurse a child?’ The Lord said, ‘Why did you laugh?’ She said, ‘I didn’t laugh.’ The Lord said to her, ‘Yes, you did. At this time next year you’re going to have a son.’ ***Impossible, but it happened!***

From Isaac that continue on from Abraham, and from Isaac onto Jacob, and then on down to the Christ. Did it all happen as God prophesied and said that it would? ***Yes!*** Every one of these things were by faith!

Hebrews 11:1: “Now, faith is *the* substance...” *Spirit is a substance, and:*

- we’re to have the faith of Christ; **that is a spiritual gift**
- we’re to have the love of God; **that is a spiritual gift**

“...of *things* hoped for... [if you already have it, you don’t hope for it any longer, you have it] ...**and the conviction** of things not seen” (v 1). *That’s something we all need to have more of:*

- conviction of the Truth of God
- conviction of the righteousness of God
- conviction and faith in what God has said that He is able to do

Verse 2: “For by this *kind of faith* the elders obtained a good report. By faith we understand that the worlds were created by *the* Word of God, so that the things that are seen were made from *things* that are invisible” (vs 2-3).

Then it goes through everyone: Abel, Enoch...

Verse 6: “Now, **without faith it is impossible to please God...**” It can’t be by what you think alone. **But it must be according to the Word of God, the Spirit of God and His promises!**

“...For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe that He exists...” (v 6). And everything that He has said in the Bible.

Why don’t you do this for a Bible study: look up every place where it talks about God:

- who He is
- what He’s done
- how He’s done it
- the way He has done it
- why He has done it

That will help you with your faith! Remember:

- **it’s impossible** for God to lie
- **it’s impossible** for us to believe God unless we have faith
- we know that He exists
- we know that He is there
- we know that He has called us
- we know that Christ came
- we know that He was raised from the dead
- we know that He’s at the right hand of God
- we know that He’s our High Priest
- we know that He’s there to intercede for us

“...and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently

seek Him” (v 6)—*not halfhearted!*

Remember, we’re living in a Laodicean age where there are so many things that people are satisfied with them, and have grown rich and they don’t know that they’re slipping away like Hezekiah did and do stupid things! That’s why Jesus says to the Laodiceans, ‘As many as I love I rebuke and chasten, **therefore, repent!**’ That’s what the Feast Unleavened Bread is all about for us.

Every year it comes so that we learn that it’s not going to be of ourselves; **it’s going to be of God!** It’s not going to how *we think* it’s going to be, **it’s going to be the way that God says it’s going to be!**

- we can believe God
- we can believe His promises
- we can trust in Him

Everything that He has said, He will do!

Heb. 12—here’s how we are to do it. We’re not to do like the children of Israel who when they came to the Red Sea, ‘Oh, how are we going to get across the Red Sea?’ **They got across, God made a way! God will make a way for you, whatever your circumstances are!**

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight...”

Everything that burdens you down. Don’t let it burden you down. Come to God, pray about it, overcome it and get it out of your life.

“...and **the sin that so easily entraps us...** [especially in this society with so many things of Satan the devil out there everywhere and in the air] ...**and let us run the race set before us with endurance**” (v 1).

- not stopping
- not giving up
- not getting discouraged

But being encouraged that God is always with us! He says in the Psalms, *I am with you in your troubles! He will help us out of them!* The final solution is the resurrection. **We all have to be faithful to the end!**

Verse 2: “**Having our minds fixed on Jesus...**”

That’s why we have the four Gospels; go through them again, study them again. He was the Lord God of the Old Testament, and He’s coming as King of kings and Lord of lords, **and we’re going to be part of that!**

“...the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith...” (v 2).

He began it by calling us. He’s going to finish it by helping us to overcome, change and be perfected to the end.

“...Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the Throne of God” (v 2). *Think about the contrast of that.*

- crucified and nailed to the stake
- dieing an ignominious death
- raised from the dead
- ascended during Unleavened Bread to the Throne of God
- victorious over everything

That’s going to apply to us! Think about that

Verse 3: “Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself **so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds.**” *Don’t do that! That’s why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread.*

Verse 4: “**You have not yet resisted to the point of losing blood in your struggle against sin.**” *Isn’t that true?*

- let’s see what it is for us
- let’s see how it works

Think about everything in your life that takes place is going to happen for a purpose. All of those things are going to be so that we can:

- learn different lessons
- learn love and obedience
- understand that God is working in our lives
- realize that we cannot save ourselves, or work it out ourselves

If you’ve got trouble, don’t say you’ll pray when you have it solved! NO! You’re not going to get it solved until you pray first!

Rom. 8:28—regardless of what the difficulties are, this we need to know. This gives us the hope and assurance, and having our mind fixed on Christ.

Romans 8:28: “And we know that **all things...** [everything that occurs to us] **...work together for good to those who love God...** [with all your heart, mind, soul and being] **...to those who are called according to His purpose...** [which we have been] ...because those whom He did foreknow He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His own Son... [greater things ahead] **...that He**

might be the Firstborn among many brethren” (vs 28-29).

We can hardly wait to understand more about Pentecost and the resurrection, and what a time that’s going to be!

Here’s a guarantee if you keep walking the way that God wants, keep trusting in God in the things that He has said. You believe in God and His promises, not doubting. And continue running the race you’re running with endurance.

Verse 30: “Now, whom He predestinated, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

The only glory we have now is the receiving of the Holy Spirit with the promise, the earnest of the full spiritual promise that comes at the resurrection.

Verse 31: “What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us... [which He always is for us] ...who *can be* against us?”

- no one
- no thing
- no man
- no circumstance
- nothing that is in this life

Verse 32: “He Who did not spare even His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also grant us all things together with Him?” *He’s going to grant it to us!*

Verse 33: “Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God? God *is the One* Who justifies. Who *is* the one that condemns? *It is* Christ Who died, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us” (vs 33-34).

Think about all of this for *you!* Everyone of us, each and every one whom God has called! Notice that if you have this belief, this hope, this conviction:

Verse 35: “**What shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?”

All of those things we may have to face. All of those thing brethren in the past *faced*. They took it in stride and in praise to God. Many of those who were carried off to be burned at the stake, killed and tortured by the Roman Catholic Church, against all of the churches in the Piedmonts in Northern Italy.

When they carried them off, they were singing hymns to God, forgiving those who were killing them, burning them at the stake. *Think about that!* If you think that you have had troubles, you need to get on your knees and thank God that you're not going through that now, so that you can have strength and hope to face the things that you're looking at right now. We haven't had to face those things!

Verse 36: "Accordingly, it is written, 'For Your sake we are killed all the day long; we are reckoned as sheep for the slaughter.'" *Another martyrdom is coming again in the future!*

Verse 37: "But **in all these things...** [everything listed here] ...we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us"—*because those things can never defeat God!*

- it's impossible to defeat God
- it's impossible to defeat His purpose
- His Word is true
- He says that we will be raised from the dead
- He says that we will receive eternal life

That will happen!

Verse 38: "For I am persuaded... [this is the conviction and persuasion that we need to have]: that **neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing,** shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 38-39).

God will do the impossible! He has proved it time and time again! This is why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread, so we can:

- trust in God
- look to His help
- look to His salvation
- believe His promises
- believe His Word

We know that we can love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and being!

This is the meaning of the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:6-8
- 2) Psalm 148:1-5
- 3) Psalm 146:5
- 4) Exodus 14:8-16

- 5) Exodus 19:3-6, 8
- 6) Exodus 20:2-19
- 7) Isaiah 37:14-26, 33-38
- 8) Isaiah 38:2-5
- 9) Isaiah 39:1-8
- 10) Matthew 19:25-26
- 11) Matthew 17:20
- 12) Hebrews 11:1-3, 6
- 13) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 14) Romans 8:28-39

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 14-16
- Matthew 19:23-24

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