

THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

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Date in Hebrew Calendar: 15th-21st of Nisan (March-April)
Scriptural references: Exodus 12:15-20, 39; Leviticus 23:6-8; Deut 16:3;
Luke 22:7; Acts 20:6; 1Cor 5:7-8.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorates the fact that when the Israelites were finally freed from bondage in Egypt, they had to flee so quickly that there was no time to let their bread rise. They had to take unleavened bread.

This feast was celebrated in New Testament times as well as today. No doubt it was the unleavened bread of this feast that Yeshua (Jesus) broke with His disciples at the last supper, telling them it was His body, and that they should continue to break it together in remembrance of Him.

Today Jewish families all over the world eat only unleavened bread during Passover and the 7 days of this feast. During the days before Passover, their homes are scoured to remove any trace of leaven so as not to cause defilement during the feast-perhaps the original "spring cleaning."

The unleavened bread, or "Matzah," used during this feast, is perced and stripped-a perfect symbol of Yeshua on the tree. Leaven is often used as a symbol for sin in the scriptures, so its removal from the home was a symbol of purification from sin, exactly what Yeshua came to accomplish in the lives of His followers.