

Feast of Unleavened Bread

Is to be kept in all our generations!

Exodus 13:7 “*Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.*” Removing leaven out of your homes is a physical and spiritual learning experience of how we are to heed the commandments and remove sin from ourselves and among the congregation. To the point where no wickedness is found in any of our *quarters*. The people in the world are not like us, they do not care about the sins they commit. **Hosea 7:3** “*They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.*” **Verse 4:** “*They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.*” Christ said; **Mark 8:15** “*And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees [a wicked hypocrite Israelite sect that taught false doctrines], and of the leaven of Herod [political leaders].*” Paul said through Christ; **1st Corinthians 5:8** “*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*” Christ and Paul were not first in teaching Israel with the example of leaven, as we can see in Hosea. Other prophets made this spiritual analogy to give Israel understanding of their sin. But what is leaven?

Definition: There are two Hebrew words for leaven; pronounced in modern Hebrew as Chametz (חמץ). The next word is pronounced in the modern Hebrew as Seor (שאר). The definition provided by the Hebrew dictionary states for Seor, fermentation, leaven. The definition for Chametz is to be leavened, to be sour. That wasn't much of a definition, yet they have an interesting one which says: *to be embittered, grieved, to be cruel, oppress, be ruthless.* That really sums up Herod, the Pharisees, and those that commit fornication or teach heresies (false doctrines and lies). A plain definition was actually provided by the prophet Hosea, which said that it is what causes bread to go from flat to “*raising*”. There are three types of way to make bread rise (leaven): mechanical, biological, and chemical. All leaven must be remove from our homes along with the corruption.

Mechanical: Is caused by “*kneaded the dough, until it be leavened*”. To make unleavened bread you need a few main ingredients; flour which comes from any type of grains such as wheat. Or instead of using flour you could use meal, such as corn meal. The next main ingredients are salt, oil (olive preferably), and water. **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 39:26** “*The principal things for the whole use of man's life are water, fire, iron, and salt, flour of wheat, honey, milk, and the blood of the grape, and oil, and clothing.*” See also, **Leviticus 2:4,11,13**. To mechanically leaven additional ingredients are included to knead the dough until it starts forming bubbles (airy). If you stick to the main ingredients it is difficult for it to leaven. Mix the ingredients by hand and put it to bake. An example of mechanical leavening would be if you add eggs to the mixture, beaten eggs will foam and make the bread fluffy. This leavening is caused by the kneading.

Biological: This is the form that the ancients used mostly to leaven their breads. By using yeast which is a living organism. Today you could actually buy yeast as a leavening ingredient. In ancient times they made their breads sour, so it would ferment and cause yeast to be in it. Sourdough was known as natural leaven, because ingredients like milk, beer, yogurt, vinegar, etc. would be put in the bread to make it sour, thus causing it to become leaven because of the natural yeast. This is why yeast is one of the main ingredients searched for in the feast of unleavened bread. The process of fermentation is basically letting something become corrupted/bad. Imaging letting grape juice ferment, it will become vinegar or wine. **Numbers 6:3** “*He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.*” We know some (Kosher for Passover) wine is permitted to be drunk since Christ drank it on the Passover. See, **Matthews 26:19-29**. Beware of malted flours it helps feed the yeast during fermentation.

Chemical: **Matthews 13:33** “*Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*” The phrase “*Rise Israel*” is not a new one; this parable shows that Christ desired for Israel to rise like leavened bread. Yet this scripture is instrumental in learning that leaven was something added to meal or flour. Today you have many products that could be added to the dough and it will effortlessly cause the bread to rise. When buying you will notice the label simply says leaven and in parenthesis the ingredients that caused it to leaven. To give you an example it would be like this: *leaven (sodium bicarbonate, aluminum pyrophosphate)*. Sometimes it's hard to remember these big words therefore we recommend to stay away from any bread (cookies, cakes, and anything made with flour) that was not prepared for Passover. Here we will provide a small list of some of the well known chemical leavenings: Baking Soda (sodium bicarbonate), baking powder, yeast, bakers ammonia, sour dough, potassium bicarbonate, calcium bicarbonate, tartar, etc...