

Lesson No. 134 – The Reason For The Season, Part One – Taking Inventory

Hosted by Donald Crowell
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There are three weeks until the beginning of the year, as commanded by YAHWEH of ELOHIM. There are five weeks before the Passover, as commanded by YAHWEH of ELOHIM. As further commanded to those “called-out” to the “knowledge of the truth”, the preparation season is upon us. In our last lesson, as we discussed The Curse of Modernity’s Christians, we acknowledged how certain Christians proudly express many beliefs that have absolutely no Biblical foundation.

Years ago, because I was an advocate of the fact that the Bible only sanctions the observance of the Passover, and not Easter, a so-called minister ask me, why do I think I was so right when the teachings of Easter, Sunday worship and Christmas, have been around for over a thousand years. How can so many be so wrong and I be so right? That was a fair question then, and it is also a fair question today. You see, this minister and so many others do not believe in the Sabbaths of YAHWEH of ELOHIM. Like most down through the time of modernity, they believe that the European interpretations of scripture are accurate. Now, I guess I could read to anyone that asks such a question about me being in the minority the following:

- Mat 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Mat 7:13 **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:** Mat 7:14 Because **strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

One of the facts that many so-called Bible professors do not understand is that the New Covenant is a two-stage process. Most will not attain the knowledge of the truth during the first stage, which is one reason YESHUA said “few there be that find it”. I.e., this strait gate that leads unto life will be found by the few, rather than the many. I could also follow that up with this. And while I am only going to read Mathew 22:14, I want us to consider the verses leading up to it.

- Mat 22:14 **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

Now, twice YESHUA the CHRIST has stated by HIS own mouth that is the “few” that are chosen and shall enter into life. So, I think CHRIST has answered the minister’s question for me.

Now, these verses in the 22nd chapter of Mathew describe the three ages of invitations to the marriage supper of the Lamb. In verse 2 we see the invitation to the Children of Yisrael (COY) by the prophets, which was rejected by the overwhelming majority of the COY. Again, so much for the many versus the few. In verses 4-6 other servants were sent to the COY. These servants were the disciples. They were not only rejected but treated spitefully, and in some cases killed. In verse 7 ELOHIM was enraged and sent forth HIS armies (the Roman Empire) to destroy the invitees’ chief city, Yerushalem, in 70AD and 135AD. In verses 9-10, the invitations were given to others throughout the highways, which are the nations of the world.

Then we get to verses 11-13 describing one who accepted the invitation and yet came to the wedding in an unworthy manner, not properly attired. He was cast into the outer darkness. And this is the foundation upon which YESHUA said, “many are called (invited) but few are chosen” in verse 14. This is how I could have responded to the minister and others.

Now verses 11-12 represent a concept that we may sometimes overlook. Let’s read it.

- Mat 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: Mat 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, **how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?** And he was speechless.

Here we have someone who apparently accepted the invitation to the marriage supper and arrived at the supper improperly attired. A garment is a type of covering. As such, verses 13 and 15 inform us this person was not allowed into the supper. He was not covered. You see, only those chosen will be allowed into the marriage supper of the Lamb. Earlier, CHRIST spoke in even stronger language about the many versus the few.

- Mat 7:21 **Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** Mat 7:22 **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?** Mat 7:23 **And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

This is a most powerful testimony about following the majority. When the day HE refers to as “in that day” arrives, many will make a claim of haven performed what they believe to be righteous acts in the name of YESHUA. However, HE clearly states that HE will tell them HE never knew them. Why? Because they did not do the will of HIS FATHER. In the 17th chapter of John (Yochanan) CHRIST said HE spoke the FATHER’s words while HE sojourned on the earth. Too many are taught in modernity to not heed ALL of HIS words. As such, they are like this uncovered one improperly clothed for the wedding supper. Perhaps these persons were chosen, and yet failed to understand the following scripture.

- Mat 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but **he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**

- Mat 24:13 But **he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

CHRIST said these important words twice to HIS disciples. And later, arguably HIS most favorite disciple wrote these words to others who have been likewise called and chosen to a belief in YESHUA HAMASHIAC.

- 1Pe 1:13 Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**
- 1Pe 1:15 But **as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;** 1Pe 1:16 **Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

Knowing this, if we have made “our calling and elections sure” and began receiving the knowledge of the truth, these words are our warning so that we will not show up at the marriage supper improperly clothed. Those many who will be commanded to depart from CHRIST “in that day” did not discern the holy from the profane.

We live in this time of modernity under the Biblical institution of the New Covenant. Those called during this Covenant accept their invitations by first repenting of these sins they now are very cognizant of, and then being baptized by water into and in the name of YESHUA. They are then taught more about the plan of salvation ELOHIM has designed metaphorically through HIS appointed times given to HIS only called-out nation, the COY.

For those who have accepted and committed to this calling, it means very little to them individually that there have been others who have accepted doctrines that are simply Biblically and historically easily determined to be false. They have now acknowledged a very important aspect of this plan of salvation to be the beginning of ELOHIM’s year.

Soon, those who accepted ELOHIM's invitation, HIS calling, will once again partake in the first of ELOHIM's annually appointed times, the Passover. ELOHIM's Comforter has led these to understand that YAHWEH's Passover has now transitioned to YESHUA's Passover under the New Covenant. As we prepare to once again to partake in YESHUA's Passover, it is appropriate that we also concentrate on our final preparations as we approach this most important of all the appointed times by once again discussing Lesson No. 134 – The Reason For The Season, Part One – Taking Inventory.

A most important protocol we have learned in the past is that the King, YESHUA is law. We know that several Biblical doctrines have been clouded by the traditions of man. Our constant theme is for each of us to accept the WORD of ELOHIM and not the word of man. We now know that upon our acceptance of ELOHIM's invitation, we are now under contract to enter into our spiritual training camp. Our growth in ELOHIM's plan of salvation is the reason for our training camp. Unlike the training camps of sports teams and the like, this camp, will exist for “called-out ones” throughout the remainder of their lives in their physical tabernacles.

However, there is a very similar process that exists with the training camps of both athletic teams and called-out ones. Each year, prior to their training camps, members of sports teams must undergo physical examinations to ensure they are in the proper shape to participate in the training camps. Likewise, at the beginning of each year, ELOHIM has provided an eight-day period of spiritual examinations to further enhance the called-out ones' ability to attain the goal of his or her' spiritual lives in these physical tabernacles, which is to endure until the end.

This period of spiritual examinations begins each year as we approach YAHWEH's supper, or, YESHUA's Passover.

The following scriptures by the Apostle Paul are generally read during the Passover observance.

- 1Co 11:17 Now in this that I declare *unto you* I praise *you* not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. 1Co 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, **I hear that there be divisions among you**; and I partly believe it. 1Co 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Since the last time this lesson was presented, we have continually grown in our recognizing the non-Biblical origins of disagreements amongst “called-out ones”. One of the very important features we continue to understand about ELOHIM’s WORD is the concept of context. If we only read the previous verses, we might conclude that the Apostle here is talking about weekly Sabbath observances in which these divisions amongst the brethren have manifested themselves. As we continue, the true context is given.

- 1Co 11:20 **When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.** 1Co 11:21 For in eating every one taketh before *other* his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

In verse 20, the Apostle begins to shed light on the context of his writing. We will see that pride and vanity had become an issue over food that was eaten when they had come together for the LORD’s supper. The Apostle said of this mentality, “this is not to eat the Lord’s supper”.

- 1Co 11:22 What? **have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?** or **despise ye the church of God**, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise *you* not.

The supper had become selfish and left some hungry and some intoxicated. YAHWEH’s Supper had become to them more about the physical food than the spiritual food. This is not what YAHWEH intended it to be. Then the Apostle makes it plain the context of his rebuke of their selfishness.

- 1Co 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That **the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 1Co 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 1Co 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

Now, we are given the true context of what the circumstances were in which they had come together. They had come together to eat YAHWEH's supper, yet without the appropriate mindset of the purpose of the observance. This observance was and continues to be ALL about YESHUA's death. Sadly, so many have been deceived into believing that these verses refer to what is commonly called communion services, typically on the first Sunday of each month. Unfortunately, these do not realize how exacting ELOHIM's plan is. We know that YESHUA is the Passover and died exactly on the Passover, and as such, we know this is the context of these words by the Apostle. Many have been blinded to this most relevant fact.

- 1Co 11:27 **Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 1Co 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

The Apostle continues in his rebuke of how they had begun to make a sham of YAHWEH's supper. At the same time, he gives proper instructions for those of us in modernity about the proper way to observe YESHUA's Passover. As these words are typically read during the Passover ceremony, verses 27 thru 29 require that "called-out ones" must be properly prepared prior to their coming together to eat the bread and drink of the cup.

The professional athlete knows that prior to taking the physical exam each year to ensure they are prepared for the training camps; they must exercise and prepare their bodies so that they will be permitted to even participate in training camp. Likewise, “called-out ones”, prior to the eating and drinking of the bread and the cup, must mentally prepare themselves to be worthy of their participation in YESHUA’s Passover and continuing in the grace by which they have been chosen.

- 1Co 11:30 For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

Remember, the training camp for “called-out ones” is an eight-day process. In verse 30 the Apostle warns us that it is because of the unworthy preparation and participation in the bread and the cup, many become weak and sick. In addition, this applies to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. If we don’t come together in a worthy manner for YESHUA’s Passover, our observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread just might be in vain. So, the Apostle provides guidance to the issue facing the “called-out ones” at Corinth, specifically, and to those who were to follow in modernity.

- 1Co 11:31 For **if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.** 1Co 11:32 **But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.**

If we properly prepare ourselves, we judge ourselves, so that we reduce the need to be judged by others. If the need exists for us to be judged, we incur the chastening from above, which serves to get us back on track.

- 1Co 11:33 Wherefore, my brethren, **when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.** 1Co 11:34 And **if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation.** And the rest will I set in order when I come.

Now these last two verses speak to the subject of conversations we have had regarding having some food available at Passover. Keep the Apostle's words here in mind as we read the next set of scriptures.

- Mat 26:17 **Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus**, saying unto him, **Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?**
- Mat 26:26 And **as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.**

Now, recognize that this was an actual supper that was eaten each Passover. It was during this supper, YAHWEH's supper, that YESHUA began the New Covenant Passover protocol for the bread and the wine as symbols of not only HIS broken body and blood, but also of the New Covenant supper the Apostle Paul is now teaching to all "called-out ones". Luke recorded this about the cup.

- Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood**, which is shed for you.

Many of us are totally aware that the New Covenant brought about several important changes to the Passover requirements. Yet, we see that there was a supper component that had continued to be a part of the Passover observance, which is why the Apostle Paul called it YAHWEH's Supper. And, in 1Corinthians 11:34, he said if someone is hungry, they should eat at home. This is why in verse 33, the Apostle instructed that when we come together to eat the Passover supper, we must "tarry one for another". I.e., we wait for those who needed to go home to eat a meal. Why, because this is both how important this is, and, this is the spiritual humility we should be willing to exhibit when we come together to eat YAHWEH's supper.

It is possible that as the “called-out ones” grow in number, physical food can become an adversary for strife, jealousy and selfishness on this day in which the total concentration should be on YESHUA’s body and blood. As such, the Apostle did not condemn the need of a supper for hunger. Yet, he advised that this hunger should be satisfied at one’s home, and not at the gathering for YAHWEH’s supper. What he did was admonish us not to come to the observance with physical hunger on our minds.

Now, as we are in preparation mode for YESHUA’s Passover observance, let’s be clear on the fact that there was a preparation in practice during Biblical times as the New Covenant was being implemented.

- Joh 11:55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and **many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.**

We read that as the Passover approached, many went up to Yerushalem prior to the Passover to purify themselves. These verses make us wonder how traditional Christians have missed the fact that during CHRIST’s ministry, the Passover remained prominent. We do not know how long they took to purify themselves.

- Joh 12:1 Then **Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany,** where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

This lets us know that this purification occurred at least six days prior to the Passover. So then, even prior to YESHUA’s Passover being implemented, there was some concept of preparation taking place prior to the Passover. Those who partook felt a need to first be purified. Now, as we continue to grow in our understanding of YESHUA’s Passover, we are learning of an even greater need for preparing ourselves before we participate in the YESHUA’s Passover.

We need to be clear on a major consideration. Those that purified themselves for the Old Covenant Passover were not confronted by the variety of vices “called-out ones” must face, particularly in modernity. In modernity, there exists a false Christianity that surrounds modernity’s “called-out ones”.

Let’s begin to look at some of the various requirements that aid in our preparations. Earlier we read Mathew 26:17. I want to reread it because it informs us of more of ELOHIM’s intents as HE structured HIS plan given to the COY.

- Mat 26:17 Now the first *day* of the *feast of unleavened bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

“Called-out ones” know that the Passover is on the 14th day of the month of Nissan or Abib, while the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th day and continues for seven days. The disciples asked YESHUA about eating the Passover on what is said to be the first day of Unleavened Bread. This might be a point of confusion to many. However, we know that the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, though they are two separate appointed times, represent one continuous festival in ELOHIM’s eyes. Their purpose is for the self-examination, preparation, requalification and training of those “called-out” during this age. As such, the two appointed times go hand in hand.

With that let’s travel back to the beginning.

- Lev 23:4 **These are the feasts of the LORD**, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. Lev 23:5 **In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.** Lev 23:6 And **on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD:** seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

- Lev 23:7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Lev 23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

So here we read of the basic commandments given by YAHWEH. We all wonder in amazement that many of our loved ones who profess CHRIST believe that these are Jewish holidays, rather than the appointed times of YAHWEH. Likewise, I wonder how even in modernity, some who observe the Passover do not fully accept the following verses.

- Exo 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: Exo 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. Exo 12:7 And **they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.** Exo 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. Exo 12:9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast *with* fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. Exo 12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: *it is* the LORD'S passover.

YAHWEH gives the COY further instructions on how to begin to observe this eight-day festival under the Old Covevant. We know about the blood on the doorposts. However, notice in verse 8 they were to eat unleavened bread with the roasted lamb on this night. And verse 11 informs us this is YAHWEH'S PASSOVER! It is YAHWEH'S SUPPER!

- Exo 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; **even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses**: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. Exo 12:16 And in the first day *there shall be* an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save *that* which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. Exo 12:17 And ye shall observe *the feast of* unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever. Exo 12:18 In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Here not only is where many are being misled, and in so being, are not properly instructed as to the required preparation needed for the entire eight-day period. They are being taught that one need only put unleavened bread out of your homes. Verse 15 begs to differ and for a very good reason.

- Exo 12:19 Seven days **shall there be no leaven found in your houses**: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. Exo 12:20 Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.

What did we just read? On the 14th day of the new year is YAHWEH's Passover where the roasted lamb is eaten with unleavened bread. And then, verse 15 says, "even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses". Verse 19 says that for the next seven days following the Passover, "there shall be no leaven found in your homes". This commandment regarding the leaven is repeated twice in verses 15 and 19 so that there should be NO DOUBT as to YAHWEH's instructions to us.

As we consider how we should prepare for this season, these verses are instrumental to our preparation in modernity. They are actually providing the basis for the reason for this season. It is a season of cleansing.

Now, here is the first stage of what should be our preparation for the eight-day festival. In order for us to ensure that our homes are clear of any leaven, we must begin the cleansing process well before the festival arrives. How do we do this?

We must first take inventory of all forms of physical leaven that exists in our houses. This is the physical cleanup required to be prepared for the entire eight-day festival. We then partake of YAHWEH's supper. And then, just as the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins, according to YAHWEH's clear instructions, we put away all the leaven we have found out of our houses. And then we are ready to take part in the commanded holy convocation, the training camp. Our houses have now been physically cleansed of all forms of leaven.

I do recognize that for some, the requirement to physically remove all leaven from our homes becomes somewhat complicated if our spouses are unequally yoked in this knowledge and understanding. Prayerfully, YESHUA's Comforter has or will lead you to a level of grace in which you are able to find the necessary compromise that will result in the required cleansing. After all, it is only for seven days.

Now, in this era of the New Covenant, we must also recognize the duality of scripture. ELOHIM has provided physical protocols that typify spiritual protocols. For example, we all know that the blood and the roasted lamb at YAHWEH's Passover are types of YESHUA's body in the New Covenant.

The Apostles were given the clarity that we are graced with under the New Covenant to further grasp the concept of ELOHIM's duality.

- 1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 1Co 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. 1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, 1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus CHRIST, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus CHRIST, 1Co 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 1Co 5:6 **Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

Here, the Apostle Paul instructs us as to what this principle of duality stands for as it relates to the leaven. He was warning the Corinthians that there was sin in their midst and how that like the leaven put in bread, it grows. Spiritually, this growth can and will affect each of us as well as our other Brothers and Sisters, if allowed to remain in our midst. YESHUA had already warned HIS disciples about this principle.

- Mat 16:5 And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Mat 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Mat 16:7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread. Mat 16:8 *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Mat 16:9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Mat 16:10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Mat 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

- Mat 16:12 **Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

YESHUA reminded them how HE fed the masses with only five loaves of bread. HE then warned them that the opposite parallel to that, was the growth of the doctrines of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

- Mat 15:8 **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.** Mat 15:9 But **in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**

These doctrines, pictured as leaven, were the doctrines and commandments of men and not YAHWEH. And so, YAHWEH's commandments regarding the eight-day festival of Unleavened bread is for the believer to begin a clean-up process prior to the Passover that physically consists of a necessary inventory of leaven in our homes to be removed on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Likewise, this commandment for a physical inventory of leaven, also requires the believer to perform, as the Apostle said to the Corinthians, the self-judgement needed to clean up their own spiritual leaven prior to YESHUA's Passover. This is the spiritual inventory required to partake in YESHUA's Passover.

The goal is for "called-out ones" to continue to grow so that they appear each year before ELOHIM at YESHUA's Passover as unleavened servants. It cannot be simply about the bread; it is all about the leaven.

You see, unleavened bread is a finished product. We are not a finished product until we are totally cleansed.

Once recleaned by YESHUA's Passover, at the beginning of each year, the called-out ones are now ready to appear before ELOHIM at the first commanded holy convocation of the year, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. When we attend the Feast, all leaven must be removed; from our physical homes, and from our created souls.

Now let's see another major change in Covenants that has spiritual impact before the Passover, as ELOHIM's WORD transitioned from the physical to the spiritual cleansing.

- Jos 5:1 And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which *were* on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which *were* by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them anymore, because of the children of Israel. Jos 5:2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. Jos 5:3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

We see here that YAHWEH commanded Joshua to circumcise the COY a second time.

- Jos 5:4 And **this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise**: All the people that came out of Egypt, *that were* males, *even* all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. Jos 5:5 Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people *that were* born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, *them* they had not circumcised.

- Jos 5:6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *that were* men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD swore that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. Jos 5:7 And their children, *whom* he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. Jos 5:8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. Jos 5:9 And **the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.** Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.

Why was it necessary that the reproach of Egypt be removed by circumcision that day?

- Jos 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and **kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even** in the plains of Jericho.

Let's remember something.

- Exo 12:43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, **This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: Exo 12:44 But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.** Exo 12:45 A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof. Exo 12:46 In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof. Exo 12:47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

- Exo 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, **let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.**

This was the Old Covenant requirement for Passover observance. We all know that with the New Covenant, this was changed for several reasons. 1) This requirement was weak in that the women only had to rely upon their husband's or father's obedience. 2) The Passover lamb pointed to YESHUA shed blood, which once shed, invalidated the need for any other form of physical and/or blood sacrifice. 3) The New Covenant brought with it a clearer context of spiritual cleansing through self-examination and water baptism for both the man and the woman.

Consider the contrasts with the Old Covenant protocols to those of the New Covenant. The New Covenant is all about the purging of the believer mentally and the total acceptance and reliance on the cleansing blood of YESHUA.

Remember, the COY were baptized unto Moses through the Red Sea as a nation, not as individuals. Under the New Covenant, we each are responsible for ourselves. This is why the Apostle was led to write the following:

- Php 2:5 **Let this mind be in you, which was also in CHRIST Jesus:** Php 2:6 **Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:** Php 2:7 **But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:** Php 2:8 **And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** Php 2:9 **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:** Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

- Php 2:11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus CHRIST is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Php 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, **as ye have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**.

How do we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling? It begins with the calling from above and our learning the errors of our ways. It continues as we grow in our understanding of the requirements ELOHIM has established. Eventually, as we grow in our faith and confidence in ELOHIM's WORD, we recognize a need to be baptized into YESHUA. And, once we do this, we begin to partake in YESHUA's Passover. This is the basis behind YESHUA's last commandments to HIS disciples on the Passover.

- Joh 13:9 **Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head**. Joh 13:10 **Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean**, but not all.

We know that YESHUA did this prior to HIS instituting the bread and wine as the New Covenant Passover protocols. Circumcision was no longer to be the requirement. The requirement for participation in YESHUA's Passover was transitioning to that of water baptism into YESHUA. Through baptism the New Covenant "called-out one" is made clean. Yet, our walk in our individual wildernesses encounter various forms of leaven that must be removed each year in order to remain clean. The Apostle Paul's words to the Philippians further instruct us in the required mindset as we prepare for YESHUA's Passover.

As we run our individual races, our preparation must include an indebted review of our own vanity. The Apostle Paul further told those at Philippi the following.

- Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. Php 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: Php 2:15 **That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God**, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of CHRIST, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

YESHUA was willing to take a step backwards and humble HIMSELF as a man and be obedient unto death. Likewise, our preparation for this season is for each of us to take a self-study, a self-examination, an inventory of our internal leaven before we are worthy to take the bread and the wine, which represent YESHUA's Passover. This leads to our being blameless and interesting enough, harmless. Consider who we could be harmless to. Remember the man with the Corinthians. Had he remained in their midst, his leaven could have leavened the whole lump.

This is why the Apostle Paul was led to further instruct us as follows.

- 1Co 5:7 **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:** 1Co 5:8 Therefore **let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Just as we tossed out the physical leaven on the first day of the Feast, we toss out our old leaven, our false doctrines, our wicked thoughts, our fleshly desires, before we keep the Feast, so that we are keeping it with the “unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”.

You see, when we come before ELOHIM to take the Passover, even though we have taken an inventory of our own dirt, the inventory itself does not make us clean. It only prepares us.

- Rev 1:5 And from Jesus CHRIST, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. **Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

This is what happens each year with YESHUA's Passover. We once again become washed from our sins by HIS blood. If we partake of HIS Passover in the correct state of conscientiousness, we recognize the grace that is poured out upon us at that time. We are now commanded to symbolically throw out that which we have been cleansed of at the beginning of the first day of Unleavened Bread, so that we all come together for a holy convocation no longer with any malice or wickedness. We are then walking as new lumps.

This entire process requires a continuous growth in a very important element that can make us or break us during this season. YESHUA spoke about this mentality.

- Mat 18:1 At the same time came **the disciples unto Jesus,** saying, **Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?** Mat 18:2 And **Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,** Mat 18:3 And said, Verily **I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.** Mat 18:4 **Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven**

Talk about breaking it down and destroying the egos. These words describe the required mentality for entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. The improperly dressed person possibly didn't understand this, even after having accepted the wedding invitation.

Everyone who accepts this invitation must master the mentality of humbleness, or humility, during this training camp. The process consists of conversion (acceptance, repentance and baptism into CHRIST) and then becoming as little children.

You see, the true essence of the process, which is our training camp, is to learn how to become as little children unto ELOHIM through CHRIST. A little later YESHUA sort of repeated this theme.

- Mat 23:10 **Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even CHRIST.** Mat 23:11 **But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.** Mat 23:12 **And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

If we can see what HE is telling HIS followers here, it obviously takes a person willing to humble his or herself to fully comprehend this basic requirement of the New Covenant. Remember the following.

- Joh 14:6 **Jesus saith** unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

If our training camp is successful, we come to realize that our understanding of ELOHIM's WORD must be based on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. We know that the bridge to both the apostles and prophets is YESHUA HIMSELF, the chief cornerstone.

ELOHIM created HIS guidelines to be rehearsed, to be practiced, over and over, until we have endured until the end. Through all the hours of preparation, the key ingredient needed for perseverance is our ability to be humble. Each year, we are given the opportunity to begin ELOHIM's year by appearing before HIM to acknowledge the greatest gift given in all of HIS creation, HIS SON, for our pathetic and sinful lives. HIS expectation of each of us is that we follow the instructions given to us by YESHUA and HIS apostles as we come before HIM. How do we do this?

Notice how the context of the following scriptures relate to our preparation for YESHUA's Passover.

- 1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of CHRIST, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 1Pe 5:2 **Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;** 1Pe 5:3 **Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.** 1Pe 5:4 And **when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**

The Apostle Peter begins this dialogue by giving instructions to the elders of the “called-out ones” to lead by example. Their mission is to feed the flock. Remember how an elder once challenged me to “stick with the trunk”. He was doing his commission. Verse 2 admonishes them to do so willingly, not through being compelled, not for the purpose of dishonest gain, and as verse 3 states, not being masters over others.

- 1Pe 5:5 Likewise, **ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.** Yea, **all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.** 1Pe 5:6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,** that he may exalt you in due time: 1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

We are to submit to our elders, yet not blindly. Then, we are to be “subject to one another, and be clothed with humility”. He reminds us how ELOHIM has a very strong distaste for the proud, yet while giving favor to the humble. Then the Apostle gives what could be understood to be the theme of YESHUA’s Passover. “Humble ourselves under the mighty hand of ELOHIM, so that HE may exalt you in due time”. We do this by casting all our cares upon HIM.

- 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- 1Pe 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

What we must completely understand is that we do ourselves a true disservice when we don't recognize that the way the Apostle is telling us to be sober and vigilant in the face of the adversary who seeks to devour us, is to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of ELOHIM.

One of the great lessons of each Passover is to learn how to grow in our passion of being subject to one another, constantly upgrading our clothing of humility. 1Peter 5:1-11 presents the called-out ones with perhaps their greatest challenge for the beginning of the new year, how we should be properly clothed, and the reason for why these directions are so important. ELOHIM knew we would need help in order to be properly clothed when the Shepherd, YESHUA, appears.

- 1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by CHRIST Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. 1Pe 5:11 To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Our mindsets must not be that we simply show up to YAHWEH's Supper and think we are in compliance. Remember the one that showed up to the marriage in the improper attire. Could it be that he missed the memo in verse 5? He perhaps never learned the proper way to be clothed in humility. Perhaps he never took the appropriate inventory of self, required at the beginning of each year to ensure that his attire was proper.

If we are noticing, YESHUA's direct words, and the words of HIS Apostle, are clearly telling us that we must consistently work on clothing our souls with humbleness, first to ELOHIM (which "called-out ones" know includes both the FATHER and CHRIST), to our elders, and then to one another. The very opposite of being humble is what, being full of pride. We know that ELOHIM resists the proud.

A case can also obviously be made that the man who was not properly dressed for the wedding feast was too proud. And this is the mindset that our adversaries are geared up to use against us during our training. In fact, this is the primary weapon I find that is so successful in this world of modernity.

Each of us, must count the cost of walking in the love of the world in which we live. For this world is so full of vain pride. We must learn to never be boastful about the blessings we have received. This is the beauty of the process. It teaches us to constantly take a step back to refresh our calling, over and over again.

We know that the leaven we put away is simply a symbol of our putting away the potential sins and weaknesses in our lives. All the material blessings of this world will pass away. Our ability to grow in our humility must increasingly be our passion, in the midst of this modernity, which is full of the roaring which seeks to devour us.

As we approach YESHUA's Passover this year, our preparations should not only be on thoughts of individual cleansing, but on humility towards our Brothers and Sisters in the faith.

So, during your final preparations of these few weeks, let us synchronize the cleansing of our homes and our minds towards our presenting ourselves before ELOHIM on YESHUA's Passover with all humility to HIS authority, knowing that HE will see us through the required endurance unto the perfection that is the grace to which we are promised.

This is why if we appropriately approach the beginning of each year, on the 14th of Nissan/Abib we can humble ourselves with one another in solemn fellowship.

I wish each of you a very successful inventory as you prepare for the season.

With our humble and self-reflecting preparation, we shall be approved by ELOHIM to participate in YAHWEH's training camp, the Appointed Time of Unleavened Bread.

Shalom!

MY PERSONAL SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

CONCERNS		STRENGTHS	
RADICAL	MODERATE	STRONG	MILD
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

PURPOSE: This Personal Spiritual Inventory has been designed as a guide to assist those “called-out” to YESHUA in their annual preparation before coming before YAHWEH ELOHIM of Yisrael on the memorial of HIS Passover. This preparation meets the Biblical requirements of the following:

- Exo 34:25 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.
- 1Co 5:7 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:
- 1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

CONCERNS: A concern is any issue that exists that has a potential to impede the “called-out one’s” ability to eat and drink the New Covenant Passover protocols “unworthily”. There will be concerns that may be more spiritually threatening than others, which is why they have been classified these as radical and moderate. Identification of these concerns is necessary to properly examine oneself prior to eating the Passover. Addressing these concerns in a prayerful manner will ensure that the “call-out one” does not fall into the following Biblical category:

- 1Co 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- 1Co 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.

STRENGTHS: A strength represents personal spiritual assets the “called-out one” identifies. These assets are classified as strong (food classified as strong meat in one’s personal spiritual growth) or mild (food classified as milk). The more our spiritual strengths become strong, in the Biblical manner, the less the concerns will impede the “called-out one’s” ability to appear before Yahweh Elohim in a worthy manner.

Examples of spiritual concerns are: 1) lack of spiritual repentance, 2) lack of humility 3) pride, 4) jealousy, 5) anger, 5) lack of forgiveness 6) gossip, 7) any form of trespass, 8) family issues of any kind, 9) physical, emotional and mental afflictions, 10) lack of discernment, 11) not being properly baptized, 12) any other, and 13) obedience to man (teachers and preachers), rather than to Elohim.

Examples of spiritual strengths are: 1) patience, 2) humility, 3) agape love, 4) recognition and pursuit of spiritual gifts, 5) longsuffering, 6) faith, 7) service, 8) discernment 9) any other, and 10) OBEDIENCE to ELOHIM.

NOTE: This personal spiritual inventory is only a guide. It can also be used as a monitoring device to assist the “called-out one’s” assessment of spiritual progress throughout the year.