

## **Lesson No. 139 – The Reason for The Season,** **Part Two – The Preparation for The Journey**

(By Donald Crowell – April 7, 2020)

This Sabbath lesson is presented after some of us have just took part in YAHSHUA's Passover, and were once again cleansed by the atoning blood of the LAMB. For each of us it was our humblest night of our spiritual year. Sometimes we equate this night to the Atonement fast which is also a night in which our sins are again atoned by the true mercy of ELOHIM upon us all. We came into the Passover knowing that we deserved nothing from ELOHIM. Yet, because of HIS redeeming mercy, we have been allowed to continue on this journey to which we were called. In fact, this lesson on this the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is titled Lesson No. 139 – The Reason for The Season, Part Two – The Preparation for The Journey.

If we followed the commandment YAHWEH gave us, as this evening began, we removed all physical leaven from our homes. Some of us may have taken the opportunity of further accomplishing what many call, spring cleaning. However, for us, we accomplished something of far greater value than the physical leaven or other dirt that we threw out. We also put away the leaven of malice and wickedness. We are now ready to appear together with fellow called-out ones in great joy, and yet still with great humility, if we have spiritually grasped the transition in our lives that just took place.

Now, there are a few things that we must continue to balance about this season as we grow in our knowledge and obedience to ELOHIM.

- Deu 16:1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto YAHWEH thy ELOHIM: for in the month of Abib YAHWEH thy ELOHIM brought thee forth out of Egypt by night. Deu 16:2 Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the Passover unto YAHWEH thy ELOHIM, of the flock and the herd, in the place which YAHWEH shall choose to place his name there.

- Deu 16:3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; **seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction;** for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

ELOHIM's WORD so amazes all who are willing to empty out. And this is what this season is truly all about. We talked in Part One – Taking Inventory, about the self-inventory required so that we could come before ELOHIM in a right frame of mind. It is interesting the many accounts provided in the Old Covenant that instruct us further on what YAHWEH 's intentions were for HIS called-out ones during this most important season. In verse 3, we learn that the unleavened bread eaten during this seven-day Feast is called the bread of affliction. Under the Old Covenant, it was to be a reminder to the Children of Yisrael (COY) of the day when they came forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of their lives. Let's learn a little more about this night as we fellowship together.

- Exo 12:22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that *is* in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. Exo 12:23 For **YAHWEH will pass through to smite the Egyptians;** and **when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, YAHWEH will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.**
- Exo 12:29 And it came to pass, that **at midnight YAHWEH smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt,** from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that *was* in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. Exo 12:30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for *there was* not a house where *there was* not one dead.

This was the night of the first Passover. The death angel passed through the land of Egypt to smite the firstborn of every house that was not covered by the blood on the doorpost and passed over the house which had the blood on the doorpost. This does not appear to have been an instantaneous event. It took a little while to accomplish.

- Exo 12:31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, *and* get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve YAHWEH, as ye have said. Exo 12:32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. Exo 12:33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We *be* all dead *men*. Exo 12:34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. Exo 12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: Exo 12:36 And YAHWEH gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them *such things as they required*. And they spoiled the Egyptians. Exo 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children. Exo 12:38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle. Exo 12:39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

Now even though the Egyptians had a sense of urgency, this exodus of the COY out of Egypt did not just happen without some preparation. First, as verse 37 states, there was approximately six hundred thousand men and women on foot. I believe this statement included both men and women, because it also said “beside children”, and not “beside women and children”.

However, this is still a rather large group of people to gather themselves and accomplish the tasks we see in verses 35 and 36.

- Exo 12:40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, *was* four hundred and thirty years. Exo 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of YAHWEH went out from the land of Egypt. Exo 12:42 *It is* a night to be much observed unto YAHWEH for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: **this is that night of YAHWEH to be much observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.**

This “night to be much observed” in verse 42 is in fact tonight, the first night of the Feast of Unleavened bread. For it was on this night that the COY actually came out of Egypt in their exodus. Now, ELOHIM’s WORD clears any confusion about which night the COY actually left from Egypt.

- Num 33:1 These *are* the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. Num 33:2 And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of YAHWEH: and these *are* their journeys according to their goings out. Num 33:3 **And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the Passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.** Num 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all *their* firstborn, which YAHWEH had smitten among them: upon their ELOHIMs also YAHWEH executed judgments. Num 33:5 And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth. Num 33:6 And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which *is* in the edge of the wilderness.

So now we should be clear that this night to be much observed is the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>, which is in fact tonight.

In fact, many brethren around the world continue to gather in their homes on this night for a joyous time. Perhaps someday we will understand and join them in what clearly has been commanded that we emphasize this night.

What does all this mean to us in these days of modernity? When the COY kept their first Feast of Unleavened Bread, it was the beginning of a journey that would take them through several wildernesses. Notice how in verse 6 they first pitched in Etham, just at the edge of the wilderness after they left Egypt. Let's put a perspective on this.

- Exo 13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that ELOHIM led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for ELOHIM said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: Exo 13:18 But ELOHIM led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt. Exo 13:20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. Exo 13:21 And **YAHWEH went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:** Exo 13:22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from* before the people.

Now, while the scripture does not provide an exact timetable of these events, we know that the COY being led through the wilderness of the Red Sea took part during the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread. And YAHWEH went before them, because HE was now their covering, in part because of the metaphorical blood placed on their doorposts on the Passover.

- Exo 14:1 And YAHWEH spake unto Moses, saying, Exo 14:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

- Exo 14:3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They *are* entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. Exo 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I *am* YAHWEH. And they did so.

In part, their eating of the unleavened bread was also their preparation for the test which was about to occur. They were about to be afflicted once again by the events we are all aware that occurred with the Egyptian's pursuit at the Red Sea. As they partook in this great Feast each year, they were to be reminded of their affliction for hundreds of years in Egypt, and the events of their escape from this great affliction.

Likewise, those of us who continue to grow in this time of modernity realize that this Feast reminds us of the spiritual escape we have been just graced with through YAHSHUA's Passover. In that sense, the leaven we just tossed this evening is representative of a form of affliction which tempted to bound us before the blood of YAHSHUA once again freed us from the bondage of sin. Even though we were once again cleansed by our participation in YAHSHUA's Passover, the bread of affliction also reminds that the spiritual afflictions are not fully eliminated.

This season, beginning with the Passover, is given to "called-out ones" first for cleansing. Yet second, they are for our joy and strengthening. We all know that because of Solomon's sin, the COY eventually were separated into two (2) nations, the three tribes of the Kingdom of Judah (Yehudah) and the nine tribes of the Kingdom of Israel.

We know from previous lessons that most of the kings of both Kingdoms were wicked. However, the Biblical account of one of the COY's most righteous kings, Hezekiah, is quite telling of this season.

- 2Ch 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of YAHWEH at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover unto YAHWEH ELOHIM of Israel. 2Ch 30:2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, **to keep the Passover in the second month.** 2Ch 30:3 For **they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.** 2Ch 30:4 And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation. 2Ch 30:5 So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover unto YAHWEH ELOHIM of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done *it* of a long *time in such sort* as it was written. 2Ch 30:6 So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto YAHWEH ELOHIM of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. 2Ch 30:7 And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against YAHWEH ELOHIM of their fathers, *who* therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see. 2Ch 30:8 Now **be ye not stiffnecked,** as your fathers *were*, but **yield yourselves unto YAHWEH,** and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified forever: and serve YAHWEH your ELOHIM, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you. 2Ch 30:9 For **if ye turn again unto YAHWEH,** your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for YAHWEH your ELOHIM *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him. 2Ch 30:10 So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. 2Ch 30:11 Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.

- 2Ch 30:12 Also in Judah the hand of ELOHIM was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of YAHWEH. 2Ch 30:13 And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation.

This is interesting. They kept Unleavened Bread in the second month because the priests had not sufficiently sanctified themselves, nor did the people gather themselves at Yerushalaim (verse 3).

- 2Ch 30:14 And they arose and took away the altars that *were* in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast *them* into the brook Kidron. 2Ch 30:15 Then they killed the Passover on the fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of YAHWEH. 2Ch 30:16 And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of ELOHIM: the priests sprinkled the blood, *which they received* of the hand of the Levites. 2Ch 30:17 For *there were* many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the Passovers for every one *that was* not clean, to sanctify *them* unto YAHWEH. 2Ch 30:18 For a multitude of the people, *even* many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the Passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one 2Ch 30:19 *That* prepareth his heart to seek ELOHIM, YAHWEH ELOHIM of his fathers, though *he be* not *cleansed* according to the purification of the sanctuary. 2Ch 30:20 And **YAHWEH hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.** 2Ch 30:21 And **the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised YAHWEH day by day, singing with loud instruments unto YAHWEH.**



- 2Ch 30:22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of YAHWEH: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to YAHWEH ELOHIM of their fathers. 2Ch 30:23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and **they kept other seven days with gladness.**

This was an awesome accounting of a righteous king in Israel commanding the return of the COY to keep YAHWEH's Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. In these verses we see the history of Yisrael's failures and the tender mercies by YAHWEH when they once again humbled themselves before HIM at the appointed season.

Every day of the Feast they praised YAHWEH with music and feasted. Notice particularly verses 20 to 23, after King Hezekiah prayed that YAHWEH would pardon every one that prepared their hearts to seek ELOHIM.

Even though they were not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary, YAHWEH healed them. Once they were healed, look how they kept the next seven days. There was great gladness. There was music every day. The Levites taught "the good knowledge of YAHWEH". They ate throughout the seven days, together. They offered peace offerings and made confessions to YAHWEH for the entire seven days of the Feast. They were so happy and, might I dare say, "full of the spirit", that they kept another seven days.

Now I want to read some verses that shows further what these days are for.

- Ezr 6:19 And the children of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth *day* of the first month. Ezr 6:20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them *were* pure, and killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

- Ezr 6:21 And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek YAHWEH ELOHIM of Israel, did eat,

Now, this next verse may truly be applicable to what is upon us in this time of modernity.

- Ezr 6:22 And **kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for YAHWEH had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of ELOHIM, the ELOHIM of Israel.**

YAHWEH made them joyful. The world today is experiencing various experts who under the guise of an international virus, whether knowingly or unknowingly, is taking away our joy. Yet, our calling is to allow YAHSHUA to make us joyful, even in a time of great stress.

We see how the COY had to separate themselves from the filthiness of the land during this season. It was a season of purification to strengthen them “in the work of the house of ELOHIM”. In all of these scriptures we have read we see the duality of ELOHIM’s WORD. We know that there was a preparation, a form of purification, that took place before the season began. We know that the Passover was for cleansing. We see the humility, joy and confessions that were in full sight during the Feast. These events represent the duality of the Feast.

They prepared the COY for the work of ELOHIM’s house. They strengthened the COY for this work. These are the lessons we must remember as we approach these next seven days. The first phase of the season has been accomplished. ELOHIM has cleansed us. Now HE must prepare us for the next phase, our annual journey through the land controlled by the serpent, even Satan. And we know that this year’s preparation is urgent to all called-out ones.

If you noticed, the COY conducted themselves in a spirit of oneness during the entire seven days of the Feast, which is something we must consider as we grow in our knowledge of ELOHIM's WORD. Some of us have been favored to keep the fall season's Appointed Time of Tabernacles by getting away from the filthiness for that entire eight-day season. Here, we see where the COY did so for this season of unleavening as well.

Let's note a scripture we often read but perhaps have not truly thought it through.

- Exo 23:14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Exo 23:15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) Exo 23:16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, *which is* in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Exo 23:17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before YAHWEH ELOHIM.

When we accept the fulness of ELOHIM's WORD, we know that when it says males here it is talking about the entire families. But the main point is that these are the Feasts when the COY were to appear before YAHWEH. Has this changed now that we are no longer under the Old Covenant?

- Act 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

Here we see that the Apostle Paul and his companions kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Philippi. This let's us know that as the COY grew in numbers and locations, they did not always go up to Yerushalaim. But, they did keep the Feast. Why wouldn't they? Why wouldn't we?

We live in these days of modernity when our getaways are based on fun and pleasure. We are not operating in the fulness of the spirit of the season.

Having gotten away for the spirit of the season of Tabernacles, I can envision what it would be like to get away for the season of unleavening as well. How awesome would this preparation period for the journey of life be for each “called-out one” if the body of CHRIST was all in one accord.

Speaking of the body of CHRIST, we read in Ezra 6:22 where all the COY, who had separated themselves unto them, the priests, from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, sought YAHWEH ELOHIM of Yisrael, for the purpose of the work of the house of ELOHIM. Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote about this.

- 1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but ELOHIM *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. 1Co 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Remember, the whole world is deceived. These temptations we will encounter in our journey are common to man. However, this season is there to prepare us for them, and to strengthen our resolve to overcome them. Let’s read what King Hezekiah and the COY did after they were cleansed and strengthened by this season.

- 2Ch 31:1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

- 2Ch 31:2 And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of YAHWEH. 2Ch 31:3 *He appointed* also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, *to wit*, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as *it is* written in the law of YAHWEH.

You see the result of that joy and humility the COY shared during this season of unleavening and escape from worldly filth. They did exactly what the Apostle is admonishing us to do this day in modernity; they fled from idolatry. They then committed themselves for a life of service built around the appointed seasons of YAHWEH. Look at the Apostle's words to the Corinthians.

- 1Co 10:15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. 1Co 10:16 **The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?** 1Co 10:17 **For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.** 1Co 10:18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 1Co 10:19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? 1Co 10:20 But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to ELOHIM: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 1Co 10:21 **Ye cannot drink the cup of YAHWEH, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of YAHWEH's table, and of the table of devils.**

We saw how the COY under King Hezekiah were on one accord. Here we see the Apostle saying in verse 17 that with our eating of the bread, the body of YAHSHUA, we being many are one bread and one body.

This is what this season is designed to accomplish. This is the true communion, our becoming one with each other. By tossing out the leaven at the beginning of this great Feast, and then coming together during the days of the Feast, we become “partakers of that one bread”. And just what is this bread that makes us one?

- Joh 6:51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

This is the BREAD we partake of as we celebrate these days. As we toss out our leaven, we become one with this BREAD that “came down from heaven”. The Apostle warned us not to drink of the cup of devils. We gain understanding on this the more we surrender to ELOHIM’s WORD.

- 1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is HAMASHIAC. 1Co 12:13 For **by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles,** whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1Co 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many. 1Co 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 1Co 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 1Co 12:17 If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? 1Co 12:18 But now hath ELOHIM set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 1Co 12:19 And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? 1Co 12:20 But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. 1Co 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 1Co 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

- 1Co 12:23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness. 1Co 12:24 **For our comely parts have no need: but ELOHIM hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:** 1Co 12:25 **That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.** 1Co 12:26 And **whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.** 1Co 12:27 **Now ye are the body of HAMASHIAC,** and members in particular.

How powerful are these words for the Household of Faith in these days of suffering in the world, and, the lack of oneness within the Household? **This season's ultimate purpose is to teach the "called-out ones" how to become kings and priests, together.** These are the eight days of our conditioning to once again prepare us to endure the journey. They should be our opportunities to practice together the vocations we were called for.

- Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of YAHWEH, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Eph 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Eph 4:4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Eph 4:6 One ELOHIM and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Eph 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

- Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of ELOHIM, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Beginning with our participation in YAHSHUA's Passover, we have once again received favor from above. It is not simply for our individual profit. It is for the perfection of those who are destined to rule with YAHSHUA.

For the next seven days we should be training and conditioning together, not just the first and the seventh days, when, in this day of modernity the various congregations get together for their physical feasts.

You know, with each lesson I am constantly learning and realizing how imperfect my concepts about ELOHIM's WORD truly is. As we continue to learn and grow, we become more understanding of the process. The actions of the COY during the reign of Hezekiah, makes it clearer that we in fact have two training camps. The first is the eight-day period known as the days of Unleavened Bread. We know that the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, though they be two separate Appointed Times, represent one eight-day festival in ELOHIM's eyes. Their purpose is for the examination, qualification, and preparation of those "called-out" during this age."



The preparation phase of this festival is the first of our two training camps. It is the next seven days. We are so familiar during these days of the following:

- 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.

This is how we conduct ourselves during these next seven days, having replaced the leaven of malice and wickedness with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Remember how the COY made peace offerings with each other. They were in training to learn to be a nation of priests unto YAHWEH. These next seven days are for all “called-out ones” to come together to learn with each other how to become priests and kings in an atmosphere of love and humility for one another. Notice how the Apostle continues his instructions on the keeping of the Feast.

- 1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 1Co 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 1Co 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 1Co 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 1Co 5:13 But them that are without ELOHIM judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

The Feast should be our opportunity to get away to our training camp of preparation. This must become our mindset as we get closer to YAHSHUA’s return. The closer we get to HIS return, the greater should be our understanding on these things.

Until we come to the fulness of actions to be in complete obedience to what we are reading in ELOHIM's WORD, let us take the next step as we have opportunity during these next seven days.

First, let's awaken each day with a prayer for our fellow "called-out ones". As we have opportunity, each day let us make peace together. If we are unsure how, go before ELOHIM in boldness asking for HIS direction. And, each day, remember YAHSHUA's words to HIS disciples.

- Mat 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Mat 5:4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Mat 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Mat 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Mat 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Mat 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see ELOHIM. Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of ELOHIM.

This first training camp is for us to learn how to be poor in spirit; how to mourn; how to be meek; how to hunger after righteousness; how to be pure in heart; how to be peacemakers. The more successful this training camp, the better we will be prepared to survive the next training camp, which is the journey of life which we will discuss next week, as we close out this joyful appointment ELOHIM has made for each of us.

Shalom!