

Deuteronomy 16:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction. The prohibition of leaven during Passover carried rich symbolic meaning. Leaven represented sin, corruption, and the old Egyptian way of life that Israel was leaving behind.

Paul applies this symbolically - Purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump (1 Corinthians 5:7). Leaven's permeating quality pictures how sin spreads through communities if not removed. The weeklong unleavened bread observance illustrated thorough purging of corruption.

The designation bread of affliction recalled the hasty exodus - no time for bread to rise before fleeing Egypt. This humble bread reminded Israel of their slavery and desperate deliverance. Prosperity must not erase memory of redemption from bondage.

Jesus instituted communion using unleavened Passover bread, identifying His body as the true bread that gives life. The bread of affliction became the bread of salvation.

Historical Context

Unleavened bread (matzah) required thorough removal of all leaven from Israelite homes before Passover. This spring cleaning became elaborate ritual ensuring no leaven remained, symbolizing comprehensive purging of sin.

First-century Jews and early Christians continued this practice, with Paul using it as metaphor for church discipline and purity (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does leaven symbolize spiritually, and why must it be thoroughly removed?
2. How does the bread of affliction function as reminder of redemption from slavery?
3. Why is it important that prosperity not erase memory of past bondage and deliverance?
4. How does Jesus' use of unleavened bread at the Last Supper connect to Passover symbolism?
5. What does Paul's application of unleavened bread teach about church purity and discipline?

Interlinear Text

לֹא תֹאכֵל עַלְיוֹן שְׁבֻעָת יְמִינְךָ
H3808 Thou shalt eat H5921 no leavened bread H2557 with it seven H7651 all the days H3117

תֹאכֵל עַל יְמִינְךָ מֵצָה וְתַּעֲשֵׂה עַל כְּמַנְצֵה עַל נִזְנִית
Thou shalt eat H5921 unleavened bread H4682 therewith even the bread H3899 of affliction H6040

לֹא תֹאכֵל מֵצָה יְמִינְךָ מֵצָה מִן מֵצָה בְּחִפּזֵד וְלֹא תֹאכֵל
H3588 in haste H5921 for thou camest forth H3318 out of the land H776 of Egypt H4616

תִזְכֵּר אֶת יְמִינְךָ מֵצָה מֵצָה מֵצָה לֹא תֹאכֵל
that thou mayest remember H2142 all the days H853 for thou camest forth H3318 out of the land H776

מֵצָה יְמִינְךָ מֵצָה מֵצָה מֵצָה
of Egypt H3605 all the days H3117 of thy life H2416

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:39 (References Egypt): 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.

Exodus 34:18 (References Egypt): The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.

Exodus 12:8 (Parallel theme): And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Luke 22:19 (Parallel theme): And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Numbers 9:11 (Parallel theme): The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.