

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

Psalms 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	תֹאכַל	עָלֶיּוּ	חֶמֶץ	שִׁבְעַת	יָמֵי
H3808	Thou shalt eat	H5921	no leavened bread	with it seven	all the days
	H398		H2557	H7651	H3117
תֹאכַל	עָלֶיּוּ	מִצֹּת	לֶחֶם	עֲנִי	
Thou shalt eat	H5921	unleavened bread	therewith even the bread	of affliction	
H398		H4682	H3899	H6040	
כִּי	בְחֶפְזוֹן	צֵאתָ	מֵאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	לִמְעַן
H3588	in haste	for thou camest forth	out of the land	of Egypt	H4616
	H2649	H3318	H776	H4714	
תִּזְכֹּר	אֶת	יָמֵי	צֵאתָ	מֵאֶרֶץ	
that thou mayest remember	H853	all the days	for thou camest forth	out of the land	
H2142		H3117	H3318	H776	
מִצְרַיִם	כֹּל	יָמֵי	חַיֶּיךָ		
of Egypt	H3605	all the days	of thy life		
H4714		H3117	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.

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