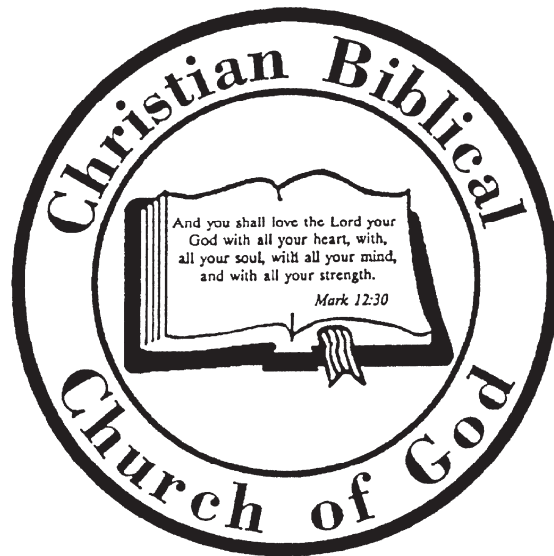


Spring Feast 2022



Transcript Book

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The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ

(Sabbath Before Passover)

Fred R. Coulter—April 9, 2022

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services, the Sabbath before Passover! This year Passover falls on a Friday, which means that we take the Passover ceremony Thursday after sunset.

Then the regular Sabbath is the first day of Unleavened Bread. The next day is the Wave Sheaf Offering Day. When we get to the end of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the seventh day is on Friday and we have the Sabbath backed up to it. So we have:

- Passover
- the first Holy Day on the Sabbath
- then the last day of Unleavened Bread
- then the Sabbath after Unleavened Bread

What we need to do is recognize and understand—and I'm sure we all do—God has fantastic and awesome plan for all of mankind. But the plan of God for us today—for those who are in the Church of the Firstborn—is extra special! The only thing to exceed that is the blessing of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!

Then the patriarchs before them coming down through the line of Adam and Seth. Then we know what's going to happen when Jesus returns.

Then there will be a thousand years of the Kingdom of God on earth, mass conversions, mass numbers of those during the thousand years who will enter into the Kingdom of God.

After that we have the Great White Throne Judgment where everyone who never had an opportunity for salvation will receive their first opportunity in the 100-year period.

After that we have the incorrigible wicked, and their punishment is *eternal* death—be dead forever! Just before that, we have the judgment against Satan and his removal in to the blackest darkness with all the demons *forever!*

All of this is in the Bible and there are a lot of Scriptures to back it up, as you know. That's why we have the book: *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by the Sabbath and Holy Days*.

What we're going to do today is look at some key prophecies concerning Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. He is called **the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!** The sin of the world goes clear back to Adam and Eve!

So, ultimately the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is going to cover all human sin: past, present and future! The future hasn't come, so they haven't been covered, yet. The past has already occurred, and if they weren't called, then they have to wait for the Great White Throne Judgment.

Let's begin in 2-Tim. 3, and here Paul reveals something very important for us to understand. He's writing to Timothy the young evangelist:

2-Timothy 3:15: "And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus."

This is something that is hardly every touched by the Protestants. Yet, there are 356 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. So, we're going to examine some of those today.

Verse 16: "All Scripture *is* God-breathed..."—*meaning **Spirit breathed!*** God is the One Who directed it, which we will see in just a minute.

"...and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work" (vs 16-17).

So, spiritually speaking, all the Scripture—Old and New Testaments—starting with the Old Testament first, because that's foundation for the New. Now we see something very similar that Peter wrote in 2-Pet. 1.

Let's understand that we need to let the Bible interpret the Bible, and use the Word of God to understand the Word of God. We progress from the simple to the complicated. Too many times people like to go to the complicated to try and understand the complicated things, such as the difficult Scriptures of the Apostle Paul. You can't understand them unless you understand about what we're going to cover today, ***the sacrifice of Jesus Christ***. A lot of people profess it and claim it. A lot of people ask that their lives be covered with the blood of Jesus Christ, but many times that's so short lived that there is hardly any covering.

How many people do exactly what Jesus said to do concerning the Passover. Think about that!

- look at what the Catholic Church does with the *Sacrifice of the Mass*
- look at what the Protestants do with what they call *The Lord's Supper*
- look what the Seventh Day Adventists do with what they call *The Lord's Supper, the first Sabbath of every quarter*

All of those are **instructions of men**, not of God! Here's why, and we need to realize:

2-Peter 1:19: "**We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word...**"

That's the Old Testament! Everyone of the fulfilled prophecies were confirmed by Christ's life:

- what He did
- how He did it
- the way it came about

"...to which you do well to pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place..." (v 19).

Just like *this world, **spiritually speaking**, is in darkness, and it's going to get darker!* Remember the prophecy that says, '**darkness shall cover the earth, and men will be blinded from the Truth!**' You need to pay attention!

"...until the day dawns... [the return of Christ] ...and the **morning star arises** in your hearts" (v 19)—*the resurrection!*

- we will shine like the stars, as Daniel said
- our faces will shine like the sun, as Jesus said

Think about that; think about how glorious is going to be!

But also remember that **it can't happen without the sacrifice of Christ!**

It can't be given to us unless we are faithful, obedient and keep the commandments of God, and those of Christ, and all the instructions in the Bible.

He wants us to understand, v 20: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture... [any speaking of what became Scripture] ...originated as anyone's own *private* interpretation."

You can't say that Peter said this, but Mark said this, and Luke said that, John said this and Isaiah said that. *No!* it all fits together in one giant sphere! The most fantastic book in the world; the one that is published the most, but the least understood. That's an amazing thing!

No private interpretation, so you can't say. 'I think, I believe, it seems to me... *No! you have to go by what the Scriptures say!*

Verse 21: "Because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but the Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by *the Holy Spirit*." ***If God moves them by the Holy Spirit, they will write the Truth!***

Let's see the first prophecy of the Messiah (Gen. 3. It's good for us to go back and review that and understand that ***everything in the Bible has it's beginning in the book of Genesis!***

We know that we're made in the image of God after His likeness, after His image. We know that God made the Sabbath for all mankind. We know that He created Adam first and then took a rib and formed Eve. He put them in the Garden of Eden and told them to dress it and keep it.

We also know that they had free moral agency. When there's free moral agency, you have to know what that person is going to choose, so we have God letting the serpent—Satan—loose in the garden. We know what happened with that. They believed Satan and his lie that they would be able to make their own judgments like God as to what is right and wrong.

When it says 'become like God' it doesn't mean that they would become like God as God is. That meant to have the ability to decide for themselves what was right and wrong.

So, they chose to eat of the fruit and their eyes were opened to evil, and God gave the judgment upon all three of them. We know what that is.

Everything was changed. That sin changed the environment on the earth down to this very day, and because of God's judgment against Adam.

Let's see how human nature works when it performs something that it should not do. God said, 'Why did you do this?'

Genesis 3:11: And He said, 'Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten of the tree, which I commanded you that you should not eat?' And the man said, 'The woman...'" (vs 11-12). *No my fault, she did it!*

Isn't that the way that human nature always acts? *Yes!*

"...whom You gave to be with me..." (v 12). *It's God's fault, not my fault;* but he did **choose** to eat it? Did he have a chance to stop Eve and not eat it? *Yes, but he didn't do that!*

"...she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What *is* this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent

deceived me, and I ate” (vs 12-13). *Not my fault, Lord!*

Here comes the judgment; v 14: “And the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this you *are* cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go upon your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel**” (vs 14-15).

What does that mean? *Here’s the first prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ and overcoming Satan the devil!* Remember what Jesus said on the Passover night: ***Satan has been judged!*** What we know is that he hasn’t yet been removed; ***but he has been judged by the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!*** This is also a prophecy of the crucifixion!

Verse 16: “To the woman He said, ‘I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception—in sorrow shall you bring forth children. Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you.’ And to Adam He said, ‘**Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife...**’” (vs 16-17)—***instead of Me!***

Where’s another place where this happened? *With Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, and Ishmael came of that!* How long term has that been? *Since that day to this day!*

That’s why God emphasizes in the Bible, always all the way through, ***obey My voice! IF you obey My voice!***

When people sin, God says that ‘they did not obey My voice.’ Why? *Because God spoke all the commandments, inspired everything to be written that there is; all comes from God!*

“...‘Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree—of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it!”—the ground *is* cursed for your sake. In sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life” (v 17).

- sorrow to the woman
- sorrow to the man

That’s just the way it is in the world today!

You know the account of Cain and Abel. Abel did what God said and was counted as righteous. Cain did what *he wanted to do*; he didn’t bring an offering to God according to the instructions of God.

Let’s understand something: Some people will say that the Law was not enacted until 3500 years after Adam and Eve. ***Not so!***

Look at what God told Cain, because Cain was mad that God didn’t take his offering. Well, you don’t bring any old sloppy thing to God and expect Him to praise you for it.

Genesis 4:7: “If you do well... [Cain wasn’t doing well] ...**shall you not be accepted?...**”

- if you do what is right and good
- if you do what God has said
- if you obey His voice

Isn’t that true in the New Testament? *Yes, indeed!*

“...But if you do not do well, **sin lies at the door...**” (v 7). *Think about that!*

- What is sin? *The transgression of the Law!*
- Was the Law in force from the beginning? ***Absolutely!***

You can’t have sin if you don’t have Law! Where there’s no Law there is no sin!

You know what happened then, and we find that the world became so filled with wickedness, just like it is becoming today. When it says that *Satan has deceived the whole world*, we need to understand that *he has a lot of people working for him to carry out all of his activities of making sure that the deception of the whole world is going to be complete!* We’re living in the days when that is beginning to happen!

But this is before the Flood. Think about the Flood! It covered the whole earth, and 15 cubits—a cubit is a foot and a half—23 feet above the highest mountain. The highest mountain today is Mt. Everest. We don’t know what it was back then, because of changes in the earth.

But nevertheless, think of it! It did happen! Evidence is everywhere on the earth right in front of everyone; ***if they will just believe God they will see it!***

Here’s why God had to do it, and we will see that this ties in with the days of Unleavened Bread. What is it that God wants us to do because of this very thing?

We’ve covered Gen. 6:5 many times, but let’s look at it for what it’s really telling us. We can read it and not have a meaningful understanding of it when everything is nice, fine, good and there are not any great problems. But look at it today. Look at the wickedness and lawlessness of men and women, governments and everything that man is doing.

It's just like Jesus said, 'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of Son of man.' *Here's what He said it was:*

Genesis 6:5: "And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination..."

A lot of people will say—because they can do a good deed—'I'm a good person.' But you never reveal what is really in your mind, your private thought in your mind. But God can know them, and that's the whole purpose of the Passover and Unleavened Bread, so that there can be the conversion and changing of the heart and the mind. *That wasn't offered before the Flood!*

"...every imagination of the of the thoughts of his heart... [everything that he was thinking about; every human being on earth] ...**was only evil continually**" (v 7).

Isn't that what we see today? *Yes, indeed!* It was so bad:

Verse 6: "And the LORD **repented that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.**"

That tells you that God is directly involved with the earth, the people and with things that go on. Look at how people become. They become so locked into their sins that ***they will not repent!***

Can you think of a time that that happened? *Right in the face of two angels during the days of Lot!* Think about what it is for us today.

How is God going to solve the problem of all of this sin and wickedness? *That's what His plan is all about, and it starts with the Passover and individuals!* But first, God had to prepare the way. We're going to see what God and Christ did in order to redeem mankind—men and women—from their sins. That's something! Let's see what God had to do *first!* Then we will see what we have to do after that.

Let's see what Jesus said of Himself. We know that He is the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. So, here in John 10 we find something concerning His coming sacrifice and what it was the God did. This is very interesting; there's an awful lot here. It tells about true shepherds, and the true Shepherd Jesus. It tells about the false shepherds, that they do not come to serve the sheep.

John 10:7: "Therefore, Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, **I am the Door of the sheep.**'" *Tie that in with:*

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life...'"

The only way you come to God the Father is through Jesus Christ. The only way that that starts to happen is the Father draws you. *Think about that!* In relationship to all the people on the earth, and how few people there are that love God and keep His commandments and understand that God is working in their lives and want to do the things that please Him.

Verse 9: "I am the door. **If anyone enters through Me...** [not through a Church, organization or men; but through Jesus Christ] ...**he shall be saved,** and shall go in and out, and shall find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy...." (vs 9-10).

Why? *Because he's an agent of Satan the devil!* And oh can some of them speak smooth words!

"...I have come so that they may have life, and may have *it* more abundantly. I am the good Shepherd. **The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep**" (vs 10-11).

We're going to see what Jesus had to do in order to open the way of salvation for those whom He would call, and what the New Testament calls *the first resurrection!*

Verse 12: "But the one who is a hireling, and who is not *the* shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep, and flees. And the wolf seizes the sheep and scatters them. Now, the hireling flees because he is a hireling and has no concern for the sheep" (vs 12-13).

Think about that! Look at what happened in the Church. How many of those who were ordained as ministers and elders when the going got tough, POOF! they disappeared!

Verse 14: "I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine... [God knows you because you have the Spirit of God] ...and am known of those who *are* Mine." *You know Jesus Christ because:*

- you pray to Him every day
- you keep His words
- you believe His teachings

Verse 15: "Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and **I lay down My life** for the sheep." *That's quite a thing!*

Verse 16: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock *and*

one Shepherd.”

This is a way of saying that God will open your mind to the Truth, and if you obey, He'll open some more. If you obey, He'll open some more. If you confess your sins, He'll some more! That's how God works.

Verse 17: “On account of this, the Father loves Me: because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again. **No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself**... [we'll see what He had to do] ...I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again. This commandment **I received from My Father**” (vs 17-18). *That's quite a thing!*

What did Jesus have to do to lay down His life? *We need to understand Who Jesus was before He became a human being!* Yet, there are some people who do not believe these verses in John 1. How can they ever speak for God? *They're the hirelings!* John tells us Who Jesus was; He's called *the Word!* The Greek is ‘Logos.’

John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and the Word was God.:

The New Testament shows that Jesus Christ was the Lord God of the Old Testament and the One Who is the Father in the New Testament was *the Most High!* So, in the New Testament we have God the Father and Jesus Christ.

- What is the sacred name of the Father? *The Father!*
- What is the sacred name of Jesus? *Jesus!*
- Isn't that what the angel told Mary to name Him? *Yes!*

Sidebar on sacred names: remember the Day of Pentecost? This is New Testament, you agree that Acts 2 is N.T.? What happened there? There were men there from almost every country surrounding everything in the Middle East. They all spoke different languages, but they also probably knew Hebrew.

What did it say happened? *The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and all that were there of 120, and they all began to speak in other languages!* How did that happen? *God inspired it!*

They all said that ‘we hear them speaking the wonderful works of God in our own language.’ What does that tell you? *Sacred names are not needed in the N.T.* Whatever the name of God the Father and the name of Jesus Christ is in the language of the person who has the Bible, that

is what God honors.

He wants your heart and your mind, not just to pronounce a word of a so-called ‘scared name.’ God didn't inspire any of the writers of the N.T. to use sacred names. Do you think you're closer to God because you use a sacred name? *I tell you, no you're not!* You have to yield to God.

So, here is the One Who is God! Verse 14 tells us what God had to do to solve the problem of sin to bring salvation to those who would repent.

Verse 14: “And the Word became flesh...”

How did that happen? *Luke 1 tells us how He became flesh.* We will see in Philip. 2 what God had to in order to be born of the virgin Mary as a baby. God had to do that.

“...and tabernacled among us (and we ourselves beheld His glory, **the glory as of the only begotten with the Father**), **full of grace and truth**” (v 14).

Let's see what He had to do. This is important, because Jesus said in John 10:

I lay down My life for the sheep! No one takes it from me. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to receive it back. This commandment I have *from God the Father!*

(break 40:11)

Let's see what Jesus had to do. Remember that **nothing is impossible for God!** There are some things that He won't do, though it could be possible that He could do it. But it's not according to *His will*, so He doesn't do it.

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you which *was* also in Christ Jesus.”

That's telling us something very important. How are we to think as converted Christians? *We re to grow in grace and knowledge and understanding!* We will cover this during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- we do the things that Jesus said
- we learn to think with the Scriptures
- we learn to look at our lives and problems through the lens of the Word of God

Having the Spirit of God in us as a begettall from the Father, He helps us to do so with His Word! We have the Holy Spirit in us because we're converted, and we read the Bible and combine with our reading and the Holy Spirit the spiritual things that are behind the words that are written; *we understand the Word of God.* Let's see what Jesus did to make this possible:

Verse 6: “Who, although He existed in *the* form of God...”

Why? Because *He was God!* John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and **the Word was God**”—and He became *flesh!*

Philippians 2:6 “...did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **but emptied Himself...**” (vs 6-7).

I do not know how God did that, but He had to be brought down to a small pinpoint of life to be begotten in the womb of the virgin Mary. But He was still God! An amazing thing! **He gave up all the power, all the glory and majesty to save His creation!**

Think about that! Some people complain because what they have had to give up. Really? What did you have to give up **compared to what Jesus voluntarily relinquished to God the Father** so that He becomes a human being?

“...and was made in *the* likeness of men, and took the form of a servant...” (v 7)—a *slave!* He didn’t come as some high mucky-muck!

Look at how He came into the world! Only Mary and Elizabeth knew what happened! All the rest of the world didn’t know!

- none of the priests
- none of the high officials
- none of the great men

When Jesus was born the angels sang glory to God in the highest, and the two shepherds out there in the field watching their sheep heard it. They were told to go into Bethlehem and you will find a babe in a manger. The angels told them that *this is the Christ!* He didn’t tell the world, did He? *No!* Amazing!

Think about how many people do grand and glorious things because they’re so wrapped up in their own lives that they’ve got to have marvelous banquets and great feasts and things like this. Banners, bands, parades and all of this.

Jesus came, was born wrapped up and laid in a manger; no place to live, homeless! How about that!

Verse 8: “And being found in *the* manner of man...”

Everything that men and women have to do: eat, sleep, process of getting rid of toxins and waste and all of that. **He humbled Himself!**

- How much have we humbled ourselves?
We might go to a certain point, but:
- How much have we humbled ourselves?

Look at what Jesus gave up to save His creation, to save all of mankind! That’s all wrapped up in the Passover!

This is why it’s so important that **the Passover is what God wants us to do, and He wants us to do it the way that Jesus commanded and that is recorded in the New Testament!** That’s what God wants! He doesn’t want men coming along and saying:

This is a good idea; let’s do it this way! Oh let’s add that to it. We really don’t need this foot-washing; that’s really a humiliating thing to put people through.

Nonsense!

“...He humbled Himself, *and* became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the* cross” (v 8).

What does that mean? Let’s look at it and we will find out. We’re going to see quite a few things in the book of Isaiah. It’s an interesting book, and just like God told Isaiah, it’s *a little here, a little there, it’s precept upon precept, and line upon line!*

For those who are God’s people they will understand. But the world can’t because God doesn’t put everything in chronological and sequential order. He does a little here, does a little there, does a little over there, **and we have to search the Scriptures and put it all together!** Here’s one of the tremendous Scriptures in the Bible:

Isaiah 53:1: “Who has believed our report? And to whom is) the arm of the LORD revealed?”

- What has God revealed to you out of His Word?
- Are you thankful for it?
- Do you praise God because He opened your mind to do it?
- Do you understand it?
- Do you love it?
- Do you keep it?
- Do you obey it?

Verse 2: “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant...”

Very little is told about His growing up. We come from His birth to age 12. What happened after they went to Egypt and then came back to Nazareth? How did Jesus grow up? He had brothers and sisters. We’re not told any of that.

“...and as a root out of a dry ground... [because it was a wicked and adulterous generation] ...He has no form nor comeliness that we should look upon Him... [not handsome] ...nor beauty that we should desire Him” (v 1-2).

Here’s what His life was like; remember that it took a long time for some of the disciples to really believe. Look how long it took Thomas, one of the original apostles. ***It wasn’t until the death and resurrection***—and one week after when Christ appeared the second time that Thomas was there—***that he believed!*** What **do we** really believe?

Verse 3: “*He is* ^[#1] **despised and rejected** of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...

- He knew what was in man
- He knew the sin was there
- He knew the evil thoughts

“...and we hid as it were our faces from Him [there were those who didn’t want anything to do with Him] ...^[#2] **He was despised**, and we esteemed Him not. Surely **He has borne our infirmities**...” (vs 3-4).

Think about that! What He went through with the crucifixion, scourging and all of the abuse that He took on that! He took on our infirmities, representing the infirmities of all people from the time of Adam and Eve.

“...and carried our sorrows; yet, we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (v 4).

Ah, He deserved that because He said that He was King of the Jews.

Not true! Why did He do that? *Because:*

- ***only He could become the perfect sacrifice***
- ***only His blood could pay for the sins of all the world***

Nothing else could do it! You couldn’t devise a religious system with animal sacrifices or other kinds of rituals to do. He was the Author and Maker of all mankind! He was the One Who, with the judgment on Adam and Eve, brought the human nature, which Paul calls *the law of sin and death within human beings!*

Because of that and Satan the devil, we all sin grievously before God! But God is willing to forgive ***if*** we repent! It takes the shed blood of Jesus Christ to pay for those sins. ***Nothing else can do it—period!***

Verse 5: “But He *was* wounded for our transgressions; *He was* crushed for our iniquities; the

chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him... [so we can have peace with God] ...and with His stripes we ourselves are healed.” *There are two healings:*

1. physically when we’re sick
2. healing of the mind when we’re converted

Verse 7: “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet, He opened not His mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.”

That’s quite a thing! I want you to, this coming week, go through and read all the things had to go through. Remember, as Paul wrote, all of these things are in the Old Testament ***to make us wise unto salvation!***

Verse 8: “By oppression and judgment He was taken away...”

Talk about the elite today who are never judged for their sins! Look what they did to Jesus Who never sinned! They all knew it! ***But because He did come and politically join the Jewish elite—the priests, Sadducees, Pharisees and elders—they connived to have Him killed! Scourged! Crucified!***

“...and with His generation who did consider that He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He *was* stricken” (v 8).

That’s an amazing thing to understand! So, when you read about the scourging of Jesus, you read about Him being nailed to that crossbar that hung on a tree, ***He did that for our transgressions! The transgressions of the whole world!***

Now, the whole world hasn’t been forgiven, yet, because now is not their time. Now is the time for the firstfruits! So, we need to examine our lives and see what we are doing.

Verse 9: “And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; although **He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.**” *That’s an amazing thing to understand, isn’t it? Yes!*

Verse 10: “Yet, **the LORD willed**...” *It was the will of God, the Father and of Christ, because Christ willing laid down His life, and He knew what was going to happen!*

“...to crush Him and He has put Him to grief: You shall make His life an offering for sin. He shall see His seed; **He shall prolong His days**...” (v 10)—*because of the resurrection!*

There are people, *who are supposed to be*

ministers of the Gospel, **who do not believe** in the virgin birth of Jesus, and they do not believe in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and that He was God manifested in the flesh!

“...and that the purpose of the LORD might prosper in His hand” (v 10).

That’s why you need the book: *God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days!* That will **open your mind** as nothing else will!

Verse 11: “He shall see of the travail of His soul.... [His whole body] ...He shall be fully satisfied....”

When Jesus said that ‘it is finished’ when He was on the cross, that sacrifice was perfected!

“...By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many...” (v 11).

Jesus was raised from the dead, then began the Church *so that we can have the Gospel preached*:

- the Gospel of the Kingdom of God
- the Gospel of the Grace of God

both together so that we can be saved from our sins!

“...and He shall bear their iniquities” (v 11)—*sins!*

When Jesus said that He laid His life down, look at what He knew was already there that He inspired to be written in Isa. 53. Now let’s see what it is in Isa. 50. Here’s what He knew what was going to happen:

Isaiah 50:6: “I gave My back to the smiters... [*scourged, ripped apart*] ...and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair... [*they jerked the hair—His beard—right off His face*] ...I did not hide My face from shame and spitting”—**and didn’t say a word!**

Verse 7: “For the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore, I have not been disgraced. On account of this **I have set My face like a flint**...”

We need to look at this verse and take an example from it. We’re going to face some difficult times! But **we’ve got to have our mind set** “...like a flint...”

- that we believe
- that we know
- that we understand the Truth
- that we are not going to give quarter to anyone

It will probably cost us our lives!

- Did it cost Jesus His life? *Yes!*
- Was He resurrected from the dead? *Yes!*
- Does He live forever? *Yes!*

That’s what’s going to happen to us!

But you have to have this kind of mindset!

“...I have set My face like a flint and I know that I shall not be ashamed. *He is* near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? Let us stand together; who *is* My adversary? Let him come near Me” (vs 7-8). *Then Satan came, but he lost!*

Verse 9: “Behold, the Lord GOD will help Me; who *is* he *who* shall condemn Me?.... [no one did] ...Lo, they all shall grow old like a garment; the moth shall eat them.... [this shows the way out of all these troubles]: ...**Who among you fears the LORD, who obeys the voice of His servant**... [Do they really obey the voice of Jesus] ...who walks *in* darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God.” (vs 9-10).

A lot of people believe that grace has done away with the Law. ***NO! It hasn’t done away with it!*** They are so locked into today! There are so many people that believe the false things of Protestantism. Do you know what’s going to happen to them? *Protestantism is going to fall for the one-world religion ‘hook, line and sinker,’ with the exception of the few who may repent!*

Isa. 52 talks about how Jesus looked when He was hanging on the cross.

Isaiah 52:14: “Many were astonished at Him—for *His body was* so disfigured—even His form beyond that of the sons of men.”

Notice for what purpose. When it says that He emptied Himself, He gave up and laid His life down; this is what He laid His life down to:

Verse 15: “So shall He sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; **for they will see that which was not told to them; yea, what they had not heard, shall they consider.**”

There will be a time when their minds will be opened! What a thing to understand!

Now let’s see some of the inspired words that God gave to King David to write about what His thoughts would be while He was hanging on the cross and dying. ***He had to be alone! He had to bear the sin of all the world alone!***

When we come to God and ask God to help us because of the difficulties that we go through, look at what He went through so that He could

understand what we go through. But what we go through is just a miniscule thing compared to what He went through.

Psalm 22:1—*words of Jesus*: “My God, My God, **why have You forsaken Me...**”

That’s what He said while He was on the cross: ‘Eli, Eli lama sabachthani’!

“...and *why are You* so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?” (v 1).

I don’t think any of us can relate to it in a way that we can really understand the kind of suffering that Jesus went through to bring salvation and forgiveness of sin. But here’s part of it:

Verse 6: “But I am a worm, and no man...”
Think about that!

Sometimes you get depressed and you think about how terrible and awful it is. Well, it was Christ. He said that He was a worm. What’s a worm?

“...a ^[#3]**reproach of men and despised** by the people.... [those who should have known] ...All who see Me mock Me; they shoot out the lip; they shake the head, saying, ‘He trusted on the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, since He delights in Him!’” (vs 6-8).

Didn’t they say, ‘If You’re the Christ, come down off the cross.’ And the two thieves said, ‘Yeah, and save us, too.’

Verse 9: “For You are He who took Me out of the womb, causing Me to trust while on My mother’s breasts.... [*quite a thing*] ...I was cast upon You from birth; You are My God from My mother’s womb. Be not far from Me; for trouble is near, for there is none to help” (vs 9-11).

There’s no way to help! You’re nailed on that cross and looking down at yourself and you’re seeing what your body is going through, and all of the elite mucky-mucks out there jeering at you, ‘Come on down if You’re the Savior.’

Verse 12: “Many bulls have encircled around Me... [Satan all the demons circling around the cross] ...strong bulls of Bashan have surrounded Me. They opened wide their mouths at Me, like a ravening and a roaring lion” (vs 12-13).

Doesn’t it talk about Satan as a roaring lion? *Yes!* They were all delighted and happy to see that Jesus was on the cross dying. They probably didn’t have any belief in the fact that He could really be resurrected.

Verse 14: “I am poured out like water, and

all My bones are out of joint... [*talk about pain and agony*] ...My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of My bowels.” *He could just feel His life going away!*

Verse 15: “My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; dogs have surrounded Me; a band of evildoers have encircled Me; they have pierced My hands and My feet; and You have brought Me into the dust of death. **I can count all My bones...**” (vs 15-17).

He could look down and see right while He was hanging on the cross; then one of the soldiers took a spear and thrust it up through the right side and pierced His heart *so that every drop of blood would come out!*

That’s the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us! So, when we take the Passover, let’s understand what God did!

Verse 18: “They divide My garments among them and cast lots upon My vesture. But You, O LORD, be not far from Me; O My strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion’s mouth; yea, and from the wild ox’s horns. You have answered Me” (vs 18-21).

Now it changes right here between vs 21 & 22, because of the resurrection. See what He went through. When we come for the Passover, this is what we have to know and understand.

Psalm 69:1—*so we can see how He felt*: “Save me, O God, for the waters have come in upon my soul!.... [just like water flowing out of Him] ...I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, where the floods overwhelm me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God. Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; those who would cut me off are mighty being wrongfully my enemies. Should I restore what I did not take away? O God, You know my foolishness...” (vs 1-5).

He took upon Himself all the foolishness of the world!

“...and My sins... [the sins of the world] ...are not hidden from You. Do not let those who wait on You, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed because of Me; let not the ones who seek You be ashamed because of Me, O God of Israel” (vs 5-6).

All of these were prophesied ahead of time! Jesus knew all of these when He divested Himself to become that pinpoint of life, to be born of the virgin Mary and grow up to be a man, and be the Messiah,

the Savior, and to preach the Word of God to train the apostles! Look at how much has come of that down to our age today. That is an amazing, astonishing thing! ***Look at what we have with the whole Word of God!***

Verse 19: “You have known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonor; my enemies are all before You. Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; and I looked for sympathy, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They also gave Me gall for My food; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink” (vs 19-21).

All of those were the prophecies about His crucifixion.

- What was Jesus’ reaction?
- What did God do?
- What did Christ do?
- What was His attitude in all of this?
- What did Jesus say?

Luke 23:34: “Then Jesus said, **‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’....**”

Because of Satan the devil and all the demons—all the forces of evil—were against Jesus Christ to pour upon Him all the sins that they have caused in humanity from Adam and Eve until the last person, all on Jesus Christ. And He says: “...**‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’....**”

I want you to think about that, pray and study about that, between now and Passover. When we come to the Passover:

- we’re asking God to continue to forgive us
- we’re asking God to help us
- we’re asking God to strengthen us
- we’re asking God to open our mind to the Truth of His love and goodness through Jesus Christ
- we’re asking God to help us be converted
 - ✓ our very mind changed with His Holy Spirit
 - ✓ our very thoughts
 - ✓ our very emotions

All wrapped up in God’s Way, so that we can withstand the days that are ahead!

We thank You, O Lord God for the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ! Amen!

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Timothy 3:15-17

- 2) 2 Peter 1:19-21
- 3) Genesis 3:11-17
- 4) Genesis 4:7
- 5) Genesis 6:5-6
- 6) John 10:7
- 7) John 14:6
- 8) John 10:9-18
- 9) John 1:1, 14
- 10) Philippians 2:5-6
- 11) John 1:1
- 12) Philippians 2:6-8
- 13) Isaiah 53:1-5, 7-11
- 14) Isaiah 50:6-10
- 15) Isaiah 52:14-15
- 16) Psalm 22:1, 6-21
- 17) Psalm 69:1-6, 19
- 18) Luke 23:34

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 2
- Luke 1

Also referenced: Book:

God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by the Sabbath and Holy Days by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo
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How Do You Walk According to the Spirit?

(First Day of Unleavened Bread)

Fred R. Coulter—April 16, 2022

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Everyone wants to know: How much more time do we have? *The Lord knows!* But we know that we're closer than ever before. There are a lot of things coming down the pike that we need to be prepared for and ***be strong in the Lord!*** Tough times will be coming! So, we have to be ready!

In line with what God does, and it's an amazing thing with what He has done with the Bible He has put the Truth in there in such a way that it's scattered here and there, and it has to be properly put together.

Then you have the requirement that unless you obey God you won't understand what He's saying. If you don't, by faith, believe in Christ and *know* and know that you *know*, ***then you're not going to understand about Salvation!***

One of the most important things about salvation, as we have seen and just accomplished with the Passover. ***The Passover the way that Jesus commanded us to take it!***

Then the great Night to be Much Observed unto the Lord for bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt on the very same day that 430 years previous to that He made the covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15).

So, what we see is everything is in the Bible that we need for salvation. We need the New Testament and the Old Testament. You can't have half of it, like the Jews do, with the Old Testament. Or half of it, like the Protestants do, with the New Testament. Just forget about Catholicism, that's just paganism with the names of Christ attached to it.

Lev. 23 is the test chapter: **Do you believe God?** This is the foundation for the Sabbath and the Holy Days. Remember, unless your foundation is founded on the Rock—Jesus Christ—it can be blown away!

Leviticus 23:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying."

These are the words of God. Who was God at this particular point? *This is the One Who became Jesus Christ!* When we go to the New Testament, guess what:

- Jesus kept the Sabbath and we're to walk in His footsteps
- Jesus kept the Passover, and we're to do as He did
- Jesus kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Jesus kept the Feast of Tabernacles
- Jesus kept Pentecost

That's all in the New Testament! Here in Lev. 23 is ***the key linchpin*** to:

- understanding the Bible
 - understanding God
- and built on that*
- understanding His plan of salvation and what He's going to do with us

Amazing! All right in the Word of God!

Verse 2: "Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, '**Concerning the appointed Feasts of the LORD...**'" *That shows ownership!* When you come to:

Mark 2:28^[transcriber's correction]—*Jesus said:*
"...the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath"

That is in the genitive case, meaning ***He owns the Sabbath!*** That's His! It doesn't belong to the Jews or anyone else. It belongs to God and He invites us to come and participate with Him on the Sabbath.

Leviticus 23:2: "**...Concerning the appointed Feasts of the LORD** which you **shall** proclaim... [not optional] *...to be* Holy convocations, even these are **My appointed Feasts**. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, a Holy convocation. You shall not do any work. *It is* a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings" (vs 2-3).

Now we have a double whammy thrown at us! Did you know that there are only three countries in the world that have Saturday—which is the correct seventh day—as the seventh day of the week? *United States, Canada and Japan!* All the rest of the world has *Sunday* as the seventh day! Think about what's going to happen when new people come along and they read about the seventh day and they don't understand what has happened to change it in our lifetime from Saturday to Sunday.

Then guess what the churches are going to do? *They will all get on the bandwagon and say,*

‘See, we keep the seventh day, just go look at your calendar’! ***Twisting little device of Satan the devil!***

Verse 4: “These *are* the appointed Feasts of the LORD, Holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons. In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, **between the two evenings**, is the LORD’S Passover” (vs 4-5).

That is the correct translation! And as we have seen, ***between the two evenings is after sunset but before dark!***

Verse 6—*this is today*: “And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD. **You must eat unleavened bread** seven days.”

We will learn why, and what the spiritual applications are for today.

Verse 7: “On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation. You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days. In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*” (v 7-8).

Here is a good example that you need other Scriptures to clarify different ones, because here it doesn’t tell us to make an offering made by fire. But in Deut. 16 here’s what it tells us. This appears in Exo. 23 and Exo. 34, a little different wording, but it appears there.

Deuteronomy 16:16: “Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread... [this Feast] ...and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man... [everyone] ...*shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you” (vs 16-17).

(pause for the offering)

Let’s continue where we left off on the Sabbath before Unleavened Bread. Let’s see how the Old Testament and New Testament are intertwined together and they form *one complete book and all the words of God!* They are here for us to give us understanding about:

- what God is doing
- what human beings are
- what their problems are
- what God is doing to bring those whom He calls unto salvation in the first resurrection

All of those are all tied together in everything that we keep! So, let’s have a little background and understanding about the situation concerning what Adam and Eve did.

Romans 5:12: “Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world...” *This is in the human realm!*

Satan and the angels who rebelled, but that was before there were human beings. That’s also another thing that God reveals. What is He going to do with that? *Especially, as we have known, that all human sin comes from the mouth of Satan the devil and causes people to believe lies!*

When they believe lies, what do they do? They ***transgress*** the Law of God, which is sin! Think about what it says here:

Verse 12: “Therefore, as **by one man sin...**” *Adam and Eve transgressed the Laws of God, but Adam was responsible!*

“...entered into the world and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way death...” (v 12).

Isn’t that what God said? *In the day that you eat thereof, in dying you shall surely die!* They lived 900 years! But did they die? *Yes, indeed, they did!* So, it doesn’t matter how long a time there is from the time from the time that you sin until the time that you die because of your sin. Sometimes it will be instant, other times it will take years.

Notice what happened to all the offspring beginning with Adam and Eve.

“...in this way death passed **into** all mankind...” (v 12).

How is that? *There is the death gene within us!* Men have been trying so hard to try and find that death gene so they can replace it with one of their own. But they will never be able to do it!

“...and it is for this reason that **all** have sinned” (v 12)—*everyone from the time they were born till the time that they die!*

Now understand this, Paul make a clarifying point:

Verse 13: “(For **before** the Law... [the Law as given to Israel] ...**sin was in the world**. However, **sin is not imputed when law does not exist**.” *It did exist!*

Verse 14: “Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even upon those who had not sinned in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the *One* Who was to come.”

What is passed into us? *The law of sin and death!*

Romans 8:1: “Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh...”

What does it mean to walk according to the flesh? *To live your life without any knowledge of God, or the wrong knowledge of God!* Living in sin!

“..but according to the Spirit” (v 1). *That’s what we’re going to talk about today: How do you walk according to the Spirit? You can’t do it without the Laws of God!*

Verse 2: “Because the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death.”

That’s the whole purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. How are we delivered from the law of sin and death?

- that’s what’s in us
- that’s the sin that passed into all human beings

The law of sin and death! What did that produce in all human beings?

Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...” *That is the full measure of leaven as a type of sin!*

Proverbs 16:25: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.”

Romans 8:7: “The carnal mind *is* enmity against God...” *An enemy!*

Romans 6:23^[transcriber’s correction]: “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” *That’s the way out of it!*

Let’s see what people think about themselves; mostly all of the time. This is the way it is in the world:

Proverbs 16:2: “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.” *That’s quite a thing!*

How do we come out of all of this? Believe it or not, the beginning of spiritual understanding is right here:

Verse 3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.”

That’s the whole purpose of the New Covenant; ***to have the mind of Christ, to have your thoughts established!*** How does that work? Let’s tie this together with:

Verse 6: “By mercy and Truth iniquity is purged...” **How do you overcome sin?** By:

- mercy
- forgiveness when you repent
- Truth; representing unleavened bread

No vanity! Without the Spirit of God man at his very best state is altogether vanity!

“...and **by the fear of the LORD men turn away from evil**” (v 6).

That’s quite a thing, right here in the Old Testament in Prov. 16. Now let’s see that, yes, ***Paul commanded the Corinthians to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread!*** They had this great sin in the congregation.

Talk about having a congregation beset with the burden of a great sin where you had one of the members who was having sexual relations with his step-mother. I guess they figured that with the grace of God it doesn’t matter what you do, because God accepts you.

Sounds like the doctrine you hear today from the Protestants. They say it doesn’t matter what you do because God accepts you. They had to have that back here in order for the congregation to knowingly let this go on.

So, Paul writes, 1-Corinthians 5:4: “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, together with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh... [if that’s necessary] ...that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (vs 4-5).

In other words, *disfellowshipment in hopes that he repents!* We know that he did later!

- What about all the rest that put up with it?
- Who tolerate it?
- What about your own lives, what are you going to do?
- ***You can’t be in fellowship with sin and in fellowship with God!***
- ***You can’t be partakers of Christ and partakers of the world!***

So, here’s what we’re to do. This is why in Exo. 13 it says, *‘purge out all the leaven! Let there not be seen any leaven in all your borders!’* So, here

it's the same thing. ***The leaven is in our mind and attitude!***

Verse 7: "Therefore, purge out the old leaven, **so that you may become a new lump...**"

We're to be new creation in Christ; that's what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about! That we have our human nature changed by the power of the pure Truth of God through the Holy Spirit.

"...even as you are unleavened..." (v 7).

They unleavened their homes, but why come to church with the whole situation of a man who is having sex with his step-mother? *Doesn't do any good to unleaven your homes, because you're putting up with sin, agreeing with sin!* Notice why we get rid of the sin and leaven:

"...For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us" (v 7). **He was sinless!**

Remember that when we take of the bread at Passover, **that represents Christ's sinless body!** Think about that and what God wants us to do! He wants us to overcome sin:

- with His Spirit
- with righteousness
- with Truth
- with honesty
- with understanding
- with love
- with mercy
- with forgiveness

"...For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us" (v 7).

What comes *before* the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *The Passover!* And immediately follows: the Feast of Unleavened Bread. So, here is the command; a command by Paul to Gentiles.

The Protestants like to make a lot out of the Gentiles that they can do anything that they want to. *Not so!*

Verse 8: **"For this reason, let us keep the Feast..."**

Who were the Corinthians? *There were some Jews, but mostly Greeks, keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread!*

"...not with old leaven..." (v 8).

Don't bring your old sins, your old ways, your carnality that all human beings have that is sin

entered into all human beings. We don't come in with that leading our lives. We come to God with His Spirit leading our lives, directing our thoughts, overcoming the evil thoughts that are within us that are contrary to God. We will see how that is done in just a minute.

"...nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of Sincerity and Truth" (v 8). ***That's what we are to do!***

Let's look at what God has done. The call goes out, and we will see that there's quite a very interesting statement in Matt. 20_[transcriber's correction].

After Jesus gives the parable in Matt. 20 & 22, the call goes out and very few people respond. But those that do, here's what happens:

Matthew 20:16_[transcriber's correction]: **"...many are called, but few are chosen"**—*selected!*

If we're the *called, chosen and faithful*, that means that we answered the call of God, **God selected us!** Think about that for a minute. In order for you to receive the Holy Spirit, **it is God Who selects you!** Then you are to be faithful! Faithful to God in everything:

- faithful to His Truth
- faithful to His Word
- faithful to His Laws

Let's look at all the Laws of God that are done in Spirit and in Truth. ***That represents unleavenness!*** Isn't that what God wants us to have? ***Be unleavened!***

- we know that God calls us
- we know that the Father draws us
- we know that He leads us to repentance and baptism to receive the Holy Spirit

Of course, that's the whole purpose: Repent and be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit! At that point, we're keeping the Laws of God.

Now let's see how the Law works with Spirit of God! Let's understand something in Psalms 19. We're going to read this and this is going to be a tremendous thing! This is New Testament doctrine in the Old Testament. Remember that all the apostles preached the Gospel from the Old Testament, because the New Testament was not even written, yet.

The next time someone brings up about that harsh Law, remember this verse, because this is important:

Psalm 19:7: **The Law of the LORD is perfect...**

- Why would you throw away something that is perfect?
- What did Jesus say, first person, very clearly? ***Do not think***—don't let it enter your mind—***that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. But I came to fulfill***—complete—***the Law and the Prophets!***

Isa. 52 shows ***to magnify the Law and make it Holy!*** It's perfect! **What does the Law do?** Upon repentance:

"...restoring the soul..." (v 7). *In other words, it helps give you life!*

"...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (v 7).

What do we have? *The New Testament and the Old Testament!* Those are the words of God!

- these are the things that make us wise
- these are the things that teach us

We will see how He does it, and it's quite a thing indeed, *really!* We have it in print right here, that's true, but where does God want it? *We will see in a little bit!*

Verse 8: "The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes."

If you don't keep the Laws of God, you can't see things clearly. Do you wonder why there's so much confusion in the world? ***They're busily rejecting God!*** They're busily following Satan the devil!

Verse 9: "The fear of the LORD is clean... [right fear; the fear to transgress] **...enduring forever;** the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."

How much is all of this worth? Everybody is out there trying to get rich, trying to see what they can do to keep the government from taking charge of their bank accounts and so forth. What you need is the Law and Truth of God! What does it say about how much the Laws of God are worth?

Verse 10: **"More to be desired than gold..."**

How much gold do you have? *I hope you have some for financial reasons!* Look what men have done down through the centuries looking and mining for gold, refining the gold, transporting the

gold and using it for money, jewelry, whatever.

"...yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (v 10).

Honey is really good tasting! Notice what it does. Let's see where God wants His laws and commandments. This is what God is doing, because you put out the leaven—the sin—and you put in the unleavened, *the Spirit of God and the Laws of God!* These help us to think the way God wants us to think, because as you think in your mind and heart, that's who you are! This is why in Heb. 10 God does this. ***This is conversion!***

Those who think they're 'born again'; they're **not** born again, they're not even converted, because the Holy Spirit has to be involved in it!

- the laws of God
- the commandments of God
- the Feasts of God
- the Holy Spirit of God

All work together!

Hebrews 10:15^[transcriber's correction]: "And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, "This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days," says *the Lord...*" (vs 15-16).

This is the New Covenant; here is the New Covenant! *All of you Protestants*—if you're a Protestant out there squirming in your seat because I'm talking about the Laws of God—***please listen up!***

"...‘I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds’" (v 16).

- Do you have Lev. 23 in your heart and mind?
- Do you have all the commandments of God in your heart and mind?

Well, you've got the Bible, so you can read and study and understand what they are. You need to understand this: ***if you think you're going to heaven, because you're not going to heaven! There is a resurrection!***

Anyone who thinks that they're going to live in the Kingdom of God need to understand one Scripture, Rev. 22. Men have tried to bury this under a false translation, because they don't like the commandments of God. They hate the Laws of God, but notice what Jesus said.

Since He wants it in our heart and mind written and inscribed, meaning *that's how we live*

and function! Jesus says that the beginning and the ending all resides in Christ:

Revelation 22:13: “I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. **Blessed are those who keep His commandments...**” (vs 13-14).

The Law is not a curse! They completely misread Gal. 3. We’re not delivered from the Law because it is a curse, we are delivered from the curse of the Law, which comes with disobedience and rejection of the commandments of God. We are delivered from our sins! We are not delivered from the laws and commandments of God!

“...that they may have the right to eat of the Tree of Life, and may enter by the gates into the city. **But excluded...**” (vs 14-15)—*all of those who don’t do that!*

This is the covenant that we took Passover night; Hebrews 10:16: “‘This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,’ says the Lord, ‘I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds... [actually how we think] ...and their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again’” (vs 16-17).

Verse 18: “Now, where remission of these *is*, it is no longer *necessary* to offer sacrifices for sin. Therefore, brethren, having confidence to enter into the **true Holiest** by the blood of Jesus” (vs 18-19).

“...to enter into the **true Holiest...**” means *we have direct connection between us and God the Father in heaven above!*

When we get on our knees to pray, they go directly to God! Don’t go through a priest, a minister, an idol, or rosary beads.

Verse 20: “By a new and living way... [direct access to God the Father] ...which He consecrated for us through the veil (that is, His flesh), and *having* a great High Priest over the house of God” (vs 20-21).

This is what all of this is to do for us! This is why we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread so we can do v 22. This is why Jesus shows that we repent everyday. What is in our mind are all the sins of what we grew up with and how we lived our life before we were converted. It takes the rest of our life to purge it out and also the things and thoughts that come into our mind. We’re living in the world that is controlled by the ‘prince of the power of the air,’ who is sending out his wavelengths everywhere!

Here’s what God wants; v 22: “Let us **approach God with a true heart,** with **full**

conviction of faith, our hearts having been purified... [tie in Col. 2-circumcised] ...from a wicked conscience, and **our bodies having been washed with pure water.** Let us hold fast without wavering *to* the hope *that* we profess, for He Who promised *is* faithful” (vs 22-23).

That’s what it’s all about with the New Covenant. Let’s see how we proceed with that.

(break@45:45)

Psa. 19—There’s a little bit more that we need to bring out that the Laws of God do for us, written in our heart and inscribed in our mind.

Psalm 19:11: “Moreover, by them **Your servant is warned...**”

You will be able to say to yourself, ‘Oh no, that’s not right, that’s sin, I’m not going to do it.’ You’ll be warned.

“...in keeping them there is great reward”
(v 11).

Didn’t we read that back in Rev. 22? *Blessed are those who keep His commandments!* So that they may have the right to eat of the Tree of Life.

- Is that not a great reward?
- Isn’t that the greatest reward possible?

Here’s what it does: *It helps you to think properly!* Because you’ve come from having a carnal mind without the Spirit of God, and you mind and you life, everything in various degrees are all mixed up and messed up, and God calls you out of it to get squared around. It does this, and this is tremendous:

Verse 12: “Who can understand his errors?....”

How many people are willing to admit their mistakes? Errors? Sins? *Well, not very many!* That’s why repentance is between you and God on your knees to God! *To no man, because He knows your heart and your mind!*

“...Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults” (v 12).

Even the things that you have hidden in the back of your mind are going to come out so you can repent of it.

Verse 13: “And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; **do not let them rule over me...**”

Isn't that New Testament doctrine? *Because you're under grace, sin shall not rule over you!* See what an amazing book the Bible is!

"...then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, **O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer**" (vs 13-14). *Amazing!*

Doesn't that agree with Heb. 12 that we read? *Yes, indeed!*

Now let's come back to 1-John is one of the most wonderful epistles in the New Testament; it tells us an awful lot what we need to do:

- to behave spiritually
- to think spiritually
- how we need to repent

It also tells us that we have a fellowship relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ!

That's what all of this does! All of this that we're talking about with the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a big picture of:

- love
- truth
- righteousness
- overcoming
- forgiveness
- strength

Everything like this that comes from God through His Spirit!

Remember that John was the apostle that Jesus loved more than the rest. All of His writings have a closeness to God and His Spirit that's just a little measure above the rest.

1-John 1:3 "That which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you **in order**..."

Why all the things are written in the New Testament, the Old Testament, everything combined together. What is the one thing that it boils down to that's important?

"...that you also may have fellowship with us; for **the fellowship**—indeed, our fellowship—**is with the Father and with His own Son Jesus Christ**. These things we are also writing to you, so that your joy may be completely full" (vs 3-4).

Let's understand how we are to live, and how we're not to fool ourselves! That's why we're to have it written in our heart and mind by the Holy Spirit.

Verse 5: "And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is Light, and there is no darkness at all in Him." *The darkness comes from Satan the devil!*

Verse 6: "If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness..."

That's what the Protestants do; they're walking in darkness, they can't understand:

- the Sabbath
- the Holy Days
- the Truth of the Spirit of God
- the things in the Old Testament
- the things in the New Testament

They have a simple pat formula of saying a nice little prayer, you follow the grace of God and you're assured of going to heaven.

Verse 6: "If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness, **we are lying to ourselves**... [that's exactly what the Protestants do, the Catholics do and the Jews do] **...and we are not practicing the Truth**."

The Truth is not only the Laws of God, the Word of God and everything, it is:

- how to love God
- how to love each other
- how to live our lives

That is the Truth! We need to practice it!

Jesus said in Luke 6, 'Why do you call Me *Lord, Lord*, and do not practice the things that I say?'

Verse 7: "However, if we walk in the Light [Christ], as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin**."

The truth is, just as we are to purge out all the leaven and put in the unleavened, we need to repent every day! There are thoughts, things, actions that need to be repented of! We're still living in the world. That's why one of the first things it says with the prayer—that Jesus gave as the model prayer—is forgive us our sins daily. **"...and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin."**

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us." *This is why we need:*

- the Spirit of Truth

- the Law of Truth
- the Way of Truth

Verse 9: “If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous **to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us” (vs 9-10).

I actually had a man write me and tell me that he doesn’t sin. Well, that can’t be so!

Psa. 103—Let’s see some New Testament doctrine that backs up what we just read:

Psalm 103:1: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name.”

What commandment does this tie into? *The greatest commandment of all: **to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength!***

Verse 2: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; **Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.**”

God has been blessing us with a lot of healings here recently. We’re going to try to get a notice up on Go To Meeting because a lot of people have been *praying for one another*, as the Bible says, *so that you may be healed.*

Verse 4: “**Who redeems your life from destruction...** [the Lake of Fire] ...**Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.** Who satisfies your desires with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed” (vs 4-6). *He lifts out of those oppressions!*

We’ll talk about, later, one thing you need to do for overcoming some of the oppressions and depressions.

Verse 10: “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, for as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (vs 10-12).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins! Then we’re to walk in newness of life. That newness of life is being led by the Spirit of God. ***If you have the Spirit of God, since it is the Spirit of Truth—the Word of God is true, His commandments are true—and if you’re led by the Spirit, what will He lead you to do? It’s not to reject the laws and commandments of God!***

- Why did He do these things?
- Why did He give us these things?
- How is that we have all of these writings for us?

This is why we need to study the Word of God! Study and re-study! That’s the way we grow in grace and knowledge. You don’t learn it all by just one reading, or two or three or four! It’s a lifetime study!

1-John 2:1: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you **may not** sin....”

That’s what we’re doing here with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We’re going over the Scriptures of God so that we can get rid of sin and may not sin!

“...And yet, if anyone does sin... [because we do] ...we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous; and He is *the* propitiation for our sins... [we receive forgiveness and cleansing; help and understanding] ...and not for our sins only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world” (vs 1-2)—*according to the Word of God!*

Verse 3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: **if we keep His commandments.**” *We all know that!*

Let’s see what else it’s supposed to do. How is this done? We talked about how He writes His commandments in our heart and mind, but what does that lead to? Here’s what it’s to do and this takes time; this is a lifetime conversion process. It’s not an instantaneous thing. You’re not perfected in an instant. We grow in grace and knowledge, and we are perfect, and we are renewed day-by-day.

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus.”

How is that done? We have to let it be done and actively pursue it. Let’s see what Paul writes, because this is the whole purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Get rid of the carnal mind, and have the mind of Christ. Let’s see how that works. This is quite a thing.

Romans 12:1: “I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy *and* well-pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service.” **How is that done?** *He tells us:*

Verse 2: “**Do not conform yourselves to this world...**”

We’re not to be like the world; we live in it, but we’re not part of it. Just like Jesus is not of this

world. That's what He said, and *we are not of this world!* That's what He prayed for us.

“...**but be transformed...**” (v 2)—Greek: ‘metamorphous’; a continuous, slow transformation over your whole lifetime. Steven Greene gave a Church At Home message on the Monarch Butterfly, watch that.

The butterfly starts out as a caterpillar, and then it makes it chrysalis and is transformed internally to a butterfly. So, when the chrysalis is opened up and the butterfly comes out, it is a new creature, completely different.

From that little insect and those similar to that, we can understand what's going to happen with the resurrection. We die and are buried, turned to dust. Then when we're resurrected we are new, completely transformed! But the process has to take place during our lifetime, just like the chrysalis is the place where the caterpillar is changed from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

“...**transformed by the renewing of your mind** in order that you may prove... [something we always need to be doing, proving the Truth, living by the Truth] ...what *is* well-pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God” (v 2).

2-Corinthians 4:13 “And having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, ‘I believed, therefore, I have spoken,’ we also believe... [that belief has to be sure and strong] ...therefore, we also speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes...” (vs 13-15).

Everything that we do as elders is for the sake of the brethren, so that you can:

- grow in grace and knowledge
- grow in understanding
- have your mind changed

“...so that the abounding grace may cause the thanksgiving of many to overflow unto the glory of God” (v 15)—*because we love and serve God!*

Verse 16: For this reason, we do not lose heart...” *We've all gone through some pretty dark days. **Don't lose heart!***

“...but if our outward man is being brought to decay... [which it is; we're all getting older] ...yet, **the inward man is being renewed day-by-day.**” (v 16). Tie in Rom. 12, *let your mind be renewed. Transformed, metamorphosed!*

2-Corinthians 5:14—*showing what God is*

accomplishing: “For the love of Christ compels us, *because* we have thus concluded that if one died for all, then all died.”

In other words, Paul is saying to always remember that when you died that spiritual death in the watery grave of baptism, ***the old man died!*** What is taking place now is ***the development of the new man/woman--person!***

Verse 15: “And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live to themselves, but to Him Who died for them and was raised again. So then, from this time *forward* we know no man according to *the* flesh; but even if we have known Christ in *the* flesh, yet, now we no longer know *Him* accordingly” (vs 15-16)—*because He is a spirit being!*

This is why we go through the things for the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Verse 17: “Therefore, if anyone *be* in Christ, ***he is a new creation***... [as we saw, *day-by-day*; the inward man is being renewed day-by-day] ...the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. And all things *are* from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (vs 17-18).

That's quite a thing for us to grasp and understand. All of this is being done by following the ways of God, the Laws of God.

Now let's see the other things He wants us to follow. Here's what we are to do after conversion. The book of Ephesians is a tremendous, tremendous writing of the Apostle Paul. It's absolutely marvelous. You can't just read it and read it over and over. Study the Bible and you will always come back to these things that Paul wrote that are very inspirational to help you understand what is going on.

Ephesians 4:21: “If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, according to *the Truth* in Jesus.” *That's what we're doing here today, teaching you the Truth in Jesus!*

Verse 22: “That concerning **your former conduct...**”

- the way you lived out there in the world
- the thoughts that you had
- the goals that you had
- the angers that you had

“...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you **be**

renewed in the spirit of your mind” (vs 22-23).

- we are being renewed day-by-day
- we are being renewed in the spirit of our mind

Verse 24: “And that **you put on the new man**, which according to **God is being created**... [that is what God is doing with you, in you] ...in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth. Therefore, let each one put away lies *and* speak the truth with his neighbor, because we are members of one another. *When* you become angry, do not sin. **Do not let the sun go down on your anger**” (vs 24-26). *That’s an important thing to understand!*

Sidebar: if you have things where you get angry and you have a problem—and you react that way—*don’t go to bed with it on your mind!* Get on your knees and repent, *and forgive!*

Matthew 6:9—*Why did Christ say it this way?*: “Therefore, you are to pray after this manner... [straight forward] ...“Our Father, Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”

You have that direct connection to God the Father through prayer!

Verse 10: “Your Kingdom come... [always looking the rule of God:

- in our lives right now with His Spirit
- in the coming Kingdom of God to rule on earth where we will reign as kings and priest under Christ

“...Your will be done on earth, as *it is* in heaven” (v 10).

Let’s not fool ourselves when we do something and think it’s the will of God! We have to pray about it, first!

Verse 11: “Give us this day our daily bread...”

Keep us alive physically, and He does. Think about keeping alive all the people on the earth; that’s a lot of mouths to feed—7.5 billion people eating everyday, how much ever they eat? How would you like to take care of that matter? *God does it!*

Verse 12: “And forgive us our debts...”

That doesn’t mean you indebtedness; that means ***those you have sinned against and you have a debt to God!***

“...as we also forgive our debtors” (v 12).

We’ll see something else here that is a real key to overcoming:

Verse 13: “And lead us not into temptation... [trials and difficulties; they will come naturally] ...**but rescue us from the evil one...**”

The Father is the One Who rescues us (Col. 1) from Satan, the ‘god of this world.’

“...For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (vs 13-15).

Stop and think about this: What was it that Jesus said on the cross after He was nailed to it and lifted up on the cross? What did He say? ***Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing!***

Think about that! Sometimes we don’t think we need to forgive those who have sinned against us, because they haven’t repented. It doesn’t say ***you forgive them if they repent!*** You forgive them so that you will be in right standing with God.

Verse 15: “But **if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**”

I want to ask every one of you a question, and I want you think about it in your life:

When you’ve had problems in the past, learn the lesson, but don’t hold onto the anger of the depression and ill feelings that you have.

- How do you get rid of those? ***You forgive them! Forgive them before God!***
- Did those men know that Jesus forgave them? ***No!***

You forgive some people who have done things to you, they won’t know that you have forgiven them, ***but God will!***

Why is this? *Because you can’t have that right relationship with God, and be praying to Him, if you despise people, hate people, and hold things against them!* Remember, everything in the past that has happened in your life, it drags you down because you haven’t repented and let go of all of those things regardless of how bad that it was against you.

How bad was it against Christ? ***He forgave them!***

That’s what we need to do, *forgive!* If you want your sins forgiven, you forgive them. That may

be tough, because it may have been really very bad, things that you went through. But if you do, it's going to lift a burden from you're heart and mind, and your thoughts. ***It will cleanse your mind so that you have a right relationship with God!***

Ephesians 4:26: "...Do not let the sun go down on your anger; neither give place to the devil" (vs 26-27).

How do you give place to the devil? *By being unforgiving! By being angry!* That doesn't mean that we don't learn the lesson.

How many people left the Church because they hated Herbert W. Armstrong and his son Garner Ted Armstrong for the things that they did? *They did some pretty fantastic things, and terrible sins and deeds!* Have you forgiven them? *I know wonder man who was so bitter that he virtually lost his life in anger! Don't let that happen to you!*

Verse 28: "Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working at what is good, so that he may impart something to the one who has need. Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth... [that's a hard one to work on, but we can overcome and do that] ...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And **do not vex** the Holy Spirit of God..." (vs 28-30).

What does that mean? *When you hold things in your mind that are anger, hostility and not forgiving, you are vexing the Holy Spirit of God!* God's Spirit wants you to be free of all of those things!

Verse 31: "Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice; **and be kind and tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you**" (vs 31-32). *There it is, right there; that agrees with Matt. 6!*

Ephesians 5:1: "Therefore, be imitators of God..." *After all:*

- that's Who we have fellowship with
- that's Who renews us day-by-day
- that's Who gives us His Spirit so that we can grow and overcome

Verse 2: "And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor."

Then Paul lists all the things we shouldn't

do and shouldn't keep.

For this Feast of Unleavened Bread, ***let's understand that we do have a spiritual war that we're fighting!***

- within ourselves
- out there in the world

Both!

2-Corinthians 10:4—*this is the key*: "For although we walk in *the* flesh... [we do; we're still physical] ...we do not war according to *the* flesh."

You can't overcome spiritual problems by carnal means! It must be spiritual means! Just like with forgiveness: ***forgiveness is the spiritual means for overcoming all the anger and hatred that you have in your heart toward those people who ruined your life as you were growing up!***

Verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds."

What are the *strongholds*? *Those things in our mind that we need to get rid of! **Purge out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump!***

Verse 5: "Casting down *vain* imaginations, **and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...**"

You can only do that with the Spirit of God. That's why God gives His laws and commandments written in our heart and mind ***so that this is the way that we think!*** He gives to us:

- His love
- His mercy
- His forgiveness
- His Truth
- His kindness

Everything that God gives to us spiritually!

*So, you cast down all those things that are "...against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ**" (v 5). That's the whole story of overcoming!*

Verse 6: "And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled."

There it is right there! We can reduce this whole message into this saying:

- ***Cast out the leaven and put in the unleaven!***
- ***To get rid of sin and put in righteousness and the Holy Spirit of God!***

“...bringing into captivity...”

You control it; don't let someone else to control your mind—*your thoughts, your heart and everything!*

“...every thought into the obedience of Christ”

That's the epitome and full message of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

The Monarch Butterfly by Steven Greene {churchathome.org}

FRC:bo
Transcribed: 3/13/22

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- 1) Leviticus 23:1-2
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- 3) Leviticus 23:2-8
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- 5) Romans 5:12-14
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- 7) Jeremiah 17:9
- 8) Proverbs 16:25
- 9) Romans 8:7
- 10) Romans 6:23
- 11) Proverbs 16:2-3, 6
- 12) 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 7-8
- 13) Matthew 20:16
- 14) Psalm 19:7-10
- 15) Hebrews 10:15-16
- 16) Revelation 22:13-15
- 17) Hebrews 10:16-23
- 18) Psalm 19:11-14
- 19) 1 John 1:3-10
- 20) Psalm 103:1-6, 10-12
- 21) 1 John 2:1-3
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- 24) 2 Corinthians 4:13-16
- 25) 2 Corinthians 5:14-18
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- Genesis 15
- Exodus 23, 34
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- Matthew 20; 22
- Isaiah 52
- Galatians 3
- Luke 6
- Colossians 1

Also referenced: Church At Home message:

Fear Not! Fix Your Heart and Mind on Christ!

(Last Day Unleavened Bread)

Fred R. Coulter—April 22, 2022

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the seventh day, the last day, of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! I hope you've had a good Feast, and I hope you've taken the time to draw close to God:

- in prayer
- in study
- in repentance
- in coming to resolve whatever needs to be resolved in your life

And God helping you to do that!

Here we are on the seventh day, and we're told in Lev. 23—and we always turn there on the Feast days—because this is where God has given the Feast days in sequence with the numbered day according to the Hebrew calendar and the Hebrew months.

Leviticus 23:6: “And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD....”

It's not a Jewish feast, though the Jews keep it. But they keep it with all *their* traditions and their Seder meal. We keep it because Unleavened Bread pictures the righteousness of God that we put into our lives, through prayer and study and God's Spirit. It's much different than what the Jews do.

Verse 7: “...You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days....” (vs 7-8).

This is a combination of the temple sacrifices, and whatever sacrifices that the people would bring. As we have seen, in Deut. 16 ***those Passover offerings are actually the offerings to redeem the firstborn!*** They have nothing to do with Passover Offerings.

They're called Passover Offerings because they were offered on the day portion of the Passover. Then they had the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

“...In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*” (v 8).

We have the offering, we take up the offering and it is what God would want us to do. In fact, as we have seen, He commanded it in Deut. 16, which we covered on the first day.

We come before God in thanksgiving and rejoicing to be able to participate in His Feasts.

(pause for the offering)

This Feast, and the offerings that were given, and also the firstborn redemption offering:

Exodus 13:16: “And it shall be for a token upon your hand, and for frontlets between your eyes, for the LORD brought us out from Egypt **by strength of His hand.**”

This is the theme of this day, of how God acts in our lives:

- to help us
- to strengthen us
- to guide us
- to lead us

in everything!

Our journey is not wandering through the Sinai desert as the children of Israel did. Our journey is living in the world, but at the same time we worship in and serve God and *not the world!*

So, we see—beginning in v 17—that the adversary Pharaoh, who is a type of Satan the devil, had second thoughts about having let the children of Israel go. So, let's continue the story:

Verse 17: “And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them *by* the way of the land of the Philistines although that *was* near, for God said, ‘Lest the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.’”

People always look for the easiest way out. Sometimes that doesn't work very well. Here's what God did. He didn't take them straightaway to the land:

Verse 18: “But God led the people toward the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had strictly sworn the children of Israel, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry my bones away from here with you’” (vs 18-19).

Verse 20: “And they moved from Succoth

and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, to go by day and night” (vs 20-21).

*God was showing that He was close! That cloud everyone could see. God wanted the children of Israel to trust in Him. He had to bring about the circumstances **so that they would have no choice but to trust in Him! That choice is also set before us today!***

Verse 22—*this is for the full 40 years that they wandered*: “He did not take away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night from before the people.”

- God is the One Who is leading
- God is the One Who is giving the instructions

Exodus 14:1: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal Zephon. You shall camp before *it* by the sea” (vs 1-2).

This was a narrow strip of land on the western shore of the Red Sea. God deliberately put them there because He knew what He was going to do. The people didn’t, **but this was going to be a lesson for the people!**

He also did it for another purpose, because he wanted to take care of Pharaoh and eliminate Him completely. Remember, God said that He would harden the heart of Pharaoh, so here’s how He did it:

Verse 3: “For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They *are* trapped in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ And **I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that he will follow them.** And I will be glorified through Pharaoh and all his army, **so that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.**’” (vs 3-4).

God wants to prove His existence also to the world! You would think that the Egyptians already learned that lesson with all the plagues and the killing of the firstborn. So, here we have it.

Verse 5: “And the king of Egypt was told that the people fled. And the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people....”

If you have slaves doing all your work, as I’ve said on occasions, just like with us. How many things do we have in our house, which if we didn’t have electricity, would have to be done by people: slaves, servants. That’s what the children of Israel

did for the Egyptians. Here they were: no one to wait on them, no one to bring them water, no one to bring them food, no one to watch their children, no one to watch whatever that they would do. The slaves were gone. The land was empty and quiet.

When Pharaoh found out that they were by the Red Sea by this narrow strip of land, he figured that he was going to go get them and bring them back. Lots of times Satan will come after us, after we’re converted, because he wants to get us or God’s control, blessing and Spirit, and take us back into the world!

How many brethren did that? They didn’t pass the test!

“...And they said, ‘Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?’ And he made his chariot ready and took his people with him. And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And he pursued the children of Israel, and the children of Israel went out with a high hand” (vs 5-8).

When the going gets tough, the lesson we’re going to learn today is: **We need to rely on God! God will help us!**

We don’t need to accuse God because things are not going right. We don’t need to blame God because it’s a difficult situation. ***He knows!*** But ***He will help you out of it!***

Verse 9: “So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army. And they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes. And behold, the Egyptians marched after them. And they were very afraid. And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD” (vs 9-10).

Think about what they should have learned with all the plagues brought upon the Egyptians, killing the firstborn and bringing the Israelites out.

Here’s what we need to realize: When problems come and difficult times come, ***don’t blame God!*** They will come and all of these will be tests to see if we *believe God!* Jesus said in John 16:

My peace I give you, not as the world gives you. In this world you will have tribulation, but ***be of good courage***—so you trust in God—***I’ve overcome the world!***

That means that ***Satan the devil, the world and all***

the forces that are in it, Jesus overcame!

Here's what happened; they went to Moses and complained!

Verse 11: "And they said to Moses, 'Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness because *there were* no graves in Egypt? Why have you dealt this way with us to carry us forth out of Egypt? Did we not tell you this word in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians?' for it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness'" (vs 11-12).

Looking at it in purely a carnal way. I don't think they were telling him these things the way that they were relating here, because they were crying and sighing under the burden of the slavery that they were in. God sent Moses and Aaron to bring them out of it!

When they left Ramses, they left with a high hand! Cheering and praising God! Singing songs, a wonderful time! *Here seven days later they're complaining!* Here's the heart and core; the next three verses sum up the whole meaning of seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

We need to look at these things and understand not to give in to carnal thoughts and accusations against God. Why is God doing this to me and why am I going through this? Whenever a difficult time comes, this is what to do, just like Moses said:

Verse 13: "And Moses said to the people, **'Fear not!....'**"

Don't be afraid! Isn't that what Jesus said, ***'Don't fear what men can do to you.'*** They can take your life. But after they've taken your life they have nothing more that they can do! Then we know that your spirit goes back to God and you await the resurrection! They weren't offered that under the covenant with Israel. But the same thing applies.

"...Stand still..." (v 13).

Don't run around and try and figure out what you can do, *stand still with God in prayer and study!*

"...and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today, you shall never see them again! : The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall be still" (vs 13-14).

That's what God is going to do. That's why Paul said that regardless of the circumstances that I

am in, I'm always looking to God. He experienced a lot of terrible things to go through. Read 2-Cor. 13 and see all things that the Apostle Paul went through and suffered.

God told Paul when He called him, that he would 'suffer for Me,' *and he did!*

Verse 14: "'The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall be still.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward'" (vs 14-15).

When God gets ready to do something, you don't need the weapons of men! God will do it!

Verse 16: "And you—lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it. **And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.** And behold, I *am* about to harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. And I will get honor for Myself upon Pharaoh, and over all his army, over his chariots and over his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD when I will be glorified through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen" (vs 16-18).

Fast-forward 40 years! Those in Jericho were afraid of the children of Israel because they knew what God did with the Red Sea. Forty years later that was still known as a fearful event for those in Jericho. They knew that their city was destined for destruction, and that God would be the One Who would do it.

Back to the children of Israel by the Red Sea:

Verse 19: "And the angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved. And he went to the rear of them.... [here's a narrow strip and He went to the rear of them] ...And the pillar of the cloud went from in front of them and it stood behind them."

Here's the pillar of cloud and here are the children of Israel.

Verse 20: "And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. It was a cloud of darkness *to one*, but gave light by night *to the other*, so that the *two* did not come near one another all night."

Look what God is going to do. Think about it this way: Look what God is going to do with all the saints, the patriarchs, the prophets and some of the kings! *He's going to resurrect them all!* Think about what an astonishing even that will be. But here He's saving the children of Israel.

Verse 21: “And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. And the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.”

They were camping in their long column that they were marching in, because it was a very narrow strip of land by the sea. So, to open up the Red Sea for them to walk through, it was a gigantic opening! I don’t know how long the column of the children of Israel was, but it could have been as much as ten miles long. We don’t know. But that’s how wide it was to open the sea.

Let’s understand that *nothing is impossible for God!* Think about what this represented. Think about what this was throughout all the other countries in the Middle East when they found out what God did for the children of Israel. *Remembered 40 years later by those in the city of Jericho!*

Verse 22: “And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground.... [it had to be a quick journey across] ...And the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued and went in after them to the middle of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch it came to pass that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and the army of the Egyptians was thrown into confusion” (vs 22-24).

That’s what God does! Look at how many times when they were conquering the Canaanites in the land of Canaan that God had given them for an inheritance. God fought with them as long as they trusted in Him! He would cause them [the enemies] to be confused! At other times he would cause the battle to be where the soldiers would turn one against the other and kill each other.

So, God has many ways of working out His purpose and power! Here’s what God did:

Verse 25: “And He loosened their chariot wheels... [they came off; think about that] ...and made them go heavily, so that the Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.’”

There’s no escape for them! When they got to that point, think about this, the chariot drivers were coming down full gallop with the horses, and they get right in the middle of the Red Sea and then God makes it all into mud down there, very heavy. Their wheels come off! There they are, the horses can’t go any further! The chariots can’t go any further! They’re really *stuck in the mud!*

Then what did God do? *He told Moses to raise his staff and close the sea! BOOM! Killed them all!*

Verse 26: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.’”

- *Talk about a fight!*
- *Talk about a rejoicing!*

Read about all of that in Exo. 15! They had dancing, singing, and they were collecting all of spoil that was thrown into the water along the edge of the sea after the waters closed down. That was quite a thing!

I want you to think about your life!

- What is the greatest thing that God has done for you?
- Is it not calling you out of this world?
- Is it not giving you His Holy Spirit?
- Is it not helping you to understand His plan and purpose?
- Is it not that we’re going to be like God as His sons and daughters?

What a great thing that is going to be!

When the resurrection takes place, and that’s the next Holy Day—Pentecost—that’s going to be something for us to really rejoice in.

We’re going to spend a lot of time with the Psalms, because David was a man after God’s heart! But David had trouble after trouble after trouble! The reason he was a man after God’s heart is because he always trusted in God! Likewise with the Prophets and the Patriarchs.

Psa. 73—this happens to all of us. Most of the rest of the time will be in the Psalms, because here we find God’s promises to help us, to intervene for us. This is quite interesting the way that it starts out. And notice what he admits. Sometimes these things happen to us in a very similar way.

Psalm 73:1—a *Psalm of Asaph*, one of the priests: “Truly God is good to Israel, even to those who are pure of heart.”

Notice v 2, and you can probably identify with this, because when you go through a trial and you’re not trusting God, you get to it the same way that Asaph did.

Verse 2: “But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.”

Why? *Because he wasn’t looking to God!*

He was looking at the circumstances out here. Today, with as much wealth and everything that we have today, that's an easy thing to do. A lot of us can identify with what he says. Why did his steps nearly slip?

Verse 3: "For **I was envious at the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**"

Isn't that true? Look at the elite and the super-rich, and those who are in Satan's system and he protects them from having to give account or be tried and be put into jail!

But people who trust in God, even today, some of them are being put into prison right now. Over in Finland, if you try and confess Jesus Christ you may end up in jail. Well, it's going to come here (to the U.S.) too!

Verse 4: "For there are no pangs in their death, and their strength is firm." *No one can get rid of them, or convict them!*

Verse 5: "They are not in trouble like other men; neither are they plagued like *other men*. Therefore, **pride is as a chain about their neck....**" *Doesn't that describe Hillary Clinton completely?*

"...Violence covers them like a garment... [yes, they can kill and get away with it] ...Their eyes stand out with fatness; they have more than the heart could wish for. **They scoff and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression**" (vs 5-8).

Isn't that what we have seen going on in Canada, before the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *An amazing thing!*

Verse 9: "They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth. Therefore, waters of abundance are drunk by them. And they say, **'How does God know?....'**" (vs 9-11).

They're all looking to themselves as 'God'! all looking to have now the 'post human'; human beings that are connected to computers! *It's becoming a reality!*

Look at how great ***we*** are! ***We're*** 'God'! There's no God, look at what ***we're*** doing!

"...How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" Behold, these are the wicked, who prosper **in the world**; they increase in riches. Surely I have made my heart pure in vain..." (vs 11-13).

'Is it really worth it being a Christian?' we could express it today *with all the difficulties we go through?*

"...and washed my hands in innocence, for all the day long I have been plagued and chastened every morning" (vs 13-14).

Seems like it won't let up! Sometimes it goes that way! Well, that's why we need to ***trust in God!*** But look at what Asaph was doing. Remember where we started, he was looking at the people in the world, comparing himself with them, rather than looking to God! So, Asaph complained:

Verse 15: "If I say, 'I will speak thus'; behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. When I thought to understand this, it was too painful for me" (vs 15-16).

A hard thing to think about, the difficulties that he was going through. A lot of people in the Church go through, also! Why? *Asaph gives the answer; here is what you do:*

Don't look at the world and how things are and think somehow that all that I'm going through is not fair. Why can't God give me a little relief? *He will!*

Verse 16: "When I thought to understand this, it was too painful for me **until I went into the sanctuary of God**..." (vs 16-17).

A priest going right into the sanctuary. Today we go into the sanctuary in heaven above ***by getting on our knees and praying to God!*** That's what you need to do! Instead of thinking about what appears to be unfair about all these evil people in the world prospering, and here we are struggling day-by-day to grow, change and overcome. It seems like an impossible task! The key to understanding is ***get right with God by coming to Him!***

"...**then I understood** their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down into destruction. How have they been brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors, like a dream when one awakens; so, O LORD, when You awake, You shall despise their image, for thus my heart was grieved and I was pricked in my reins" (vs 17-21).

- here is repentance
- here is change of attitude
- here is coming to God to make it right

Asaph confessed his sin and said:

Verse 22: "So foolish was I, and ignorant; I was like a beast before You." ***He had a lot of***

attitude change to work on!

Verse 23: “Nevertheless, I am always with You; You have held me by my right hand. You shall guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory” (vs 23-24).

Now then, he gets the connection between God and him personally. That’s what it’s all about! We need brethren and those we associate and fellowship with. Pray for one another, help one another, all of those things. That’s all coming into the mix in this, as well.

Verse 25: “Whom have I in heaven but You?... [God the Father and Jesus Christ] ...And besides You **I desire none upon earth.**”

That’s something! That’s the perspective and the way!

Verse 26: “My flesh and my heart fail, **but God is the Rock of my heart and my portion forever.**”

We are in this for eternity! That’s why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That’s why we come to God for God to give us of His righteousness, His Truth and to give us the strength to overcome the sin:

- to put it out
- to be convicted
- to have knowledge
- to have understanding
- to have the kind of faithfulness to God and trusting Him

Verse 27: “For lo, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all who go a whoring from You.” *That’s going to be in the Lake of Fire!*

Verse 28: “And me, **it is good for me to draw near to God...**”

That’s the solution; not complaining like the children of Israel, but this is the solution:

“...I have made the LORD God my refuge, that I may declare all Your works” (v 28).

That’s quite a thing, and a great lesson that Asaph went through so that we can know and understand what we need to do today! That’s why the Word of God is ***so great, so wonderful and so powerful!***

That’s why we need to really study it and pray; draw close to God, especially in these days that we can do it before the troubles come. ***The troubles***

are going to come, and we’re going to have to have **the trust in God!** We’re also going to have to have **the mind of Christ, where our mind is set as a flint!**

We may even have to become militant to the point of declaring the power of God, and what God is going to do!

(break@42:43)

Let’s continue with the theme of the last day of Unleavened Bread, that:

- God will help us
- we can trust in Him
- we can look to Him in everything

Don’t look to the world and what is out there, ***because what God has to offer is so much greater!***

As you go through some of these Psalms, and study the Psalms. Especially when you pray, it would be a good idea to open the Psalms so you can read them and help you be able to begin your prayer to God. That will really connect you:

- God’s Spirit in you
- God’s Word that you’re reading
- what you’re praying

All work together for good!

Psalms 54:1: “Save me, O God... [that’s where salvation comes from] ...by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might.”

This could very well have been a prayer of Jesus, a prophetic prayer of what He would have prayed!

Verse 2: “Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth, for strangers have risen up against me, and violent men seek after my soul; they have not set God before them. Selah” (vs 2-3)—*think on that!*

These are all things that we need to have in our heart and mind so that we can have the strength when difficult times come and we turn to God and we look to God.

Verse 4: “Behold, **God is my helper;** the LORD is with those who uphold my soul.” *That’s an amazing thing*, isn’t it?

Verse 5: “He shall reward evil to my enemies.”

Think about all the things that are going to happen—as recorded in prophecy in the book of Revelation—to the enemies:

- to those who hate God

- to Satan the devil
- to the demons
- to the elite
- to their armies
- to their governments

God is going to take care of them!

Verse 6: “I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good, **for He has delivered me out of all trouble...** [not just *a* trouble or *some* troubles, but *all* troubles] ...and my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies” (vs 6-7). *We will be able to see that the same way!*

Psa. 57—here is how we are to pray to God and look to God. This is why the Word of God is so great and wonderful. It conveys to us *spiritually* what God has put into it so that we can be encouraged and inspired. So we can have that connection with God, and look to Him for everything!

Psalm 57:1: “Be gracious unto me, O God, be gracious unto me; **for my soul trusts in You...**” Not our own devices, *not* other people, **but in God!**

“...**yea, in the shadow of Your wings...**” (v 1).

When you’re in the shadow of God’s protection, people can’t see that protection! ***But you experience it!***

“...I will make my refuge until these great troubles pass by” (v 1)—*and they will!*

Look at all the things that you have gone through, ***and they will all pass by!***

Verse 2: “I will cry to God Most High, to God **Who fulfills His purpose for me.**”

Think on this: God the Father and Jesus Christ have a ***specific purpose*** for each and every one that He calls. We won’t realize the fullness of that until the resurrection and we’re all on the Sea of Glass. *Then we will know!* God is ***a God of purpose***, and purpose for each one of us individually!

Verse 3: “He shall send from heaven and save me; He rebukes him who would swallow me up. Selah...” *He does that!* I can tell you that by personal experience.

“...God shall send forth His mercy and His Truth” (v 3).

That’s what we need! God’s mercy and God’s Truth in everything that we do! That’s why we pray, study, fast and draw close to God.

Then David talks about all the enemies that were after him. But in spite of all of that:

Verse 7: “**My heart is fixed...**”—*not going to change:*

- it is fixed
- it is established
- it is strong

“...**O God, my heart is fixed;** I will sing and give praise: (v 7). *That’s something!*

Just think about what it’s going to be like at the resurrection when we’re all on the same Sea of Glass. We’re going to sing and bring praises to God. What is that going to be like? *All of us with all the saints, patriarchs, apostles, all of our brethren down through the centuries!* All of us gathered together singing praise to God!

Remember what it says in Rev. 19? *We sing Hallelujah!* It says that three times!

Verse 8: “Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I myself will awake the dawn. I will praise You, O LORD, among the people; I will sing of You among the nations, for Your steadfast mercy is great *even* unto the heavens and Your Truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God; let Your glory be above all the earth” (vs 8-11).

Think about what that’s going to be like during the Millennium, and what we’re going to be doing during the Millennium to bring these things about.

Psa. 37 is a tremendous Psalm, with praises, promises and all of those all mixed in together. Also, how we can have the right attitude in the middle of all of this:

- have confidence
- have knowledge
- have trust
- have belief

Psalm 37:1: ^[1]“**Do not fret yourself** because of evildoers...”

Don’t look at what they do, and they’re prospering as we found in Psa. 73

“...and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass; and wither as the green herb” (vs 1-2). ***Don’t have anything to do with the way of the world!***

Verse 3: “Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and cherish faithfulness.”

See how that all works together. ***IF*** you ***cherish it, love it and love God***, there it is!

Verse 4: “Delight yourself in the LORD...”

- be happy
- be thankful
- be grateful
 - ✓ for God’s love
 - ✓ for God’s grace
 - ✓ for God’s intervention in you life
 - ✓ for understanding His Word
 - ✓ for Him giving us of His Spirit

“...and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (v 4).

He won’t hold back any good thing! A lot of this comes at the resurrection.

Verse 5: Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him...”—*just like we just read*:

My heart is fixed! My heart is fixed!
Unmovable!

“...and He will bring it to pass” (v 5). *God will make it happen!* We can count on it, because God cannot lie! His Word is true!

Verse 6: “And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the light, and your judgment like the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him...” (vs 6-7).

Notice again, a little warning. Notice how this is all intermixed in this tremendous Psalm!

^[2]“...**do not fret yourself** because of him who prospers in his way, because of him who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; ^[3]**do not fret yourself**... [don’t be frustrated] ...it leads only to evil” (vs 7-8). *God is going to take care of it!*

Verse 9: “For evildoers shall be cut off, but **those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.**”

Verse 11: “But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” *We’re going to bring peace to the whole world!*

Here’s what we need to understand, because if you are in contact with God—with prayer, study, fasting, yielding to Him—and you look out and see the world and all of these people prospering, remember this:

Verse 16: **“Better is the little that a**

righteous man has than the riches of many wicked.”

Here it is again in v 22; these are promises and God can’t lie. We can rely on them and be inspired, encouraged and uplifted.

Verse 22: “For those blessed of Him shall inherit the earth; and those cursed of Him shall be cut off.”

Here’s what we are to do, and this is the whole theme of Unleavened Bread:

Verse 27: **“Depart from evil...”** *During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, during these seven days, leaven is a type of sin:*

- pride
- arrogance
- selfishness
- sinfulness
- vanity

All of that!

“...and do good, and live forevermore” (v 27)—***that’s the goal, eternal life!***

Verse 28: “For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. **The righteous shall inherit the earth and dwell in it forever**” (vs 28-29)

How many times does David say that we will inherit the earth? *Think about that!*

It tells us in Rom. 8 that if we are heirs, we’re joint heirs with Jesus Christ! The whole earth!

Verse 23: “The steps of a good man are made firm by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the LORD upholds him with His hand” (vs 23-24).

That’s something! That’s true! In this next verse, I can say that I can identify with it. A lot of us, because there are a lot of gray hairs out there.

Verse 25: “I have been young...”

We look back to when we were young and now we look at ourselves:

“...and now I am old... [seen everything that goes on] ...yet, **I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread.** All the day long he deals graciously and lends, and his children are blessed. Depart from evil and do good, and live forevermore. For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His saints... (vs 25-28).

He is with us to help us and to guide us, regardless of how dire the circumstances may appear!

“...they are preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. **The righteous shall inherit the earth** and dwell in it forever” (vs 28-29).

He says this several times; that’s a statement, *indeed!*

Verse 30: “The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. The Law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide” (vs 30-31).

These are really *some Psalms*, the words of God given through His servants—David and some of the priests—so that we can read them and understand. So that we can have hope in them! ***So that we can look to the plan and purpose of God, that He will carry it out!***

- God is true
- God is love
- God cannot lie

These things will take place! It’s going to be a wonderful, glorious day when they do!

Verse 34: “Wait on the LORD and keep His way... [never give up, even though it’s tough] ...and **He shall exalt you to inherit the earth;** when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.”

This whole Psalm is really a wonderful thing! All the Psalms that we’re covering are these things:

- to inspire us
- to help us
- to give us confidence

So that we can go forward! Remember that Jesus said that ***the times ahead of us are going to be the worst that has never been this bad since the beginning of the world!***

- we need God’s Spirit
- we need God’s help
- we need His strength
- we need His Word

Verse 38: “But the sinners shall be destroyed together... [in the Lake of Fire] ...the prosperity of the wicked shall be cut off. **But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble**” (vs 38-39).

And we will face it; Jesus said we would!

Verse 40: “And **the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them because they take refuge in Him.**”

See how good that is! One of the reasons David was ‘a man after God’s heart’ is because he understood that without God He was nothing! He understood that everything came from God. That’s why when the sin of Bathsheba occurred, God really had to correct David.

Look at all these Psalms that have been put together telling about the close relationship with God, and then he slipped and let that happen! That’s another whole subject!

Psalm 70:1: “Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD.”

Sometimes we need help immediately! God is there to do it!

Verse 2: “Let them be ashamed and confounded, those who seek after my soul; let them be turned backward and put to confusion, those who desire my hurt.”

Everyone was after him! Even rebellion by his offspring to see who would be the successor to David when he died.

Verse 3: “Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame, those who say, ‘Aha, aha!’... [now we’ve got him] ...Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say without ending, **‘Let God be magnified.’**... [all comes from God] ...But I am poor and needy; make haste unto me, O God; You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, wait no longer!” (vs 3-5).

That’s quite a thing! We could go through other Psalms that cover more of these things. In Isa. 41 we have the same thing, over and over again, that:

- God is there
- He will help us
- He will be with us
- He will lead us
- He will guide us

Think about this from this point of view:

God has given His Holy Spirit to us! Jesus said that ***‘the one who loves Me’***—which we do, we love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being—***will keep My Word!*** The Father will send the Holy Spirit and ***WE***—God the Father and Christ—***will make Our abode***—dwelling

place—*with him/her, individually, from God!*

So, we have God the Father and Jesus Christ in us! In our mind! United with the spirit of man that God gave us at conception! Now we're being created in the likeness and image of God to be spirit beings, as God is God!

That's why even in troubles and difficulties, we need to rejoice! We need to think on how much God has done for us—*called us and taught us*—and given us all these things that He has given freely!

Isaiah 41:8: "But you, Israel... [just put your name there] ...*are* My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen... [we're *the called, the chosen and the faithful*] ...the seed of Abraham, My friend."

Everything in the Bible comes from Abraham (Gen. 15). We're all connected with that!

Verse 9: "Whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called you from its uttermost parts. And I said to you, 'You *are* My servant; **I have chosen you**, and have not cast you away.'"

Think about that individually to you, because you put your name there!

Verse 10: "**Do not fear**; for I *am* with you... [even in the most stark and trying times] ...be not dismayed; for I *am* your God. **I will strengthen you**..."—*because we need to fight against:*

- Satan
- the world
- self

"...**yea, I will help you**..." (v 10):

- spiritually
- mentally
- emotionally
 - ✓ through His Word
 - ✓ through His Truth
 - ✓ through circumstances

"...**yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness**" (v 10).

Then He talks about the wicked and they're not going to be around anymore. That's the day we're looking forward to.

Verse 13: "For **I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand**, saying to you, '**Do not fear; I will help you**.'"

That is really tremendous! We know that there's nothing going to hold us back!

Verse 14: "**Do not fear, you worm Jacob**

and men of Israel; I will help you,' says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel."

This is quite a thing that we can count on and look to. We can understand and realize that God is with us, and that there is *nothing, nothing* that is going to separate us from God. **We fix our heart so that we're always right with God through Christ!**

Rom. 8—you know where I'm going and what I'm going to read, because this is the theme of the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Here's how Paul put it. Of course, he was familiar with all the Psalms and had a close relationship with God. He had visions from God. God revealed to him tremendous things for the New Testament that we need to understand, *because these are the words of eternal life!*

Romans 8:28: "And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**..."

That's why it's important everyday to *pray about the first and greatest commandment: loving God with all your, mind, soul and strength, and that He will help us to do that! Lead us to do that!*

"...**to those who are called according to His purpose**" (v 28).

As we read, God is working out His purpose for each one of us!

Verse 29: "Because those whom He did foreknow... [that's us before the resurrection] ...He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His own Son, that He might be *the* Firstborn among many brethren."

Notice that God looks forward to the finished product, because He knows that it's going to be.

Verse 30: "Now, whom He predestinated, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified..."

- through the sacrifice of Christ
- through the forgiveness of sin
- through the shed blood
- through everything about the life, death and resurrection of Christ

"...and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (v 30)—*prophetic perfect, yet to come!*

We have a temporary glory now with the Spirit of God in us, but when we're resurrected, we'll have the fullness of glory!

Verse 31: "What then shall we say to these things?... [these are awesome thing, indeed] ...**If**

God is for us, who can be against us?"

Jesus said, 'Fear Him Who can take life and cast you into Gehenna! But don't fear those who are against you.'

Verse 32: "He Who did not spare even His own Son, **but gave Him up for us all**, how shall He not also grant us all things together with Him? Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God? *God is the One Who justifies*" (vs 32-33).

- It doesn't matter what they say about us
- It doesn't matter what they think about us
- It doesn't make one bit of difference
- God is the One Who justifies
- God is the One Who saves
- God is the One Who is going help

Verse 34: "Who *is* the one that condemns? *It is* Christ Who died, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us. **What shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *Shall* tribulation..." (vs 34-35).

Think about what Paul went through (2-Cor. 11)—all those things, the tribulations, trials, beatings—everything that he had to go through.

"...or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" (v 35).

All of those are terrible things to contemplate! *But if our heart is fixed, we'll get through it; God will help us!* He's promised that!

Verse 36: "Accordingly, it is written, 'For Your sake we are killed all the day long; we are reckoned as sheep for *the* slaughter.' But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us" (vs 36-37).

That's quite a thing! God loves us! Christ loves us! They want us in the Kingdom. That's why They have these Holy Days! That's why They've given us Their Spirit!

Verse 38: "For I am persuaded that **neither death...**"—*because you'll be resurrected!*

"...**nor life...**"—*nothing in this life is going to take us away from God!*

"...**nor angels...**"—*demons are not going to get after us and take us down!*

"...**nor principalities, nor powers...**"—*those things of Satan the devil!*

"...**nor things present, nor things to come,**

nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 38-39).

Remember, Jesus said, '***I will help you, I will never leave you or forsake you!***'

That's the meaning of this day, the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:6-8
- 2) Exodus 13:16-22
- 3) Exodus 14:1-26
- 4) Psalm 73:1-28
- 5) Psalm 54:1-7
- 6) Psalm 57:1-3, 7-11
- 7) Psalm 37:1-9, 11, 16, 22, 27-29, 23-31, 34, 38-40
- 8) Psalm 70:1-5
- 9) Isaiah 41:8-10, 13-14
- 10) Romans 8:28-39

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 16
- John 16
- 2 Corinthians 13
- Exodus 15
- Revelation 19
- Genesis 15
- 2 Corinthians 11

FRC:bo

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To Seek and Thirst After God

(Sabbath After Unleavened Bread)

Fred R. Coulter—April 23, 2022

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Sabbath after the last day of Unleavened Bread! Every once in a while we get a Holy Day and a Sabbath back-to-back! We do that with Pentecost especially every year.

Tomorrow begins the second week toward Pentecost. Let's look at what we have to do in this world today. There are a lot of things that we can look at that are troubles and difficulties. There are a lot of things that are taking place that are beginning to line up the end-time prophecies. So, we need to watch those.

But what is the most important thing that you and I—all the brethren everywhere—need to do? *Well, the title of this message is **To Seek and Thirst After God***—His way! We will see why, and what God is doing. Remember that in spite of all of the things you see going on in the world, don't let those things distract you to take you away from your relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ!

We're going to cover a number of Psalms, kind of like continuing where we left off yesterday, only on a different subject. This has to do with our personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. This is what we must be doing, because Jesus said, *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness!'*

If you're searching and hungering after that righteousness, you were searching and hungering for God and His way and His love.

Notice how David starts out his prayer; it's very interesting!

Psalms 61:1: "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth **I cry to You when my heart is overwhelmed**..." (vs 1-2).

This tells us today, with all the things are coming to pass and taking place, don't let your heart get overwhelmed. But if it does, **turn to God!**

"...lead me to the Rock higher than me...[always come to Christ] ...for You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower against the enemy" (vs 2-3).

Now Satan the enemy is beginning to manifest himself in overt ways that he didn't do before. But now he's got everything lined up. Notice the focus, and this always has to be the focus of what we do.

Verse 3: "For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower against the enemy. I will dwell in Your tabernacle forever..." (vs 3-4).

We're dealing with eternal life! Too many people focus on: Is he a good person? Is she a good woman? Or man? A lot of people can have good behavior as far as the world goes, but that doesn't mean that their heart is converted. When the going gets tough, you will see what happens.

"...I will take refuge in the hiding place of Your wings. Selah." *Tie in Psa. 91, 'In the shadow of Your wings.'*

Verse 5: "For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given *me* the heritage of those who fear Your name." *That's quite a prayer!*

Just think about it! God is going to give us the rulership of the world under Christ. I mean, think about that for a minute. When you look out and see the world that's in the mess that it is in today, and all because of men turning against God, turning to Satan the devil, and rejecting the truth of what God wants for their own ways.

God has called us so that under Christ we can bring the Truth of God to the world! The rule and reign of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

That's something! So, when you see all this mess, remember that the resurrection and return of Jesus Christ is the solution. No other solution will work! There may be a tiny bit of things that can be handled, and that will temporarily solve something, but the only solution is the return of Christ and the resurrection.

Verse 5: "For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given *me* the heritage of those who fear Your name."

Now notice carefully the word *may* and the word *let*! Just keep that in mind for the future.

Verse 6: ^[#1]"**May You** add to the days of the king's life... [God says that He's going to give us eternal life] ...^[#2]**may** his years be as many generations." *They will!*

If you live forever there will be many generations! How many generations are we going to have in the Millennium.

- if you say there are 50 years—that's 10 generations

- if there are 25 years—that's 20 generations

Verse 7: ^[#3]**May** he abide before God forever... [live before God] ...prepare **mercy and truth** to preserve him."

Look at those two words *mercy and truth*; that's what we need now.

- What is it that God has done through Jesus Christ for us?
- That He hasn't done to the world?
- That He hasn't done to the Protestants?

And none of the other religions will have any of this!

I want you to understand that because of this how important your calling is, and how important you are to God. We will see later that God Himself loves you, and all of these things you need to keep in mind.

Matt. 11—here is a special thing that has happened to each one of us. This is Christ's and the Father's direct intervention into our lives. We know that in John 6:44 we're told that ***the Father draws us!*** Then in John 6:45 ***we'll all be taught of God!***

That's why we have the Word of God; it teaches us, encourages us, inspires us.

Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that ***You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent...***'—***of the world***; they're not going after ***true eternal life!***

What they want to do is make robots, and combine robotics with human beings and have that as the post-human person. But even though they may have temporary success, guess what? *They can't give life!* Any life that they deal with has come from God. Yet, they reject God. So, that's quite a conundrum, isn't it?

"...and have revealed them to babes" (v 25). *That's because we're to have the attitude of a loving, obedient child toward God the Father and Jesus Christ!*

As far as the world is concerned, they know nothing about what God is teaching us. They look upon us as nothing to them.

Verse 26: "Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do this.*" *Think about that!*

- God delighted in calling you
- delighted in opening your mind
- delighted in helping you understand about Jesus Christ

He wants you in the Kingdom!

Verse 27: "All things were delivered to Me by My Father..."

- read about that in the Bible
- read all the prophecies of the Millennium
- read the prophecies of living forever

Today, we have the tremendous blessing of being able to have those tremendous telescopes. The Hubble telescope has been working for decades, and they put a new one up there, a bigger one, *the James Webb telescope!* It shows awesome sights in the universe! God has made it all, and He's got a great purpose for it all that He's going share with all of those who enter into His Kingdom.

So, God has chosen us! The weak! The rejected! The babes! He has revealed these things to us through Christ.

Verse 27: "All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, ***and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal Him!***

Think about that! You may be rejected by a lot of people and a lot of things, but God has chosen *you!* God has chosen all the brethren to know the mystery and the secret of God: what He's doing and how He's going to solve all the problems of the world! ***He personally has done this!***

Verse 28: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and ***I will give you rest.*** Take My yoke upon you, and ***learn from Me...***" (vs 28-29)

That's why we have the Gospels. Study those and learn about Jesus.

"...for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (vs 29-30).

We're going to see something else that's important concerning God the Father directly, personally intervening with us. This is very difficult to fully comprehend. But how much God has revealed to us shows us what it's like, ***and we can hold that in awe and wonder that God has done this.*** Not get lifted up and say, 'I'm on God's side and you're not.' *That's the carnal way! But in thanksgiving, in humility, in love and in service to God!*

Notice what God is planning; Ephesians 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ***Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly things with Christ.***"

What does that mean? *First of all, the Word of God*, because this came from God from heaven! And heavenly things; that is understanding the plan of God.

- How is He going to solve it?
- When is Christ going to return?
- What is it that we're going to be doing?

Verse 4: "According as He... [God the Father] ...has personally chosen us for Himself before the foundation of the world in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love; having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will" (vs 4-5).

Let me tell you something: When you get down and discouraged, you take this section of the Scriptures as a start to help you overcome being discouraged or depressed or frustrated. ***God's Spirit will intervene and help you!*** But there is the plan! Just like Jesus always does:

- kept His mind on the Kingdom
- kept His mind on the goal

Let's build on this that we have covered here so we can understand:

- where we're going
- what we're doing
- what God is doing

How we need to ***hunger and thirst after God*** because this is what He is doing! This is what He wants!

1-John 3:1: "Behold!.... [Listen up! we might say today] ...What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God!...."

The *King James* has it wrong, that we are 'adopted.' ***NO!*** We received the Holy Spirit, which is the *Holy Seed* to make us His very own children, *not adopted!*

"...For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him" (v 1)—*because Jesus didn't reveal it to them! He didn't show it to them! Only to those whom He has called.*

Here is quite a thing and special. Even though we're not yet in the Kingdom, even though we have not yet been born again from the dead through the power of the resurrection, ***God looks at the completed product*** when He's done working with us at the resurrection.

Verse 2: "Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we

shall be; but **we know**..."

- He's given us knowledge
- He's given us understanding

"...that when He is manifested... [Christ returns] **...we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is**" (v 2).

Notice that this tells us how we are motivated to do the things that God wants:

- to love God
- to keep His commandments
- to study His Word
- to be faithful

Verse 3: "And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure." *Getting rid of all sin! That's a process!*

2-Cor. 6 shows us the same thing, almost exactly. It shows us that even though all these things are going on in the world, we need to stay close to God and continue to develop that character. That's the most important thing that we need to be doing every single day, day in and day out, all the time; and ***why we are not to be in the world!***

Look at all the solutions that are given by those who are leading the world in solving the problems and saving America and putting it back on the right track. *Let me tell you:*

1. ***IF*** you can completely stop abortion
2. ***IF*** you can't get rid of all drugs
3. ***IF*** the Protestants don't repent and keep the Sabbath

There will be no lasting change at all! Those three things must be solved *first!* Therefore, God wants us to focus on what we need to do:

- to develop the character
- to overcome sin
- to overcome Satan the devil
- to overcome the world
- to overcome our own personal sins, emotions and difficulties

2-Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common?...."

Even though it may sound simple enough to do different things, there is no commonality between righteousness and lawlessness.

"...And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness? And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial?...." (vs 14-15).

All of the solutions out there—even the best of them—always end up Belial: *men without character running it and twisting and perverting it!* So, it never works!

“...Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a Temple of God and idols?...” (vs 15-16).

We’re all a Temple of God with the Spirit of God in us! Yes, without a doubt!

“...For you are a Temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said...”

This is what God wants us to do, why we are to ***hunger and thirst after God, and seek His way all the time!***

God says to each one of us with His Spirit: “...**I**... [the Father in heaven above and Jesus Christ at His right hand] ...**will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God,** and they shall be **My people**” (v 16). *That’s an amazing thing!*

Verse 17: “Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,” says *the* Lord, ‘and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; and **I shall be a Father to you**... [the children of God] ...and you shall be **My sons and daughters**,’ says *the* Lord Almighty” (vs 17-18).

Notice how this section of Scripture sums up like it did in 1-John 3:1-3. 2-Cor. 7:1 is a little different expression than 1-John 3:3

2 Corinthians 7:1: “Now then, beloved, since we have these promises...”

Look at how great and wonderful they are; all the promises of God. That might be a good Bible study for anyone: What are the promises of God? What is it that He has said that He will give to us? You can find that in the Old Testament and the New Testament and put it all together. It’s going to be a marvelous picture, indeed!

“...we should purge ourselves from every defilement of the flesh and the spirit...” (v 1)

That comes by confession and repentance; that’s how they’re purged. These things cannot be overcome by physical, human, carnal means! These are *spiritual things* that can only be overcome with the Spirit of God!

“...perfecting Holiness in the fear of God” (v 1). *That’s quite a promise!* What a thing that is, indeed!

Psa. 62 tells us why we should not get involved in politics. We need to understand politics, and realize that certain things can be done through

politics. But always remember that ***in all politics Satan is just around the corner, and will rear his ugly head, and things will go wrong!*** Just like they are today.

Psalms 62:1: “Only for God does my soul wait in silence; **from Him comes my salvation**.” *It all must come from God!*

Verse 2: “He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my fortress; I shall not be greatly moved.” *That’s how you stay:*

- steadfast
- faithful
- loving
- loyal

Verse 3: “How long will you imagine mischief against a man? You shall be slain, all of you... [that’s the way it is with the world] ...you shall be like a bowing wall and as a tottering fence.” *Politics can’t solve it!*

Verse 4: “They only consult to cast him down... [get rid of God and those who believe in God] ...from his great height; **they delight in lies**...”

We have never seen a time when there are so many lies. Who is the father of lies? *Satan the devil!*

Revelation 12:9: “...the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving the whole world...” *He has all of these tools to do it today!*

Psalms 62:4: “...they bless with their mouth, but inwardly they curse. Selah.... [notice the attitude we need to take]: ...My soul, wait in silence for God alone... [no one else is going to solve the problem but God and His Word] ...for **from Him comes my hope**” (vs 4-5).

What are the three? ***Faith, hope and love!*** God holds out to us the greatest hope!

Verse 6: “He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my strong tower; **I shall not be moved**.” *You stay firm, faithful and solid in believing God!*

Verse 7: “In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. **Trust in Him at all times**...” (vs 7-8).

Not just when you get in trouble; don’t wait until you get in trouble to come back to God! You come to Him *every day, every day:*

- in prayer
- in study

- in learning
- in growing
- in overcoming

“...you people; pour out your heart before Him...” (v 8)—*in prayer; let God know!* When you do, there will be:

- times of tears
- times of joy
- times of silence and awe

When you grasp the magnitude of what God is preparing!

“...God is a refuge for us. Selah” (v 8)—*that’s where we turn!* Here is the truth of all politics in the world:

Verse 9: “Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie; **when weighed in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.**”

Isn’t that true? *Look at it!* Look at our President! Look at the leaders of the world! *They’re all a lie!* That is an amazing thing; we have never seen it this bad! That’s why we need to yield ourselves to God. These Psalms tell us how to do it, **so we can hunger and thirst after God, and:**

- be filled with His Spirit
- be filled with His Word
- be filled with His Truth

*So that we can withstand **all** of the attacks of the wicked, the evil and Satan the devil!*

Verse 10—*here’s the way of the world:* “Trust not in oppression...”

That’s what they did! Look at what they did to all the trucker in Canada just a few weeks ago.

“...and do not take pride in stolen goods; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them” (v 10).

Why? *Because they can go BOOM! and they’re gone!* Look at what they did in Canada, and know that they can do it to anyone anywhere! They can freeze your bank accounts and you will have nothing! That’s why it’s not good to have all your money in a bank! Think about that! How long are you going to last?

Now, this gets into the *mark of the beast*, which is coming. But how long do you think that people are going to last if they don’t have some things that they have done to be able to survive for whatever length of time, if and when that happens?

Verse 11: “God has spoken once; twice I

have heard this: that power belongs to God.”

*True riches are the **riches of God spiritually!*** Having wealth on this earth, *God gives the power to those*—that is true wealth, true honest money—***who trust in God!***

Verse 12: “Also to You, O LORD, belongs mercy; for You give to every man according to his work.”

- Doesn’t that sound like New Testament?
- Doesn’t God say, ‘I know your works’?

God understands our works!

- **IF** we have faith, *we will have works!*
- **IF** we don’t have faith, *we will have a different kind of works!*
- **IF** you do nothing, *that is your work!*

Maybe you never thought of that!

Everyone acts upon what they believe that’s in the heart and mind! That’s why it’s important that we draw close to God and understand what God has done! And understand how He has done it ***so we can serve Him!*** So that we can survive all of these difficult times that are coming upon us!

(break@38:22)

Psa. 63 is one my favorite Psalms because it tells us a lot about David. We’ll tie this in with what Jesus told us we need to do toward God, the most important thing!

Psalm 63:1: “**O God, You are my God...**” *That’s personal and individual to every single one that has the Holy Spirit of God! He is your God!*

“...**earnestly I will seek You!**...” *Not just haphazardly, but:*

- diligently
- constantly
- spiritually

In repentance and yieldedness to God!

“...My soul **thirsts** for You.... [Notice David’s attitude; Jesus told us to express this]: ...**My flesh longs for You,** as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is, **to see Your power and Your glory...** [remember we’re going to see Him as He is] ...**as I have seen You** in the sanctuary” (vs 1-2).

Remember that David had the Ark of the Covenant in a special tent in his house. There he had Asaph and some priests who ministered right there to David and he could look in. It must have been a time when he saw some sort of outline of God! “...**as I have seen You** in the sanctuary.”

Verse 3: “Because **Your loving kindness is better than life**... [better than living] ...my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name” (vs 4-5).

It’s quite an interesting thing; look at how David was ‘**a man after God’s heart**’ with this attitude:

Psalms 42:1: “As the hart pants after the water brooks...”

How thirsty do some of these animals get? *When they haven’t had water for a while*, when they get it they’re really, really thirsty.

“...**so my soul pants after You, O God**” (v 1)—*look at how he*:

- desired God
- wanted to see God
- wanted to be in His Kingdom

This is what keeps us going all the time, in good times and bad times; in whatever difficulties we may find ourselves.

Verse 2: **My soul thirsts for God**, for the living God... [notice what David says, because this is what it’s going to be when the resurrection occurs]: **...when shall I come and appear before God?**

Why does David do this? *Because here he found himself in a difficult time!* He was having a difficult trial, and he didn’t know which way to go, which way to turn. **But David knew that he needed to seek God with all his heart, mind, soul and being!**

Verse 3: “My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day, ‘Where is your God?’ I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me...” (vs 3-4)

Notice how he’s praying to God from the very inner depths of his being.

Verse 5: “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and moan within me? **Hope in God**...” *See how important this is in these days that we’re living in today!*

“...for I shall yet, praise Him for the salvation of His countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore, I will remember You from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermons from Mount Mizar” (vs 5-6).

See how David brings out his problem and difficulty. **Then he looks to God’s solution!** And here it is right here:

Verse 8: “The LORD will command His loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me, *even a prayer to the God of my life.*”

These are here for us to learn how in difficult, difficult times, we come to God!

Verse 9: “I will say to God my Rock, ‘Why have You forgotten me?....’” *Sometimes we feel that way!*

Now you know why we need the whole Bible! Especially the Psalms help us in these difficult times. Notice how David gets his mind on God, and he’s thinking about what it’s going to be like to be in the Kingdom of God.

Remember, he had this little tent where he could look through and see the Ark of the Covenant. Therefore, the time until the temple was built it was in David’s house.

Psalms 84:1: “How lovely are Your tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!”

- so great
- so wonderful
- so beautiful
- so spectacular

Made in awe and just marvelous colors and everything!

Verse 2: “My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” **That’s seeking God!**

Verse 4: “Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah.... [stop, meditate and think on it] ...Blessed is the man whose strength is in You; Your ways are in their hearts” (vs 4-5).

Verse 7: They go from strength to strength, every one of them appearing in Zion before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah” (vs 7-8).

Now, let’s see what Jesus tells us. In bringing this out, I need to bring out to you a project that we’ve been working for nearly four years: *revamping George Ricker Berry’s Interlinear Greek-English New Testament*. Putting it in the original order. We have made several corrections to the things pertaining to the Holy Spirit so that they’re properly translated. Then on the side columns of the pages will be the *Faithful Version*.

What I want to do is share with you Mark 12:29-30. {Fred reads the Greek; not transcribed}

A man came up and said, ‘Which is the first commandment of all.’ This becomes important, *because the first commandment of all is what we do to seek God!*

I’m going to read to you in Greek, and one of the things I’m doing is practicing and practicing reading the Greek. When this book is finally published—hopefully sometime this summer—then I want to be able to read the Greek to have it recorded. That’s going to be another difficult job. What I will do is I’ll read a phrase in the Greek and then interpret it or give you the translation of it.

Mark 12:29 (FV): “Then Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is, “Hear, O Israel. Our one God is the Lord, the Lord.”’” *That’s the actually meaning in the Greek!*

Verse 30: “And you shall love the Lord your God... [here’s how]: ...with all your heart...”

That’s where we start with everything, this great commandment. This is how we seek after God.

“...and with all your soul... [you whole being] ...and with all your mind...” (v 30).

See how this ties in with what David was doing? That’s why he did!

“...and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment” (v 30).

This is going to be quite a project, but the most important thing we need to do is continue:

- learning from the Word of God
- growing and overcoming
- loving God with:
 - ✓ all our heart
 - ✓ all our mind
 - ✓ all our soul
 - ✓ all our understanding
 - ✓ all our strength

That’s how David loved God! Notice what happens when you do that:

Psalms 84:5: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You...” We rely on

- the strength of God
- His Spirit
- His Word
 - ✓ to lead us
 - ✓ guide us
 - ✓ direct us

“...Your ways are in their hearts” (v 5).

Isn’t that something? Think about that! The most important thing that God is doing!

Hebrews 10:16: “‘This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,’ says the Lord, **‘I will give [write] My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.’**” *That’s what God is doing!*

This is the important thing that is going on with everything that is taking place in the world. *Wherever the people of God are that are drawing close to God:*

- relying on Him
- keeping His Laws
- loving Him
- serving Him
- coming together whenever it’s possible to fellowship

And in these days the way that it is, we are scattered!

But we can be thankful for the live streaming and for what we have with DVDs, CDs. You have the Word of God, *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* to help you grow in grace and knowledge!

Psalms 84:8: “O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.”

That’s quite a prayer! God will hear us! That’s why prayer, study and fasting together help you draw to God.

Verse 9: “Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.”

David did the same thing that Jesus did, *kept his mind on the goal, on the Kingdom:*

Verse 10: “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness, for the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory... [this is so encouraging]: ...**no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You**” (vs 10-12).

This is how we build on what we have learned during Unleavened Bread as we go toward Pentecost. *We then look forward to the first resurrection!*

It’s amazing all of these Psalms, and you go through them and think WOW! What kind of life did David have? It seems as though that he was chased from ‘pillar to post’ having difficulties and problems, sickness and weakness and things that come upon him. But he always turned to God. That’s what we need to do! Sometimes when we get trouble

and problems are coming along, we get so discouraged that we don't pray and study. ***That's the very time we need to!***

Psalms 65:1: "Praise waits for You, O God, in Zion; and to You shall the vow be performed. O You Who hears prayer..." (vs 1-2).

What I want you to do is stop and think about all the prayers that God has answered in your life beginning with the most important one: ***that you have God's Spirit! That He has called you!***

When we were in your trouble and didn't know what to do. When we didn't understand where any of these things were coming from, we cried out to God and said, 'O God, hear me!' That's just about our first prayer! Look at all the other prayers down through time, down through the years: prayer after prayer after prayer! Sometimes they're not answered for quite a space of time. ***But they are answered!***

Verse 2: "O You Who hears prayer, unto You shall all flesh come." ***That's going to be something, isn't it?***

Notice that David confessed his sins! We ought not do like Adam and Eve. Remember what they did? Adam said, 'O Lord, it's the woman.' And the woman said, 'O Lord, it's the serpent.' God said, 'Oh no, you chose!'

Verse 3: "Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, **You shall forgive them.**" ***Confess them and He forgives them!***

Verse 4: "Blessed is the one whom You choose and cause to come near You..."

Isn't that what we read at the beginning? What God has done:

- to call us
- to bring us out of this world
- to give us the knowledge of the Father and of the Son
- how we can grow in grace and knowledge

"...that he may dwell in Your courts; we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, even Your Holy Temple. **By awesome works in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation...**" (vs 4-5).

That's the resurrection! Isn't that going to be awesome? Isn't that going to be fantastic? He will hear and answer!

"...You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those of the distant sea" (v 5).

That's how God intervenes for us! That's how God wants us to love Him! Think about Him

and pray to Him in every way!

Psalms 67:1: "May God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Selah.... [that's what God wants] ...So that Your way may be known on earth..." (vs 1-2). ***That's why we are to preach and teach the Gospel wherever we go.***

"...Your salvation among all nations. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You. let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You shall judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You. The earth shall yield its increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him" (vs 2-7). ***That's when we are in the Kingdom of God!***

Now let's look at something that's important to add to it. In order to accomplish this, God is the One Who has to make it happen through Jesus Christ.

This is something we really need to grasp; John 14:21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me, and the one who loves Me **shall be loved by My Father,** and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him." ***That is spiritually by giving understanding through the Word of God and the Spirit of God!***

Look at the phrase: "**...shall be loved by My Father...**"; in spite of all that goes on, if you're loving God the way we covered: *with all your heart, mind, soul, strength and being!* **God the Father loves you personally and individually!** That's why Jesus said that we're to love one another! Yes, when we get together, brethren, we need to love one another! Help one another! To realize that **the Great Sovereign of the universe—God the Father—is involved in our lives and has given us His Spirit!**

Verse 23: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.'"

Those two verses are the most important verses in the Bible concerning our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

- when we understand that
- when we see that
- when it is in our heart
- when it is in our mind
- when it moves us to prayer and study
- when it moves us to yield to God

- when it moves us in thanksgiving and awe of everything that He has done and is doing

He reiterates that again in:

John 16:25: “These things I have spoken to you in allegories... [everything leading up to here] ...but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in allegories, but I will plainly disclose to you *the things* of the Father.”

That’s what He has done for us! We understand the way of God and the plan of God.

Verse 26: “In that day... [that’s now, whatever day it is] ...**you shall ask in My name**; and I do not tell you that I will beseech the Father for you, **for the Father Himself loves you**, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God” (vs 26-27).

The Father Himself loves each and every one that has the Spirit of God! That’s how:

- to encourage yourself
- to love God
- how these things come together the way that God works

Psa. 20 is an important Psalm to always keep in mind. Notice this prayer of what God will do for us, ***IF we love Him and pray to Him, He will hear and answer!***

Psalm 20:1: ^[#4]“**May** the LORD answer you in the day of trouble...”

- to hear you
- to answer you
- to help you
- to give you a way of escape

“...the name of the God of Jacob set you on high, ^[#5]**may** He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion. ^[#6]**May** He remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah” (vs 1-3).

We can say those are our prayers, crying out to God, and our work and service to God!

^[#7]**May** He grant you according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans.”

Of course, based upon the fact that it’s the will of God, and that we’re looking to the Kingdom!

Verse 5: “We will shout for joy in your victory... [that’s what we will do on the Sea of Glass] ...and in the name of our God we will set up banners. ^[#8]**May the LORD fulfill all your prayers.**” *That’s what God wants!*

This is what is going to help us and sustain us in the days following the days of Unleavened Bread.

- Who knows what’s going to happen this summer?
- Who knows how things are going to work out?

This is most important thing we need to have!

It starts with loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and being! And ***hungering and thirsting after God!***

May God bless you in everything that you do! Amen!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 61:1-7
- 2) Matthew 11:25-30
- 3) Ephesians 1:3-5
- 4) 1 John 3:1-3
- 5) 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 6) 2 Corinthians 7:1
- 7) Psalm 62:1-4
- 8) Revelation 12:9
- 9) Psalm 62:1-12
- 10) Psalm 63:1-5
- 11) Psalm 42:1-6, 8-9
- 12) Psalm 84:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
- 13) Mark 12:29-30
- 14) Psalm 84:5
- 15) Hebrews 10:16
- 16) Psalm 84:8-12
- 17) Psalm 65:1-5
- 18) Psalm 67:1-7
- 19) John 14:21, 23
- 20) John 16:25-27
- 21) Psalm 20:1-5

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 91
- John 6:44-45

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