

Zahakiel: Ok, let's begin, then. I will ask Pastor to offer an opening prayer.

PastorChick: Dear Father in Heaven, we thank You for this time of refreshing ordained for Your people. We expect to be inspired with new insights and a closer view of Your Throne and character. We ask for Your blessing on our convocation, as we seek a fuller baptism of Your Spirit. In YAHSHUA's name, AMEN.

Elyna: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Daphna: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Zahakiel: Good evening, or morning, depending on where you are, and welcome to the Feast of Unleavened Bread for 2016. I will not speak for very long tonight, but I do want to offer you my thoughts on the week ahead of us. Let me begin by saying this:

Feast days are precious ones for Creation Seventh Day Adventists. This is not because they are "commanded" for the New Covenant relationship we have with our Heavenly Father, but because they are a blessing that we eagerly desire to obtain.

There are, after all, different kinds of commands, and different types of commandments. There are clearly recorded instructions that Yah, our Creator, has given to us, such as the 10 Commandments. Then there are principles that, although no "command" exists, violating them would amount to a transgression of the Law. For such we may think of such things as smoking, drinking alcohol, and so on.

There is also a third type – there are commandments of conscience. We have, within us as the Redeemed, the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. It is His presence, His personality, within us as a Guide, Advocate, and Guardian. The Spirit guides us by directing us to the right choices when faced with a decision. It advocates for us by directing our words in testimony to others and prayer to Yah. It guards us by alerting us to temptation, that we might turn away from the Enemy's snares.

In many such matters, there may be neither a command, nor a broadly-applicable principle; however, the people of Yah know the right course to take when it is necessary to choose a course. We read, for example, the words of the Savior:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:27, 28)

This is the way in which I think of the Feast days. They are not commanded for the New Testament saints. They are not the result of a principle that applies broadly to all people at all times. Rather, they are a command from the conscience, to gather with the children of Yahweh...to share myself and to be available for others to share themselves with me...to receive from Yahweh that which He intends to share with me. And I know that, with the world as it is, I dare not miss a single blessing.

As we saw in our last study on Sabbath, each blessing from the Father is unique. It does not come again; and although there are abundant and limitless blessings from Yahweh, such that none need fear falling short of any goal He sets for us, for love's sake, for a desire to know as much about Him as possible, we do our utmost to participate in any event to which the Spirit draws us. As Paul so aptly put it, "I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem." (Acts 18:21)

So there are feasts in the New Testament, as in the Old, to which Yahweh calls His people. Why? Each event does have its own unique blessing, but each also has a theme that recurs each time, a divine light that Yahweh shines on all such occasions.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread names its theme in its very title – it is about bread that is unleavened. It is about an experience, a life that Yah has given us to make (for "bread" is the first thing that Yahweh taught man to make after the fall) that is without leavening, impurity or corruption.

We saw, in another previous study (and I pray we do see that the studies that Yah gives to His people all have their purpose, and lead to light that we need to know) that the Son of Yahweh warned specifically against two kinds of leaven. (Mark 8:15)

There is the leaven of the Pharisees, and there is the leaven of Herod. I will not go into all the details again here, but the Scriptures make it clear that the first kind, of the Pharisees, is religious hypocrisy. It is pride in spiritual knowledge, and the ability to self-justify even the plainest of transgressions, because of a false idea of Yahweh, or a false idea of one's self.

Many, many are there who claim to be followers of Yahshua, and yet they do not "follow" either His words or His example. In what sense, then, are they followers? In what sense, then are they "disciples," which has the word "discipline" at its root? There are many who will be surprised in the judgment to learn that their beliefs were never based upon the Bible at all, but on tradition or desire, and they cannot defend their thoughts with "Thus

saith the Lord." But at least we have heard of the Leaven of the Pharisees. At least we have read studies, and heard sermons taught, about hypocrisy and pride.

The Leaven of Herod has remained a mystery to the worldly churches – and for good reason. The Leaven of Herod is, itself, worldliness. While the Pharisees held the mind of the Beast in the robes of religious authority, the followers of Herod are those that hold the mind of the Beast in secular trappings. It is easy enough to point to a religious group, or individual, and say, "Don't be like that." But at the same time, worldly principles, and compromises with the flesh, and reliance on the powers of armies and irreligious laws, filter in if those who would be followers of Christ "in Spirit and in truth" are not watchful, and constantly in prayer. We are told, "Watch and pray."

And yet, if we consider the state of those who claim to be Christ's, we see little difference between the Churches and the world. This feast, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, is about putting away such similarities, and distinguishing ourselves as those who have been with the Savior.

Consider divorce. This is a ready example. Yahweh says He hates divorce. (Mal 2:16) His people, who have His mind, ought also to hate it, and avoid it at all costs. And yet, I have read that the rates among those who claim to be Christian, and those who do not, are equal (if not actually worse).

The mind of Yahweh, His judgment, His character, is nowhere to be found in the actions of those who claim to follow Him. Why is this? It is because they did not beware the Leaven of Herod. Many things could be chosen as an example, and we could speak of it equally well. The world has entered into the Churches, and it finds there much with which to sympathize, much that it recognizes and with which it can be comfortable. Christ said, "the Prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." (John 14:30)

This ought to mean much to us, who are called to this Feast of Unleavened Bread. Yahshua says, "I have no leaven within me. I am without fault, without stain, from the ways of the Prince of this world."

PastorChick: Amen.

Zahakiel: This is our Great Example. This is our High Priest. This is our Role-model, our goal, our vision of excellence, the Man Christ Yahshua. I have more to say of these matters, but I hope to bring them in naturally, as I speak with you in discussions after the studies that you, the Brethren, bring to the spiritual table. I wish tonight merely to point to Yahshua as the Head of our Feast, and to rejoice that all light reveals Him in His beauty and glory. He is the Unleavened Bread of Life that separates us from the world, and into His Kingdom of everlasting joy.

Adriel: Amen

Zahakiel: I hope to see IN your studies the goal clearly stated, that we are freed from sin by the Blood of the Lamb, that we have eaten the unleavened flesh, and drank of the new blood, the new wine, so that we shall never hunger or thirst again, and that we should be at rest. I look forward to the meal that my brothers and sisters will set before me, for I claim the promise of my Savior, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Mat 5:6)

Let us unite, let us be as one, in seeking the blessings that have been prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

At this point, I open the floor to anyone who might have a word to share with the Church through the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Are there any with thoughts to share as we enter joyfully into this appointed time?

PastorChick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

PastorChick: I am thankful for the ability to attend Internet meetings without interruption from poor connectivity and I am grateful for the support we receive from the Hand of YAH, through His servants, to make things possible for us here that we could not do without the Church, which generously participates in foreign missions. And it is a joy to have certain comforts that relieve much of the challenge that comes with being in the mission field. We ARE tremendously blessed in this dark age, though many throughout the world are suffering moment by moment, physically, mentally, and spiritually. We DO thank YAH for His special attentions. For His many tokens of care and protection.

Elyna: Amen

Adriel: Amen

PastorChick: and for keeping us IN His daily Guidance. END.

Barb: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen. Thank you for sharing this. 😊 A spirit of thanksgiving is a powerful weapon against many temptations,

Naraiel: (Jaime and Maria say Amen)

Zahakiel: and we as Yah's people should take every opportunity to partake of it fully. How we confound Satan by it, who tries his hardest to sadden and discourage the servants of Yahweh. It is truly one of the keys to the Kingdom. Are there any others with something to share?

gadriel: Amen, Amen

Elyna: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Elyna: I am thankful for this time of rest and refreshing. I am particularly thankful for Yah's outstretched arm and power and wisdom that has kept our family safe, sound and together. We sure have challenges and which for most seems only beginning, we are blessed to be together and striving on together on the right side of life. I pray that each one in our Church family as well as in our blood family here will receive beautiful insights, blessings and wisdom from our heavenly Father this feast.

Adriel: Amen

Elyna: I also pray that visitors will come and be blessed, that the many that were invited will turn in. End.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Any others?

Barb: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Barb: I am also thankful for the things that Pastor and Sis. Guerline have mentioned and also that Yah saw fit for Sis. Daphna to come to Uganda. It has been a blessing to have her here and see her experiencing what it is like in Uganda interacting with Ugandans, and experiencing the joy of ministering to the Ugandans. <End>

Adriel: Amen 😊

Zahakiel: Amen.

PastorChick: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen.

Elyna: Amen

gadriel: Amen

Zahakiel: All right, if there are no others then I will ask that Bro. Luke close our meeting with a prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We are thankful for the blessings you have showered us with during the latter rain, both spiritual and physical. While we are scattered far and wide, we are blessed to be united by one Spirit, as we all move onward in Yahshua. May your Spirit continue to bind us together during this time of fellowship and refreshing, purging out any leaven from our time among the world and false professors. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

gadriel: Amen, Amen

Barb: Amen

PastorChick: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Daphna: Amen

Natashuabailey: Amen

PastorChick: Prayer request: It would appear that Judge Breen is preparing to rule on the motions, objections, and order before him in District Court in Tennessee. We pray that he finds wisdom in the order issued by Judge Bryant. I have also come to know of further developments with Sister Maria's health which we did not know. We need to pray for her wisdom to seek and find what the answers are to solve the situation and remedy the cause.

gadriel: Amen

PastorChick: I am inspired to say that if she could find goat's milk (fresh and raw), that would be a fine medicine.

Elyna: I will pray for those needs.

PastorChick: I am also inspired to say that if she eats foods cooked in oil - that should be eliminated.

gadriel: Amen

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Adriel: I will also be praying about this. I will say good day and goodnight. Yah bless all, see you tomorrow evening.