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THE LEAVENED LOAVES

We are of those assemblies and groups who observe the commanded annual holy days as found in the Scriptures. The annual holy days teach us so many, many things if we will choose to observe them and allow Yahweh's Spirit to guide us. Let's see what the Spirit of Yahweh teaches us about this annual observance this year.

By Jerry Healan

The primary command for the observance of this annual holy day is found in the book of Leviticus chapter 23, "And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto Yahweh. And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto Yahweh for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your Elohim: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto Yahweh. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto Yahweh," v.v. 9-17.

Notice that there is a count of 50 days that must be done in order to reach this annual observance. The count begins with the offering of the sheaf of firstfruits (v.v. 10-11, 15). We have published articles that deal with the sheaf and the count. They are entitled "*The Sheaf of Firstfruits*" and "*How Should We Count To Pentecost?*" We will be very happy to provide these articles for you upon request if you desire or need a copy. But the number fifty is a spiritually significant number because it represents jubilee, liberty, freedom.

We want to focus our attention upon the leavened loaves that were to be brought out of their habitations because all things that were done, were types for something else. For instance, we have revealed in our article that focuses on the sheaf of firstfruits that the sheaf represented the resurrected Savior from the dead. It was offered in the morning after the regular Sabbath that occurred during the days of unleavened bread (the first day of the week). Yahshua ascended to be accepted as the firstborn from the dead on that morrow after the Sabbath during the days of unleavened bread, "Yahshua

saith unto her (Miriam), Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my Elohim, and your Elohim," Jn. 20:17.

The countdown to Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks or Feast of Firstfruits was begun on that very day and on the fiftieth day the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of liberty and freedom) was poured out upon Yahshua's disciples, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," Acts 2:1-4.

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The sheaf of firstfruits that was offered on the morrow after the regular Sabbath typified the resurrected Savior. With His acceptance as the firstborn from the dead, the count was begun to Pentecost wherein the New Testament Assembly was raised up. The two wave loaves baked with leaven typified the New Testament Assembly. But why were there two loaves? Why were they baked with leaven? These questions and others must be answered.

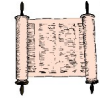
The disciples understood that Yahshua was the promised Messiah, "When Yahshua came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Eliyah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim,**" Mt. 16:13-16.

They also understood that He, being the promised Messiah, had come to restore the kingdom to Israel, "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Master, **wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**" Acts 1:6.

Israel had been separated into two kingdoms after the reign of Solomon, son of David. The northern kingdom was begun to be ruled by Jeroboam, an Ephraimite of the tribe of Joseph. The northern kingdom retained the name Israel and her capital was at Samaria. They became known as the ten tribes. The southern kingdom continued to be ruled at Jerusalem under the descend-



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ants of David, descendants of Judah. Thus, we have two kingdoms wherein the two loaves would represent.

The northern kingdom departed from Yahweh right away turning back to the abomination that Aaron and Israel committed by making the golden calf and worshipping it during Moses' forty day tenure in the mount wherein he was receiving instructions concerning the tabernacle, priesthood, etc. (Ex. 24 – 32) The Northern kingdom placed a golden calf in Bethel and in Dan. Yahweh sent His prophets to Israel to warn them to turn from their ways, but they refused and were cast out of the land by 721 BCE.

Judah continued to dwell in the land, but Solomon had erected temples to all of the deities of his foreign wives and the children of Israel under the Jewish kings were also committing abominations, "Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith Yahweh. But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because ye have done all these works, saith Yahweh, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim. Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee," Jer. 7:8-16.

In our article entitled "*What Leaven Represents,*" (*Yahshua's Witness Magazine*, Mar. – Apr. 2008) we revealed that leaven represents sin and false doctrine. While the leavened loaves could have represented both of the houses of Israel, they were brought forth on the Feast of Pentecost, which the same day that Yahweh raised up the New Testament Assembly as revealed in Acts 2. The Apostle Paul reveals more concerning what the two loaves represent, "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without the Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without Yahweh in the world: But now in the Messiah Yahshua ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Messiah. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordi-

nances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto Yahweh in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh," Eph. 2:11-17.

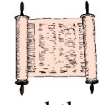
The loaves, thusly, would represent both the Israelites who had been made the commonwealth of Yahweh through the Covenant of Moses, and the non-Hebrews, the non-Israelites who were excluded from that commonwealth through that same covenant. Both Israel and Judah were sown among the nations of the earth because of their unfaithfulness to the covenant.

LEAVEN

The loaves were leavened, which typifies the current state of the assembly. The Apostle Paul made this clear in the book of Romans, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of the Messiah; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto Yahweh. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Yahweh forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? Yahweh forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of Yahweh after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Ro. 7:4-24.



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What is Paul saying here? The Messiah died so that our transgressions, our sin, our law-breaking might be forgiven. Once we are baptized and washed clean from our sins, then we are alive without the law. But Paul reveals that even though he was dead to the law, sin revived because there is a law of sin in the flesh. That law of sin is the leaven of the flesh and even though a person may be called and forgiven and has received an earnest of the Spirit, the problem is that the flesh does not stay dormant. Paul says that sin revives.

Sin is the transgression of the law (1 Jn. 3:4). John writes to us encouraging us that we sin not (1 Jn. 2:1). But in the very same sentence he says, "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Yahshua the Messiah the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world," 1 Jn. 2:1-2.

Paul reveals in Romans 7 and Galatians 5 that we must struggle against the law of sin in the flesh. Sometimes it is so frustrating because it seems like a losing battle, and that is when, in his frustration, he cries, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (Ro. 7:24). The answer comes immediately, "I thank Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah our Sovereign," v. 25. (first part) But notice how he finishes verse 25, "So then with the mind I myself serve the law of Yahweh; but with the flesh the law of sin."

He reveals elsewhere that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Elohim; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption," 1 Cor. 15:50. Thus, the two loaves baked with leaven represent the current state of the assembly, the body of the Messiah. We only receive an earnest of the spirit, which is a down payment to hold us until the day of redemption. In this state, we are still subject to the sin that is in the flesh and must resist it with the power of the Spirit through obedience to the commandments.

THE WITNESS

If you will read Revelation chapters 2 and 3, you will find a thumbnail sketch of the history of the New Testament Assembly. Only two assemblies have nothing bad said about them. One, the Smyrna Assembly is persecuted and martyred to the grave. The other, the Philadelphia Assembly, does not deny His name. This can mean many things. The first, of course, is exactly what it says, His name was Yahshua, not Jesus. But above that, the very word "name" in Hebrew also means authority, honor, character, etc. The flesh with the law of sin contained therein is corruptible and mortal. It is filled with leaven and is not suitable for the kingdom of heaven. We must be resurrected or changed from that which is mortal and corruptible to that which is immortal and incorruptible.

Our current mission is not to declare ourselves, but to be subject to the Spirit of truth, which witnesses of Yahshua and how He is spoken of in the Scriptures. He declared to the people of His day, "Search the scrip-

tures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of Yahweh in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from Yahweh only? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For **had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?**" Jn. 5:39-47.

He told His disciples, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you....But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you," Jn. 14:15-17, 26. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me.**" Jn. 15:26. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" Jn. 16:7-15.

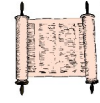
Thus, our witness must be about Yahshua and His fulfillment of the Scriptures.

FIRSTFRUITS

The leavened loaves that were brought forth were called "the firstfruits unto Yahweh" (Lev. 23:17). The Hebrew word for "firstfruits" is *bikkuwrim* (בִּכּוּרִים). It is defined as the first-fruits of the crop (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*) and is generally translated as first fruit, hasty fruit, etc. It stems from another Hebrew word which is *bakar* (בָּקַר) which is defined as; to burst the womb, i.e. (causatively) bear or make early fruit (of woman or tree); also (as denominative from 1061) to give the birthright. (*IBID*)



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The firstfruits assembly was raised up on the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples. We have come down through almost two thousand years now while the firstfruits are being sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Yahshua, Himself, said that many are called, but few are chosen (Mt. 22:14). During this period of time, the leavened loaves have applied to the New Testament Assembly. But the day is coming, as Paul wrote, when the mortal and corruptible will be resurrected or changed to immortal and incorruptible. This will take place sometime in the near future on another annual holy day, the next holy day to be fulfilled.

The book of Revelation speaks of the first resurrection, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and **I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Yahshua, and for the word of Yahweh,** and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with the Messiah a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of the Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years," Rev. 20:1-6.

Another time of great persecution is going to come upon Yahshua's disciples. This is revealed in the fifth seal of chapter 6, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of Yahweh, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Sovereign, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and **it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled,**" v.v. 9-11.

They will all be resurrected at the sound of the trumpet of Yahweh, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall

not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: **for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to Yahweh, which giveth us the victory through our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Sovereign, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in Yahweh," 1 Cor. 15:51-58.

There will no longer be any leaven in their bodies, for they will have been resurrected with new incorruptible and immortal bodies. These resurrected firstfruits are revealed in Revelation fourteen, "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto Yahweh and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of Yahweh," vv. 1-5.

These are the ones represented by the leavened loaves of Pentecost. They are the firstfruits unto Yahweh. They are the first to be redeemed and born from the sons of Adam into the power, honor and glory of the kingdom of heaven. They will be kings and priests forever and ever, serving under Yahshua the Messiah Who is King of kings and Sovereign of sovereigns. He also is the heavenly High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Have you been called and sealed to serve in this great capacity? Their redemption and appearance will serve to the further salvation of all peoples of the earth. May that day come soon!

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