

Feast of Unleavened Bread
First Day 2024
By Boyd Yahn

Hello everyone, it is March the 20th of 2024 and this is a message for the first day of Unleavened Bread, no matter when you choose to keep that. I realize it is a very contentious issue, and folks keep it at different times. So, I thought I would have something out there, so whenever it works for you, you'll have something to listen to, should you choose to do so.

0:00:25

As I sit down to write and record this message, it seems that someone has sped up the hands of the clock, and this past year has simply flown by. My grandmother, who died at 95 years of age, told me years back now, that the older one gets, the faster time seems to fly.

0:00:48

She knew what she was talking about. Matching that speed of time seemingly sped up, there was something else too, the increase in the understanding of the scriptures, over the last couple of years, to my mind has been immense.

0:01:10

I was talking to a brother just last night who mentioned the same thing. The increase in comprehension when one begins to believe what Yehovah and His Son, Yeshua, the Christ, teach us, as opposed to what we are taught by men, it's simply incredible. There is a vast gulf there.

0:01:30

And that increase in comprehension does not come without some turbulence. When Christ said He was the Son of God, the locals of the day really didn't want to hear it. When the Bible says, I sent My Son, that doesn't go over really well either, because cherished teaching immediately begins to cross-thread with it.

0:01:58

Spiritual growth, for most of Yehovah's ecclesia, requires we believe Him, whether He tells us directly by Himself, or through His Son, whom He directed what to say, and what to do. And I think it's useful to remind ourselves what, and how that is actually stated, and we find it in the book of Hebrews.

0:02:24

Hebrews 1, and we'll read verses 1 and 2.

¹(The) God (The Father), who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His

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Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

0:02:50

So, it tells us that the Father made the worlds through His Son. We go to John 14; John 14, and verse 10, and we see a confirmation of this. John 14:10 says:

¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

0:03:21

Christ didn't do the works, the Father did it through Him. Going on in verse 24:

²⁴He who does not love Me does not keep My words;

And of course, Christ's words were what the Father told Him to speak.

and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

0:03:45

So, in Christ's own words, about how it works; it's not universally well received, which gives rise to occasion for false Christs to step in there. Our refusal to believe either the word of Yehovah, or Yeshua, leaves us vulnerable to the lies of the enemy, which are many, and extremely cunning.

0:04:13

Your word is truth, has never seemed so important than it has in this last year. Often, when the holy days come up for observance, writing studies include the things we have been given to understand over the previous months, if we are growing at all. Repeating an observance with no increase in knowledge and understanding, is a warning we have stagnated and ceased to grow.

0:04:41

And yet our direction is very clearly stated for us in the book of Romans 12, verse 2, where the scripture cries out to us through the mists of time. Paul's words:

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of (The) God. (Our Father)

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0:05:11

So, it cries out to us. Do we heed that? Or are we content to go through a holy day, like a well-worn ritual? This Christ, Yeshua, is a focal point of this time of the year. Who was He, and what was the purpose in what He did? Could we answer that with accuracy and conviction, could we actually do that?

0:05:41

We see that stated in John 3, verses 16 – 17.

¹⁶ For (The) God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,

He sent His Son.

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

0:06:19

The Father sent His Son, so that our relationship to Yehovah could be restored, opening the pathway to another existence, not of flesh and blood, but rather of spirit, just as the Father and Christ have. Yehovah wants to populate the entire universe with such beings; His immortal and incorruptible Sons. To be co-heirs of it all, along with His first-born Son, who is the heir of it, as we read in Hebrews 1.

0:06:58

We are told that specifically in Romans 8; Romans 8, we'll read that because it is so inspiring because it encapsulates exactly what our Father, the Father of spirits, Creator of the universe tells us. Romans 8:14

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of (The) God, these are sons of (The) God.

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

0:07:39

And the conversion process is all about changing fathers.

¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Children of the God.

¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

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0:08:04

There's a spirit existence that is coming.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself

The whole shmoo.

also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption

That's a very important word to remember as we go on in this study.

into the glorious liberty of the children of (The) God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

0:09:08

The conversion from flesh and blood, to spirit. God has not hidden His will from us, the purpose of our lives. But do we have an evil heart of unbelief when He tells us of such things? Will we actually believe Him and conform our lives to the way required to attain such a destiny? That is a very personal decision. Having such understanding of the purpose and plan of Yehovah does not always lead to action, or to the action that would achieve it.

0:09:47

Christ came to show us that our God and Father really does have a Son, and that He wants many more of them. Christ came at the behest of the Father, to show us the way to our destiny. And you read of that quite extensively in John 6. John, it seems, had a deep grasp of what is going on. We have been privileged to come to understand that there are three great harvests of man, to spirit life.

0:10:23

Born of the first stage of Yehovah's plan, where Satan's spirit has been allowed to broadcast and dominate, and our participation in one of these will be determined by the time of our calling and our response to it.

0:10:49

So, John 6, let's take a look at verses 26 and 27.

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²⁶*Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.*

²⁷*Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."*

0:11:21

Going on to verse 29,

²⁹*(Christ) answered and said to them, "This is the work of God; that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

God does have Son, and God sent His Son so that there might be many more Sons.

0:11:43

Going on in verse 32 it tells us.

³²*... "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.*

And who, or what is that?

³³*For the bread of God is He*

There's a definition scripture.

who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

0:12:12

There's a load of understanding in that scripture. God the Father sent the true bread from heaven; His Son. And the purpose was to give life, (We'll look at that more here shortly.) to the world. So, here Christ articulates that He is the bread of God. We'll go on, and we'll read this keeping that in mind.

³⁵*And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

0:12:56

And you might want to be counting as we go along here, how many times in this passage in John 6, did Christ repeat that?

³⁶*But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,*

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The Father is the one that reveals the true Christ, and Satan actually reveals false Christs to people. That's a separation thing. The Father reveals the true Christ.

and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

0:13:46

Right there we have a definition of who's will the ecclesia should be seeking.

³⁹This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

God is calling people to eternal life.

⁴⁰And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

0:14:20

Do you recognize the Son of God, or do we recognize the Son of God when we see him?

⁴¹The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."

He was enormously popular stating what He said, what we just read.

⁴²And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws (Or calls) him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by (The) God.'

0:15:12

So, all of us have experienced that when the Father tweaks our spirit and grants us spiritual understanding so that we may be part of the harvest of God, to spirit beings, which is what He wants.

Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me

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0:15:44

That He's the Son of God, and that's how Sons of God actually act.

has everlasting life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life.

I've wondered and marveled, how many times did I have to read that before it actually sunk in?

⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰This is the bread which comes down from heaven that one may eat of it and not die.

The pathway to eternal life is through Jesus Christ, and being like Him and thinking like Him.

⁵¹I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." ⁵²The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" ⁵³Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

0:16:55

We have to become like Christ. We are being made over in His image.

⁵⁴Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

0:17:40

So, we can see here, He's constantly referring to Himself as the bread that came down from heaven. The ecclesia are referred to as bread as well. And what else would we expect if the ecclesia are, in fact, the body of Christ. We can see this stated directly in I Corinthians 10, verses 16 and 17.

*¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?
¹⁷For we, though many, are one bread*

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0:18:25

Christ is bread, we are His body; we are bread.

and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

For we embrace the principles and features of living this life exactly like Christ did. In I Corinthians 6 and verse 15, we see something that reinforces it.

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

There has to be a change.

0:19:04

And in I Corinthians 5:7, the theme scripture for this time of the year, we are given directions.

⁷Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

0:19:31

And it's interesting here, to consider the word unleavened. It's the Greek word G106, azumos, and while it can refer to the festival, it also has the meaning, which I didn't see until I actually started to look at this, that means uncorrupted, and sincere.

0:19:56

The road to eternal life requires moving from a condition of corruption, to a condition of being uncorrupted. To show we actually want that by our actively moving in that direction. When shown what it is, we need to change. Ultimately the ecclesia are to become immortal and incorruptible.

0:20:31

Can you see the process of creation here, or do we think that becoming a spirit being of such glory, is an act of creation? When we are changed from dirt, who knows nothing, to a spirit being, who is immortal and incorruptible, would you regard that as an act of creation?

0:20:54

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Can Yehovah actually do that? Well, He can, and He did. Sending His Son as proof, and showing us the way. If we go to the book of John, and let's take a look at John 5 and we'll read verses 24 – 26. Christ speaking:

²⁴“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ²⁵Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

0:22:01

Verse 26 makes no sense if Christ always existed. It makes perfect sense if He didn't.

When Christ said that He was lesser than the Father, My Father is greater than I, is it even possible the concept of two co-eternal, co-equal Beings? If we stop and think about that for a moment, it's not possible, it's simply not true.

0:22:38

And yet it is the basis for Church of God theology. Many years ago, there was to me, some brilliant work done by Steve Moody, that I've had in my "How 'bout that" file ever since.

0:22:54

In that study, he pointed out that life, the word life, which we've seen many times here, comes from more than one (Greek) word. And those different (Greek) words convey different meanings. These two words are keys to help us understand what is being referenced here.

0:23:13

In this passage, (John 5:26) life, is translated from the Greek word (G2222) (zoe, (zedoe), actually pronounced, dzo-ay, and zoe is God life.

²⁶For as the Father has (zoe) in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have (zoe) in Himself,

0:23:40

Zoe is God life; self-sustaining life. The kind of life that Father has. And the Father can give such life to whomever He will. Our salvation actually depends on it. And we all know the passage in I Corinthians 15, and we'll read that because it's appropriate. I Corinthians 15, verses 50 – 54.

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⁵⁰Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;

0:24:20

Wherein you have God life.

nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—and this mortal must put on immortality ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.

0:25:04

Can we see the connection with unleavened here, with uncorrupted? Can we see the first harvest here in Revelation 14, verses 1 -5? Can we see what I understand to be the barley, the first resurrection to spirit? Revelation 14:1.

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name (Yehovah) written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

0:26:07

They had been transformed from flesh and blood to spirit.

⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And in their mouth was found no deceit,

They were not corrupted.

for they are without fault before the throne of God.

0:26:41

These Beings are no longer corruptible, they have been perfected. When the Bible speaks of our physical life it uses the term from the Greek, psuche, and it is word

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G5590. When eternal life, God level life is being referenced it is zoe. (G2222) And we are just going to review that, because I think it is very important to understand that.

0:27:17

John 5 again, verse 24.

²⁴“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting (zoe), and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into (zoe).”

Verse 26

²⁶For as the Father has (zoe – life) in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life (zoe) in Himself,

0:27:52

And God the Father and Christ are going to grant the ecclesia zoe, God life. Number 29.

²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of (zoe), and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Verse 39

³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal (zoe); and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have (zoe).

0:28:30

When it is our physical life, our animal life that is being referenced, it is, as I mentioned, psuche. And let's take a look at some of the examples where psuche is actually used.

In John 10, let's take a look at this, because once we do that it's very distinct and very clear, and very helpful in expanding our understanding.

0:29:00

John 10, we'll look at verses 11, 15 and 17, and we are going to read the Greek word as I do this so that we can see the difference here. Christ said:

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His (psuche) for the sheep.

He is talking about His physical life.

0:29:21

Verse 15.

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¹⁵As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My (psuche) for the sheep.

Verse 17.

¹⁷Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My (psuche) that I may take it again.

The life of zoe. It's very important, I think, that we grasp that.

0:29:55

If we go to John 12, and verse 25, this is very, very descriptive of this process. Christ speaking:

²⁵He who loves his (psuche) will lose it, and he who hates his (psuche) in this world will keep it for eternal (zoe).

It shows both in the same text. And if we didn't take a little time to look a little deeper, I don't think I would have ever seen it, and am so grateful for Steve Moody pointing that out, and allowing me to put that in my "How About That" file. You can have stuff in your "How About That" file for a very, very long time, and then all of a sudden it goes "Click", how 'bout that?

0:30:49

Well, John 13, verses 37 and 38.

³⁷Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my (psuche) for Your sake." ³⁸Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your (psuche) for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.

0:31:20

What about John 15:13? John 15:13.

¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's (psuche) for his friends.

This continues on in the book of Acts. Where we will go to Acts 20, and we'll read verses 10 and verse 24.

0:31:46

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Acts 20, verse 10

¹⁰But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his (psuche) is in him."

Verse 24

²⁴But none of these things move me; nor do I count my (psuche)

This temporary physical existence.

dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

0:32:21

We see the exact same thing, with a reference to psuche, In Romans 11, verse 3
So, let's take a look at that.

³"Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my (psuche)"?

It is not talking about eternal life in all of these passages.

0:32:51

Romans 16, verse 4. Again:

⁴who risked their own necks for my (psuche), to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Paul understood the difference between psuche and zoe, and we need to do the same.

0:33:15

The promise of the Father is zoe, and He gave it to His firstborn Son, and gave it back to Him after the completion of His mission, His zoe, His God life. And so, He will do this for others; the other Sons of God. We are to inherit zoe, eternal life.

0:33:48

If we go to John 12, verse 49 we can see the decree of the Father, through His Son. Christ said:

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⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

If He was co-equal, co-eternal, does that even make any sense? Why would He have to tell Him anything?

⁵⁰And I know that His command is everlasting (zoe). Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

0:34:34

This is the feast of the Unleavened, the uncorrupted bread, those of the first harvest of God, those that have chosen to be uncorrupt. They will be the first harvest of Yehovah to Spirit life. And what is it that we need to do, you and I, thinking about this time of the year, what is it that we need to specifically do to unleaven ourselves, to become uncorrupt? What is it that we actually need to do?

0:35:24

And we get a clue of that in the book of Luke. Now here you have a group of people who kept the Sabbath, kept the holy days, kept the laws of the clean and unclean meats; they did all of that, and yet there was a problem.

¹ In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, (This is Luke 12:1) so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

0:36:03

One of the corrupted things, or one of the things of a corrupted spirit is to be a hypocrite. Have we ever come across anyone, including what we see in the mirror, that someone would qualify or quantify as a hypocrite? It is a condition of defilement in us. Is there more to that than meets the eye?

0:36:43

Well, let's take a little look here at I Peter 2; I Peter 2, and we'll read verses 1 and 2. I Peter 2, verses 1 and 2. As we move from a condition of corruption, which is leaven, to a condition of uncorrupted, there's things that we need to do. And this festival is a reminder of that, and we must choose, each one of us, do we want to go there, or do we still love the ways of this world? It's a time of reflection.

0:37:33

The direction here, given to us by Peter.

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¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy,

Like the Pharisees were full of. They killed Jesus Christ because of envy. So, the Pharisees of the day, even though they had the day, were filled with these things. And the ecclesia are called to leave them behind, to let them go, to put them away. This feast is the feast of the unleavened bread. Those that have chosen the way of uncorruption, or incorruption. And I don't think it is an accident at all that when barley matures, its heads are bent over in a worship like way, to their Creator, while wheat is not. I don't believe that is an accident at all.

0:38:55

The barley harvest, the harvest of the uncorrupted, is quite small actually. Going on, we are to lay aside:

all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

0:39:15

These are the things we need to embrace, and move on with as we go forward in our path to immortality and incorruptibility. There will be some that have the knowledge and do that, and there will be some who won't. I can recall being at various holy days, and yes, every crumb for a thousand miles has been removed, but the person, or persons sitting there with deceit and envy and hypocrisy, possibly running out of their ears.

0:40:00

And the focus was so much on the physical that the spiritual cleansing that is required of us, was more or less, completely forgotten.

²as newborn babes, (Verse 2) desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby

0:40:22

Do we want to grow, and do we want to reject all of those things we read about in verse 1? Do we really want that? And do we show Yehovah and Yeshua, that that is what we want by our actions. Or are we content to simply be going to the right church?

0:40:45

I think all of us need to ask that question and see where we are at personally. And I would like to finish in II Corinthians 7:1, which to my experience over the years, was never given the priority that it says. So, let's read that as we close here.

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¹ *Therefore, having these promises,*

0:41:21

You know, to be sons and daughters, if we go back up a couple of verses.

*beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Our spirit is filthy, if it is filled with hypocrisy and envy and deceit; and we need to get rid of that and perfect holiness in the fear of God.

So, everyone please have a very good unleavened bread season, whenever you may keep that. And please, let's all keep these things in mind and try an be part of that barley harvest, the first harvest of mankind to spirit. Let's show our Father we are serious about this.