

The Biblical Meaning of The Days of Unleavened Bread

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The Days of Unleavened Bread, according to the Bible, is a seven-day festival observed by the Israelites immediately following Passover. This period is rich in scriptural significance and is deeply rooted in historical events recorded in the Bible.

Scriptural Foundation

1. **Exodus 12:15-20:** The command for the Days of Unleavened Bread is first given during the Exodus from Egypt. The Israelites were instructed to eat unleavened bread for seven days and to remove all leaven from their houses. This command is tied to their hasty departure from Egypt, where there was no time for the bread to rise. The removal of leaven is symbolic of the removal of sin and corruption (1 Corinthians 5:7-8).
 - **Exodus 12:17:** "And ye shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever."
2. **Leviticus 23:6-8:** The festival is confirmed as one of the appointed feasts of the LORD, where the first and seventh days are to be observed as holy convocations, and no servile work is to be done.
 - **Leviticus 23:6:** "And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread."
3. **Deuteronomy 16:3-4:** This passage emphasizes the historical significance, tying the eating of unleavened bread to the Israelites' deliverance from Egyptian bondage. It is called "the bread of affliction," reminding the Israelites of their suffering in Egypt and their miraculous deliverance by God.
 - **Deuteronomy 16:3:** "Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life."

4. **1 Corinthians 5:6-8:** In the New Testament, Paul draws on the imagery of the Days of Unleavened Bread to exhort the Corinthian church to purge sin (symbolized by leaven) from their lives. This indicates that the festival was understood symbolically even in the early Christian community.
- **1 Corinthians 5:7-8:** "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Historical Context

The Days of Unleavened Bread is deeply rooted in the historical event of the Exodus, which is one of the most significant events in Jewish history. The festival commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, as detailed in Exodus. The historical observance of this festival is evidenced in several places throughout the Bible, such as:

- **Joshua 5:10-12:** The Israelites kept the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread after entering the Promised Land, signifying the continuity of this practice.
 - **Joshua 5:11:** "And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day."
- **2 Chronicles 30:21:** King Hezekiah reinstated the observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread as part of his religious reforms, highlighting the importance of the festival in Israel's spiritual life.
 - **2 Chronicles 30:21:** "And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD."

Summary

The Days of Unleavened Bread is a Biblically ordained festival that commemorates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and the miraculous deliverance by God. Scripturally, it symbolizes the removal of sin and the pursuit of holiness. Historically, it has been consistently observed by the Israelites, from the time of the Exodus through the New Testament period, serving as a reminder of God's deliverance and the need for spiritual purity.

The understanding and observance of this festival are deeply rooted in both the Torah and the teachings of the New Testament, reflecting a continuous tradition that underscores the importance of remembering God's deliverance and maintaining spiritual integrity.