

CouplesInBloom.com – Messiah Or Matzo? (... or *Slow Down for Christmas*)

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Judaism is the foundation of Christianity and Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone of it ⇨ Isaiah 28:16; Ephesians 2:20. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God permanently took on flesh to become the Messiah prophesied in- and symbolized by- the Old Covenant. The Bible shows the tearing of the temple veil, the ceasing of animal sacrifices for sin, and hundreds of fulfilled prophecies all connecting the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Jewish Feasts in Scripture *ultimately* illustrate the love of God manifested through the life of Jesus Christ the Messiah. New Testament Christianity is the completion of Old Testament Judaism and explains how God's goal in it all is eternal intimacy with Him for all who use their free will to obediently reciprocate His undeserved love with their life.

The Feast of Passover and subsequent Feast of Unleavened Bread described in the Old Testament led to the Lord's Supper (i.e. Communion) in the New Testament ⇨ Luke 22. Feast instructions include Exodus 12:1-20 ⇨ "...For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses. For anyone eating any leaven, that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, among the aliens, and among the natives of the land. You shall not eat leaven, none. You shall eat *unleavened* bread (*Hebrew*: matsTSAW') (i.e. matso) ..."

In Luke 22:15 ⇨ Jesus *literally* said He *strongly* wanted to eat the Passover meal with His disciples before His suffering on the cross. When they ate, Jesus did not use *unleavened* bread (*Greek*: AD'zoomos). Instead, Jesus used *leavened* bread (*Greek*: AR'tos), *literally* "loaf bread" that has leaven as described in ⇨ Matthew 16:12. WHY?

Jesus' sacrifice ended symbolic animal sacrifices for sin. Jesus' resurrection made our way to Heaven from the slavery of sin in this life which was symbolized by Moses and the exodus from the slavery of sinful Egypt. The Old Testament Feasts celebrated God's *acts* but the New Testament celebrates God **Himself**: Jesus. THIS IS WHY Jesus often seemed to *break the rules*; He was in fact fulfilling / completing Judaism and the Old Covenant, completing the Old Testaments aspects which specifically pointed to **HIM**.

The Old Testament does *point* to God but the New Testament *manifests* God in **Jesus**. "Behold **ME!** Behold **ME!**" ⇨ God *literally* says in Isaiah 65:1. This is why Jesus said "**Do this** (eat *leavened* bread during the Feast) in remembrance of **ME!**" ⇨ Luke 22:19. Eating *unleavened* bread is for remembrance of the Jews rushing out of Egypt. Isaiah 28:16 ⇨ prophecies about those who will believe Jesus is Messiah: they *do not haste*; they *literally intensely remember HIM* ⇨ Luke 22:19; they *examine themselves* on how they treat **HIM** ⇨ 1 Corinthians 11:20-34; and *aren't ashamed* of **HIM** ⇨ Romans 9:33.

Many Christians use unleavened bread (matzo) for communion which is theologically okay... just incomplete. However, far more than a bread type, God cares about our heart: ***are we intensely beholding HIM, or just happy to be free from Egypt?*** This is like seeking hell insurance *rather than* the beautiful Savior who painfully paid our spiritual and physical debt for sin He did not commit, provides us eternal life in the perfection of Heaven, and gives us victorious life in this fallen world! **Slow down; Celebrate Jesus! ♥**