

# Hag Ha'Matzot

## Focusing on Removing the Leaven

Written by: Todd D. Bennett  
[www.shemayisrael.net](http://www.shemayisrael.net)

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It is the first Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Every day, for the next seven days, we are commanded to eat unleavened bread (matzah). We are also to keep leavened things out of our bodies and homes.

So, we have an affirmative duty to eat unleavened bread (matzah) each day. And we must diligently be watching and guarding the Commandment that no "seor" or "hametz" be seen within our "borders" (gebul). (Exodus 13:7)

For all of those seven days we are supposed to be focused on leaven – watching and guarding our territory (gebul).

In the last message I talked about the spiritual lesson underlying this physical exercise. But how do you identify and get the leaven out of your life?

Quite simply, that requires the baptism of the spirit.

Remember what John said about the Messiah?

*“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Set Apart Spirit and fire.” Matthew 3:11*

So those who celebrated the Passover, covered by the blood of the Lamb, are now at a distinct advantage when it comes to removing leaven.

We are in the Covenant renewed by Yahushua. It is the same Covenant promised by Jeremiah, and we now have access to the fire that purifies.

An important part of that renewed Covenant is that “YHWH will forgive their iniquity, and their sin He will remember no more.” (Jeremiah 31:34)

Here’s the thing. That is the benefit of the Covenant, but it is a Covenant with conditions. Those in the Covenant must have the Torah in their minds and written on their hearts. It’s right in the agreement, and it’s not in the fine print.

So now, instead of being written on tablets of stone and scrolls, the Torah is inside of us, the same place where the leaven tries to infect and take over.

When you let the Spirit circumcise your heart and write the Torah on your inner parts, it destroys and replaces the leaven.

Obedience has always been a requirement of the Covenant, only now we have the benefit of His fire.

Having the instructions within us, along with the filling of the Spirit, empowers us to obey.

You don't need a lawyer to explain this Covenant to you. It's all spelled out in the Torah and the Prophets.

The problem is that most Christians have never received full disclosure or "the Full Gospel." They were generally only taught the benefit of forgiveness, without the condition of obedience.

They were told that the Torah and the Prophets were old and outdated. This is despite the fact that Yahushua specifically stated: "<sup>17</sup> *Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.* <sup>18</sup> *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Torah till all is fulfilled.*" Matthew 5:17-18

Of course, all is not yet fulfilled. Therefore, all of the Torah remains relevant to those who desire to be in a Covenant relationship with YHWH.

So, if we entered into the Covenant, covered by the blood, the next step is to get ourselves cleaned up. That is the significance of the baptism.

Baptism by water washes the outside. Baptism by fire destroys, purifies and refines.

That should be the focus during these seven days.

With that in mind, I thought I would share some of a conversation that I had with a good brother last night during our celebration of the first night of the hag.

He was commenting on the patterns of seven in the Scriptures, and how they all overlapped and were related.

Of course, we have entered into a renewed cycle of seven Appointed times that span over seven months.

Those Appointed Times are 1) Pesach, 2) Hag Ha'Matzot, 3) Shavuot, 4) Yom Teruah, 5) Yom Kippur, 6) Succot, and 7) Shemini Atzeret – The Eighth Day.

This process is like going through a dimensional shift. We are currently in a creation that is infected with sin – it is fully leavened. Our only escape is the Covenant path revealed by YHWH, and renewed by His Son.

As we enter through the door covered with blood, we ultimately exit on the Eighth Day - into new beginnings within the Kingdom of Elohim.

We are currently beginning the second rehearsal, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and our focus should be on the leaven that has crept into our lives.

During this particular time on our journey, it may be valuable to consider the seven things that YHWH hates.

The Proverbs state the following: *“<sup>16</sup> These six things YHWH hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”* Proverbs 6:16-19

When we consider removing leaven for seven days, these seven items would be a good place to start. You definitely do not want to be involved in anything that YHWH hates.

These should be immediately identified and removed. May they be burned up and replaced by one of the seven Spirits described by Isaiah. Those seven Spirits all rested upon Yahushua.

The Spirit of YHWH, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of counsel, the Spirit of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the Spirit of the fear of YHWH.

I pray that His Spirit rests upon you and helps you remove any remaining leaven during this significant span of seven days.

Berakhot and Hag Sameach!

Todd

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