

Preparing for the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread

Preparing for the Passover

The Passover Meal is a family gathering established by Elohim (God) to celebrate the liberation of Israel from Egyptian captivity and humanity's redemption from sin and death through Yeshua Ha'Mashiach (Jesus The Messiah). The BOLIM Family Passover Celebration will be observed at the BOLIM DTC on Friday, April 3rd @ 7 pm CST.

Preparing for the Feast of the Unleavened Bread

The observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread offers us an intentional time to "spring clean" our lives. Explain to your friends and family that as we celebrate Passover and the Feast of Unleavened, we ask Elohim for the power to choose a life not dominated by sin and live into the freedom found in obedience to His Kingdom ways.

LET'S GET THE LEAVEN OUT! The new moon or Abib 1 is expected to be on the evening of Friday, March 20th. We would recommend that you complete any consumption of leavened products by Monday, March 30th. On Wednesday, April 1st, do a final inspection of your home for any leaven.

By sundown, Thursday, April 2nd, all leaven should be out of the house that has not been consumed. You may purchase leavened products again beginning Saturday, April 11th after sundown.

What is Leaven?

Leaven is yeast or any "fermenting" substance used to make dough, or other foods rise or sour. Some leaven derivatives are added to foods for flavor or nutritional purposes. The rules of leavening also apply to foods prepared from five types of grain: barley, wheat, rye, oats and spelt.

According to Exodus 13:7, we are to consume only unleavened bread for 7 (seven) days. Removing leaven is a spiritual as well as a physical cleansing. Yeshua (Jesus) spoke of leaven as a symbol of sin in the gospels (Luke 12:1), and the apostle Paul did likewise in I Corinthians 5:6-8.

Scriptural Instructions for Removing Leavened Food Products

Exodus 12:15-20 (TS2009) 15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. Indeed on the first day you cause leaven to cease from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that being shall be cut off from Yisra'el. 16'And on the first day is a set-apart gathering, and on the seventh day you have a set-apart gathering. No work at all is done on them, only that which is eaten by every being, that alone is prepared by you. 17 'And you shall guard the Festival of Matzot, for on this same day I brought your divisions out of the land of Mitsrayim. And you shall guard this day throughout your generations, an everlasting law. 18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the new moon, in the evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the new moon in the evening. 19 'For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, that same being shall be cut off from the congregation of Yisra'el, whether sojourner or native of the land. 20 'Do not eat that which is leavened – in all your dwellings you are to eat unleavened bread.'

Yahweh (The Lord) requires us to clean our homes of any food products that contain any kind of leaven that makes food rise. In mixes, you will see it as baking powder, baking soda, and sodium bicarbonate – all meant to make the batter of bread or cakes to rise. Also, traditionally most foods that contain wheat, barley, rye, oats, or spelt, except for matzah, are refrained from during Passover, as they are often processed in mills where leaven is present.

Foods with leaven include most breads, cereals, cakes, pies, crackers, and soups. Read the labels on all of your foods, especially in the pantry and freezer. You may be surprised about the foods that contain leaven. It is easy to identify packaged foods that are usable during Unleavened Bread by looking for product packages bearing one of these symbols: or “OU Kosher for Passover.”

The general idea is to symbolize a purified life in Yeshua (Jesus) by eating foods without leaven for the 7 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Here are some examples of foods to keep in your home and eat:

All fresh fruits, vegetables, 100% fruit juices, milk, eggs, unflavored nuts, peas, rice, beans, quinoa, matzah, and packaged foods with the or “(U)P Kosher for Passover” symbols. Some grocery stores in the Houston area have a food section dedicated to Passover and Unleavened Bread.

Remember that there are flour types that are not derived from grains that can be consumed during the Feast of Unleavened Bread: Almond, Coconut, Cassava, Quinoa can be consumed. However, adding leaven or leaven products are still not permitted.

Example of Kosher for Passover product labels:



Warning: While many items marked Parve or Pareve (meaning “neutral”) may be kosher for Passover, not all items are. Please read package label and ingredients carefully.

Here are some examples of foods to keep in your home but don’t eat:

Flour, Pastas, Corn, Corn Syrup, any corn products.

Here are some examples of items you should remove from your home.

Bakery Products (i.e. bagels, doughnuts, cookies, cakes)

Breads of all kinds

Breaded Fish/Chicken/Meat

All Crackers (Saltine, Wheat Thins, etc)

Wheat Flour, all kinds

Pizza

Pretzels

Stuffing Mix

All Cereal Products (that contain oats, wheat, barley, rye, or spelt with leaven)

Some Meats contain grain fillers and/or leavening derivatives.

Some smoked and cured meats. Please read the label. Some curing and artificial smoking processes use leavening agents.

Again, if in doubt, ask the following questions:

1. Does this food or drink contain any leavening agents? Was yeast (or any other leavening agent) involved in the process of making this food to make it puff up or rise? (Remember that none of these items should be in the home unless they are specifically labelled as kosher for Passover.
2. Does this food or drink contain any wheat (except matzah or matzah products), barley, rye, oats, or spelt? Although these items aren't required to be removed from the home, they are not to be consumed during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Remember that the command of Yahweh in the scripture doesn't require that we remove roasted or fresh grains from our homes but it's not permissible to eat them. This includes pasta. Remember that items like corn are considered a grain so even items with corn products aren't permissible (including chips cooked in corn oil, for example) although it's not required to be removed from the home.

