



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**July 10, 2022**

**Ezra 6 (Part 2): Celebrating the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread**



What did Jerusalem look like in the time of the book of Ezra?



**Ezra 6:13-18**

They threw a great party and the writer of Ezra even gives us the specific numbers of animals that were barbecued that day....

Why do we get the numbers of the sacrifices?

- 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 male lambs, and 12 male goats – when Ezra finished 2nd Temple
- 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats – when Solomon finished 1st Temple

## Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

*For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel. (Ezra 6:22)*

*Take care of the lambs until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.*

*Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.*

*That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast...*

*This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.*

*“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.*

*The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

*“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.*

*For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel.*

*(Exodus 6:6-8, 11-15)*



*For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
(1 Corinthians 5:7-8)*

Jesus is our Passover lamb, and no more sacrifices need to be made. If you have trusted in His death to save you, then his blood is smeared on the doorposts of your heart and death will pass over you.

Do you know for sure if death came today that you are covered by the blood of the lamb?  
Have you put your faith in Jesus?

He turns no one down. He is ready to save and has provided for you but you must be obedient to put your faith in Him.

What does it look like to remove the spiritual yeast of your house, your life?

By the grace of God are you growing in Holiness?

## **Habits of Holiness**

Disciplines of Abstinence: Solitude, silence, fasting, frugality, chastity, secrecy, sacrifice.

Disciplines of Engagement: Study, worship, celebration, service, prayer, fellowship, confession, submission, witnessing.

*Solitude: When you practice solitude, you are trying to separate from the idol of the world, its aspirations, and pleasing others so that you can find strength and dependence upon God.*

*Silence: When you practice silence, you are trying to become a better listener to the Lord and to others. Try restricting your speech in the presence of others.*

*Fasting: Fasting is about removing something that is getting control over you for a short time: like food, social media, a television show, golf – so that you can find your joy in the Lord.*

*Frugality: What is the opposite of prodigal? Prodigal (wasteful) – We think buying stuff will make you happy. So, you practice frugality to find your true joy in the Lord.*

*Chastity: The discipline of chastity helps you put powerful sexual desires in their right place. 1 Cor 7 is a helpful place to study here.*

*Secrecy: Is the discipline where you don't brag about yourself, your accomplishments, your spiritual growth? Jesus said the Pharisees love to stand on the corner and announce that they had helped the poor today. That is not to be for Christ followers.*

*Sacrifice: Practicing sacrifice is to give up something you sort of depend upon occasionally: maybe your car, your pocket cash. He died for us so that we would no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us and rose again.*

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*Study: More than just reading. Joshua 1:8: "Do not let this book of the law depart from your lips. Meditate on it day and night and be careful to do all that is written in it, and then you will be prosperous and successful." Take notes and observations, study words in the text, journal, and try put God's Words into practice.*

*Worship: Worship is to be totally occupied with the attributes of God. Some people pray TACOS. (T-thanksgiving, A-adoration, C-confession, O-others, S-self.) People know how to thank God, confess to God, pray for others, and pray for self. However, we often don't know how to adore God. Have you ever tried adoring the goodness of God, His attributes, the one mighty to save, the creator, the almighty powerful Lord of Lords and King of Kings.*

*Celebration: We are good at throwing parties, but how often do we celebrate the goodness of the Lord and our gratitude. Here we move away from grumbling and towards gratitude and devotion. Celebrate something the Lord has done in your life with others.*

*Service: The day Jesus took off his outer garments and went around and washed the disciples' feet is the day he showed us service to the fullest. He told them: "As I have done for you, do for each other." This is not for notoriety, not for anything, but to serve another's needs above your own.*

*Prayer: Prayer is that privilege we get to draw near to God, receive His grace, release our burdens, and be honest with the Lord. It should develop from set times into ongoing communication with God.*

*Fellowship: We all experienced the lack of fellowship during COVID when in-person relationships were starved. "It's all about relationships." We need to pursue mutual encouragement and edification with others. (Try simply reading the Word together in a gathering, praying together, sharing encouraging words with one another in your gatherings, or sharing testimonies to experience fellowship.)*

*Confession: Be set free from the burden of hidden sin. Entrust yourself to one or two people you can get help and prayer with. Confess your sins to the Lord, and to a brother or sister you can trust.*

*Submission: Read Philippians 2. Jesus is our model, who although He was God and should have been served, chose to put our needs above His own – dying on the cross for our sins. Practice daily putting your own needs/desires below those around you.*

*Witnessing: All the disciplines take practice. Since we are called to be His witnesses, practice confessing Christ and sharing him. We do not manipulate or distort the Word of God, we set forth the truth plainly and trust God with the results.*