

Spreading the Good News of the Coming Kingdom of God

April 2008

Unshakeable Kingdom



The Importance of Passover

Unshakeable Kingdom

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ABOUT THE COVER:

THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSOVER

The first of God's annual Holy Days is filled with symbolism and meaning. Is this just an Old Testament ritual, or does God expect us to observe it today? If so, when and how is the Passover service to take place? What do the symbols mean for us and for all of mankind? As this important time of year approaches, we need to remind ourselves of what Christ's sacrifice pictures, and how it applies to each and every one of us.

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Back in 1945, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote a book which has become a valuable tool for understanding Bible prophecy. In this issue we continue serially reprinting this exciting book which reveals who the United States and Britain really are...and the important role they will play in end-time events.

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FROM THE PASTOR...

True Repentance

Don't read this magazine. That is, don't read it unless you are looking for truth from the Bible and plan to do something about what you read. It would be futile for you to read what God says if you are not sincere about changing your life. There are plenty of good magazines that will tell you what you want to hear or will tell you how you can improve physically. This magazine is designed to explain how to change your life spiritually. It does not claim to have all the answers but it can show you where you can find them.

This magazine is designed for individuals who have been provoked by God into wanting to change their lives. Most people don't like to make changes, especially radical changes to a way of life. Those who do want to change have a God-given desire to find truth and are willing to do something about it. It all starts with God. Christ explains how His calling works in John 6:44-45. Some think they found God. No, it is He who wants you to find Him.

If you are truly sincere, He will grant you repentance so that you will have a change of mind. The goodness of God leads you to repentance (Rom. 2:4). That is His will for you and for all mankind. But few know what real repentance is. They have a vague idea that it is some kind of "I feel bad because I did something wrong." Is that what God says? Does He want you just to "feel bad," or does He want a change of heart and mind? The word *repentance* in the Greek language is "metanoia" which means a change of mind. Feeling bad when you sin is good, but the real change comes about when you change your mind about your past conduct.

This is the Passover season. It is a season



being ignored by modern Christianity. The Easter holiday—not mentioned in the Bible—has taken the place of the true Holy days of God and is a substituted pagan worship day designed to placate the false gods of this world. Instead of a season to really look at our conduct preparing to change, it has become a season of ritual, replacing the true God with false idols and merrymaking. What do colored eggs laid by rabbits and watching the sun rise on a Sunday morning have to do with the Son of God who died for your sins? Where can you find that in your Bible? It is not there. It is a substitute for the real meaning of the Passover and of God's ultimate plan for you. It is a tradition of man. Read Mark 7:13.

We can thank God for being a loving and forgiving Father. His plan, of which the Passover season is the first step, is beyond comprehension by most in the world today. Write or call for our free booklet *A World in Captivity* for an explanation of why most cannot understand. Someday, everyone will experience the mercy of our Creator. Then the entire world will rejoice in His plan and truly pay Him homage for loving us so much and giving us a future that is truly awesome.

Ronald W. Laughland
Pastor

Passover and The Days of Unleavened Bread



By Herbert W. Armstrong

Most churches teach that Christ finished the Plan of Redemption when He was crucified. But the very *first* event in God's great plan for man's regeneration was the death of Christ. We find the operation of this great Sacrifice beginning in Eden, when God killed a lamb or goat, in order to cover the nakedness (type of sin) of Adam and Eve with skins. We find it operating when Abel sacrificed a substitute lamb. And so the Passover is the first of these events picturing to God's children year by year His great plan.

Let us understand it.

Egypt is a type of sin. As God's people are today in "Babylon," and soon are to be delivered after God pours out His plagues upon Babylon, so they once were in

Egypt and were delivered after the pouring out of the plagues.

Just as professing Christians have been deceived and have no knowledge of true time and God's days, as well as the true worship of God, so it was with the children of Israel in Egypt.

For over two centuries, they had been in severe bondage in Egypt—forced to work with taskmasters over them. There was no Bible, no written Word of God. They were not permitted to worship God as He had ordained. They were forced to work seven days a week. They had lost sight even of the true Sabbath. That is why God revealed to them the Sabbath in the wilderness of Sin (Exodus 16).

Passover Only the Start

At that time in Egypt they had

also changed the proper time for commencing the year.

And so, on delivering His people from Egypt (sin), God straightened them out as to time. And, as the beginning of our salvation was wrought by Christ's death on the cross, so God said, "*This month [in the spring] shall be unto you the beginning of months . . .*" (Exodus 12:2).

Some few keep the beginning of God's feasts of salvation by observing Passover, but never go on to know the "depth of the riches" of God's grace pictured by the following feasts!

Christ is not only the author, or beginner, but the finisher of our salvation!

On the tenth day of this first month the Israelites were instructed to take a lamb without

blemish. They kept it until the 14th day of the same first month. At even—at dusk as the Jewish translation has it between the two evenings, or between sunset and dark—the Passover lamb was killed.

This was in, not after, the 14th day. They shed the blood of the lamb, picturing Christ's sacrifice to come. They ate the flesh in that night. At midnight the death angel came, but passed over every house where the blood had been sprinkled.

There are some very important details it is vital that we notice at this point; perhaps we have not seen them before. It proves that the Passover should be observed the 14th, not the 15th.

Passover 14th, Not 15th

Notice Exodus 12. Verse 6, they shall kill the lamb at dusk (Jewish official translation). Verse 8, they shall eat the flesh in that night still the 14th. Verses 9-11 continue to describe how it shall be roasted and eaten the time is still the same night the 14th. Verse 12: "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn . . ." still same night the 14th.

Now notice carefully the paragraph beginning verse 21. Here are more detailed directions for striking the blood on the door posts the time this was done, as proved above, was the night part of the 14th. Notice carefully verse 22: ". . . Strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin: and *none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.*" Notice that care-

fully! None were permitted to leave their houses that night. They remained in their houses until morning! They remained there all night!

Now read on in verse 29. At midnight (the 14th) the Lord smote the firstborn of Egypt. Verse 30, Pharaoh rose up in the night. This was of course after the death angel passed at midnight, and therefore after midnight.

He called for Moses and Aaron.



This must have taken some time, but still the same night. Verse 33, the Egyptian people were urgent to get rid of the Israelites. Verse 35, the Israelites borrowed (demanded) of the Egyptians silver and gold and clothing, and spoiled the Egyptians. When? Surely this borrowing and spoiling of the Egyptians took several hours. The Israelites lived in the land of Goshen, apart from the Egyptians. The Israelites were forbidden to leave their houses until morning so this spoiling and borrowing took place through the *day time* of the 14th day.

Exodus 24 Hours After Passover

But notice this highly important point the Israelites did not go out

from the land of Egypt until that night the 15th of Abib! Notice the section composed of verses 40-42: ". . . even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed unto the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt: *this is that night* of the Lord to be observed . . ."

Which is the night to be observed? The night they came out of Egypt. They went out of Egypt, not during the daytime the 14th, but after that day had ended after the sun had set the following night on the 15th of Abib! And that night, the 15th, is to be observed!

The following verses, beginning verse 43, form a new paragraph, and refer again to Passover the 14th day.

Now, notice Deuteronomy 16:1. "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt *by night.*" Notice it. They did not go out of Egypt until night. And this night was the 15th, not the 14th. Further proof?

Notice now Numbers 33:3. "And they departed from Rameses in the first month, *on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover* the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians."

There it is in plain language.

Now some believe that they killed the lamb between noon and sunset the 14th about 3 p.m., near the end of the day; ate it that night

the 15th (claiming that is when the Passover was eaten, and when we should take it today) and then went on out of Egypt that same night. But this theory will not hold water, in view of all these scriptures, and those following through Exodus 12.

The Israelites were not permitted to leave their houses that night after eating the lamb. They remained in their own houses in the land of Goshen until daylight. Then they went to their Egyptian neighbors, and borrowed from them and spoiled them. There were millions of them. It took time to notify them. It took time to do all this. It could not have been done after midnight, when Pharaoh rose up, and still have gotten out of Egypt the same night. The Israelites were in their own houses in Goshen all that night. Exodus 12:10 further proves this. Whatever remained of their roasted lamb uneaten until morning they were to burn with fire. That shows they stayed in their homes until morning.

They did not leave Egypt until after that day ended after nightfall again, during the night part of the fifteenth.

IN the 14th, Not After

Now to connect one other vital point, turn to Numbers 28:16-17. "IN the fourteenth day [not AFTER IT] . . . is the passover of the Lord. And *in the fifteenth day* [not before it] of this month *is the feast*: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten."

Leviticus 23:5-6 says the same thing. Notice the Passover is not the 15th, but the 14th. "In it" is not after it is past. And notice, too, the feast mentioned here is not the 14th (though the Passover is elsewhere

called a feast), but the feast day is the 15th. The seven-day period begins the 15th. The 15th is the first of the seven days of unleavened bread.

However, since leaven was put out of the houses during the 14th day, it came to be called one of the days of unleavened bread by New Testament times, but when this is done, eight days are included in the term "days of unleavened bread." The entire eight-day period is, in New Testament usage, sometimes called by the name "Passover." But the seven-day period begins the 15th, after the 14th, or Passover, has ended.

The 14th day is the Passover. It is the first of God's festivals. It is not the feast day mentioned here. In the fifteenth day is the feast. Let us get that distinction clearly in mind. It is the FIFTEENTH that is the FEAST the 14th is the Passover. This feast day begins after Passover has ended.

Now with these facts well in mind, let us turn back to Exodus 12. Notice beginning in verse 14. "And this day shall be unto you for a *memorial*; and ye shall keep it a



feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance *for ever*. Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread . . . and in the first day there shall be an holy convocation . . ." (verses 14-16).

What day is established as a me-

morial not a shadow, a memorial a feast to be kept forever? Notice, it is the day that is the feast "Ye shall keep it a feast." It is the day that is the feast day the 15th Abib, not the 14th *not* the Passover!

This day is the feast day a memorial, to be kept a Sabbath, or holy convocation, forever! Seven days are included, and we have shown that the seven-day period begins the 15th, after Passover has passed. "In the fourteenth is the Passover, but in the fifteenth day is the feast seven days."

Many have always believed the day here spoken of, and ordained forever, was the Passover, or 14th. But it is not; it is the 15th day.

Now this day the 15th is established a holy convocation. Look in the dictionary. A "convocation" is an assembly of the people where their presence is commanded, under power and authority. A "*holy convocation*" is a religious assembly, for purposes of worship. The weekly Sabbath is a holy convocation. So is Abib 15th. Our presence is commanded, under God's power and authority. But let us continue.

Notice now, beginning in verse 16: "And in the first day [of the seven, 15th of Abib], there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day [21st of Abib] there shall be an holy convocation to you . . . And ye shall observe the *feast of unleavened bread*; for *in this selfsame day* [the *fifteenth* Abib] have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe *this day* [the fifteenth, not the 14th] in your generations by an ordinance *for ever*" (Exodus 12:16-17).

There it is! *Before* the ceremo-

nial law of Moses! The day established as a Sabbath, or holy convocation forever, is the feast day, the selfsame day on which they went out of Egypt, and they went out on the 15th, not the 14th (Numbers 33:3).

This day is a memorial, not a shadow of the cross. A memorial of deliverance from Egypt, which pictures to us deliverance from sin! To keep us constantly in the memory of the great fact that, hav-

ing had our sins forgiven by Christ's blood (pictured by the 14th) we are not to stop there, and remain in sin, but to go out away from sin!

Why should we observe the 14th, picturing remission of past sins, and then refuse to continue the Feast of Unleavened Bread, picturing the coming out from sin seven days of unleavened bread symbolizing and picturing complete putting away of sin, or, in other words,

the keeping of the Commandments?

Not Abolished With Old Covenant

Observe that the days of unleavened bread are a period, having two high-day Sabbaths.

This period is established forever while the Israelites were still in Egypt before one word of the ceremonial law of Moses had been given or written, and before God

Where Did Easter Originate?

Where did Easter originate? Is it truly a Christian-commanded assembly by God or has it been commanded by man? The following is an account of the origins of Easter, without comment by this author, from accepted scholarly sources who merely state the background of how Easter came into the present day Christian church.

Many, perhaps most, pagan religions in the Mediterranean area had a major seasonal day of religious celebration at or following the Spring Equinox. Cybele, the Phrygian fertility goddess, had a fictional consort who was believed to have been born via a virgin birth. He was Attis, who was believed to have died and been resurrected each year during the period March 22 to March 25.

"About 200 B.C. mystery cults began to appear in Rome just as they had earlier in Greece. Most notable was the Cybele cult centered on Vatican hill ...Associated with the Cybele cult was that of her lover, Attis (the older Tammuz,

Osiris, Dionysus, or Orpheus under a new name). He was a god of ever-reviving vegetation. Born of a virgin, he died and was reborn annually. The festival began as a day of blood on Black Friday and culminated after three days in a day of rejoicing over the resurrection."

Wherever Christian worship of Jesus and pagan worship of Attis



were active in the same geographical area in ancient times, Christians *"used to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus on the same date; and pagans and Christians used to quarrel bitterly about which of their gods was the true prototype and which the imitation."*

Many religious historians believe that the death and resurrec-

tion legends were first associated with Attis many centuries before the birth of Jesus. They were simply grafted onto stories of Jesus' life in order to make Christian theology more acceptable to pagans. Others suggest that many of the events in Jesus' life that were recorded in the gospels were lifted from the life of Krishna, the second person of the Hindu Trinity. Ancient Christians had an alternative explanation; they claimed that Satan had created counterfeit deities in advance of the coming of Christ in order to confuse humanity. Modern-day Christians generally regard the Attis legend as being a pagan myth of little value. They regard Jesus' death and resurrection account as being true, and unrelated to the earlier tradition.

Wiccans and other modern-day neopagans continue to celebrate the Spring Equinox as one of their eight yearly Sabbats (holy days of celebration). Near the Mediterranean, this is a time of sprouting of the summer's crop; farther north, *(Continued in box on next page)*

even proposed the Old Covenant!

What the law of Moses, or the Old Covenant, did not bring or institute, they cannot take away! And in Fenton's translation, we find the 17th verse translated thus: ". . . Consequently keep this period as an everlasting institution." The whole period is included. This alone ought to prove that the holy days and the seven days of unleavened bread are binding today, and forever!

Now, if these texts apply to the

15th, not the 14th, as they assuredly do, and is here conclusively proved, then is the Passover forever? Indeed it is! But these texts above refer to the feast, and not the Passover. In the paragraph beginning Exodus 12:21 the Passover is again referred to, and verse 24 establishes it forever!

Purpose of Festival

But let us learn the full significance of this. Why did God ordain

these feast days? What was His great purpose? Turn now to Exodus 13, verse 3: "And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt . . ." This was the 15th of Abib. Verses 6, 8-10: "Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and the seventh day shall be a feast unto the Lord . . . This is done because of that which the Eternal did" (a MEMORIAL) "and it shall be for a sign" that is, having also a future

(Continued from Easter, page 5)
it is the time for seeding. Their rituals at the spring equinox are related primarily to the fertility of the crops and to the balance of the day and night times.

Where Wiccans can safely celebrate the Sabbat out-of-doors without threat of religious persecution, they often incorporate a bonfire into their rituals as jumping over the dying embers is believed to assure fertility of people and crops.

When have Christians celebrated Easter?

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* states: "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers. The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the minds of the first Christians."

According to *BibleWorld.com*, "Some church historians assert that Easter observance began in the first century (CE), but they must admit that their first evidence for the observance comes from the second century."

There was no consensus within the second century church about when to celebrate Easter. "...the

early Christians had followed the Jewish calendar and celebrated the resurrection on the Passover which was the fourteenth of Nisan, the first month of the Jewish year..." "By the end of the 2nd century some churches celebrated Easter/Pascha on the day of the Jewish passover, [sic] regardless of the day of the week, while oth-



ers celebrated it on the following Sunday." The Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. later set the date as the first Sunday after Passover. That is, if Passover was on a Sunday, then Easter was delayed by seven days. Thus, it was observed on a date between the fifteenth and twenty-first day of the Jewish month of Nisan. Eventually, the date of Easter was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon (the Paschal Moon) on or after the

nominal date of the vernal (spring) equinox: March 21. The church celebrated Easter between the 15th and 21st day of Nisan. However, this did not achieve harmony within Christianity:

One can see that Easter was celebrated long before the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of all mankind. The early church did not celebrate Easter; they celebrated Passover just as Jesus commanded them to do. The only place the word Easter occurs in the Bible is in Acts Chapter 12 in verse 4 in the King James Version. It is a mistranslation of the Greek word *Pascha* and is translated properly in the modern version of the Bible. *Acts 12:4 So when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.*

Does the keeping of a pagan religious festival to Easter, the goddess of fertility, give any glory to the true God? How does God feel about His people keeping one of the most egregious and error-filled festivals in His name? Check what the Bible says—the book that is the basis for our Christian beliefs. □

meaning “unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes” having to do with both works and will. Why? “. . . that the Lord’s law may be in thy mouth . . . Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance . . .”

Can you see the wonderful meaning? Do you grasp the true significance of it all? Do you see God’s purpose? The Passover only pictures the death of Christ for the remission of sins that are past (Romans 3:25). The accepting of His blood does not forgive sins we may later commit; it does not give license to continue in sin. Therefore, when we accept it, our sins are forgiven only up to that time past sins.

But shall we stop there with only past sins forgiven? We are still flesh beings. We still shall suffer temptations. Sin has held us in its clutch we have been slaves to sin, in its power. And we are powerless to deliver ourselves from it! We have been in bondage to sin. Let us understand the picture and the meaning.

Quitting Sin Utterly

To what extent shall we put away sin? Not partially, but completely! And, as leaven is also a type of sin (I Corinthians 5:8) leaven puffs up, and so does sin and, as seven is God’s number symbolizing completeness, we are to follow the Passover with seven days of unleavened bread!

The picture—the meaning, the symbolism—is not complete with Passover alone. Passover pictures the acceptance of Christ’s blood for the remission of past sins. It pictures the crucified—the dead Christ.

Shall we leave Christ symboli-

cally hanging on the cross? The seven days of unleavened bread following Passover picture to us the complete putting away of sin, the keeping of the Commandments after past sins are forgiven.

They picture the life and work

Christ is now at the throne of God, actively at work in our behalf as our High Priest, cleansing us of sin

of the risen Christ who ascended to the throne of God where He is now actively at work in our behalf as our High Priest, cleansing us of sin delivering us completely from its power!

To observe the Passover alone, and then fail to observe the seven days of unleavened bread, means, in the symbolism, to accept Christ’s blood, and then to continue in sin to erroneously say the Law is done away, that we are under grace alone, meaning license, to continue in sin!

The seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread picture the keeping of the Commandments, which is another way of saying the putting away of sin.

God’s true Church is to have these feast days, the first of which is a memorial picturing deliverance from sin, in OUR right hand and forehead, as God’s sign, in order that we shall keep His commandments. And since the forehead is the seat of the intellect, and symbolizes acceptance, and the right hand symbolizes work, we have this sign of God there by accepting this truth about the holy days

and Days of Unleavened Bread, and by NOT WORKING on these holy days! Not only is the weekly Sabbath God’s sign (Exodus 31:12-17) but annual Sabbaths are signs as well!

Notice how marvelously this ordinance pictures the plan of redemption. I remember one year, during the last of these Sabbaths, 21st Abib, one housewife mentioned she had found a half slice of leavened bread behind some things in her home, during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Of course, she had put it out of the house immediately.

Another said she had found a can of baking powder half full, which she did not know she had. Another found a slice of bread and some yeast. All had put the leaven out as soon as discovered.

How true to life is the picture! How often do we, after we think we have put away sin, discover hidden sins or habits we did not know we had or thought we had overcome? They must be overcome and put away, as soon as discovered.

The Perfect Picture

But let us notice the wonderful picture further. The children of Israel started out of Egypt, the night of the 15th of Abib, as we must, willingly, of our own accord, start out of sin as soon as we accept the blood of Christ. They started out on their own power and we must make the start ourselves.

But they did not get far until Pharaoh pursued after them (Exodus 14:5-7). If Egypt is a type of sin, then surely Pharaoh must picture Satan; the army of Egypt, Satan’s demons.

While Israel was in Egypt, they

were Pharaoh's slaves, helpless and powerless under his taskmasters just as the sinner is in the power of the devil. But when Israel took the blood of the lamb, then God acted, and as a result Pharaoh released Israel. When *we* accept Christ's blood, GOD acts, and the devil must release us.

And, as the Israelites went out with a high hand (Numbers 33:3), in great exultation and elation over their deliverance from bondage, so does the newly begotten Christian start out his Christian life up in the clouds of happiness and joy. But what happens?

The devil and sin immediately pursue after the newly begotten son of God and soon the new and inexperienced Christian finds he is down in the depths of discouragement, and tempted to give up and quit.

Notice Exodus 14, beginning verse 10 as soon as the Israelites saw this great army pursuing them, they lost their courage. Fear came over them. They began to grumble and complain. They saw it was im-

possible for them to get away from Pharaoh and his army, because he was too powerful for them. And they were helpless. So it is with us.

Our Strength Not Sufficient!

But notice the message of God to them through Moses: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord . . . for the



Egyptians . . . ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you!"

How wonderful!

Helpless, we are told to stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He shall fight for us. We cannot conquer Satan and sin, but He can. It is the risen Christ, our High Priest, who will cleanse us, sanctify us and deliver us, who said He

would never leave us nor forsake us!

We cannot keep the Commandments in our own power and strength. But Christ IN US can keep them! We must rely on Him in faith.

Notice verse 19. The angel that had gone before, showing the Israelites the way, now went behind them, getting between them and their enemy, protecting them. And then God parted the waters of the Red Sea. ". . . and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left" (verse 22). In Isaiah 55:1 and John 7:37-39, the waters are a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The living waters of God are a wall to us, on our right hand and on our left, guiding us in the true path, making path, protecting us in it. But when Pharaoh and his army attempted to follow after Israel in this divinely created path these same waters completely covered them, as the Holy Spirit removes and covers our sins, and the Israelites saw them no more! What a wonderful picture! □

The booklets listed below contain more information on related subjects that have been covered in this issue, and are offered FREE by the Sabbath-keeping churches of God. Please check the ones you desire and mail to the address below:

- "Believe It Or Not . . . The Resurrection Was NOT on Sunday!"** - Was Jesus three days and three nights in the grave, as He said in Matthew 12:40? Can you figure three days and three nights between sunset Good Friday and sunrise Easter Sunday?
- "Easter . . . Is It Christian?"** - What do rabbits laying colored eggs have to do with the Resurrection of Christ?
- "How often should we partake of the LORD'S SUPPER"**
- "God's Holy Days"** - Reveal His plan of salvation.

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The United States & Britain in Prophecy

Chapter 2—Israel Becomes Two Nations

By Herbert W. Armstrong

We continue this month with the second installment of this eye-opening and important booklet, as it was first published in 1945.

The House of Israel *is not Judah!* Those who constituted it never were! That fact we shall now see conclusively, beyond refute.

After David's death, his son Solomon succeeded to the throne. Solomon taxed the people excessively, reigned in a gorgeous splendor probably never equaled before or since.

And because he also married Gentile wives, sacrificed to their idols, and committed other sins, God said, "I will surely rend *the kingdom* from thee, and will give it to thy servant . . . Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give *one tribe* to thy son for

David my servant's sake" (I King 11:11-13).

Israel Separated from David's Throne

Note it! It is **THE KINGDOM**, not part of it, which is to be rent away. It is the **PART**, *one tribe*, which is to remain. And note—for Solomon himself deserved to have it rent away, God will leave one tribe, not because of leniency toward Solomon, but "FOR DAVID'S SAKE"! David's dynasty cannot be broken. God will not break His covenant!

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam succeeded to David's throne. The people at once demanded the heavy taxes imposed

by Solomon be reduced. Their spokesman, Jeroboam (Solomon's servant), pleaded with Rehoboam: "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee" (I Kings 12:4).

"My father," came Rehoboam's reply, "chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (v. 11).

Israel rebelled. The command to the people was: "To your tents, O Israel"! The challenge to the royal family was: "Now, see to thine own house!" (v. 16)

"So Israel rebelled against the

house of David unto this day (the day this was written). And it came to pass, when *all Israel* heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, *and made him king over ALL ISRAEL*: there was none that followed the house of David, *but the tribe of JUDAH only*" (I Kings 12:19-20).

Then "Rehoboam . . . assembled all of the HOUSE OF JUDAH, *with the tribe of Benjamin*" (v. 21). Rehoboam started to fight to subdue and bring back the house of Israel, but God said, "Ye shall not . . . fight against your brethren the *children of Israel* . . . for this thing is from me" (v. 24).

Israel Divided into Two Nations

Notice it carefully! The house of Judah, now including the tribe of Benjamin, under King Rehoboam of David's dynasty, was about to fight against the other ten tribes, headed by Ephraim and Manasseh. DIFFERENT AND SEPARATE NATIONS. The term "Jew" is merely a nickname for "Judah." It applies to the one nation, or house of Judah ONLY—never to the house of ISRAEL.

The first place in all the Bible where the word "Jew" is used is in II Kings 16:6. Notice it!

Ahaz began to reign as king of JUDAH (v. 1). He sat on DAVID'S throne (v. 2). At this time, a man named Pekah was king of ISRAEL. With King Rezin of Syria as an ally, this king of Israel came against Jerusalem in war, and besieged King Ahaz of Judah, but could not overcome him (v. 5). "At that time Rezin king of Syria (the ALLY of ISRAEL, fighting *with* ISRAEL

against Judah) recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the Jews from Elath" (v. 6).

NOTE IT! The first place in the Bible where the word "Jew" is used, we find *ISRAEL at war against*



the Jews! Israel's ally, Syria, drove the Jews out of the town of Elath!

Certainly this proves that the Jews are a different nation altogether than ISRAEL. It is WRONG to call the Jewish nation of today "Israel". They are not the nation Israel—they are JUDAH! And wherever ISRAEL is today, remember that ISRAEL as a national name *did not mean Judah!* Whoever the lost Ten Tribes of ISRAEL are today, *they are not the Jewish people!* Wherever you see the name "Israel," or "house of Israel," or "Samaria," or "Ephraim" used in prophecy, remember this: IT NEVER REFERS TO THE JEWISH NATION, but to Israel, who was at WAR against the Jews!

No place in all the Bible does the term "ISRAEL" refer to the JEWISH NATION exclusively. When the sense is not national but individual, the term "Israel" alone, or "children of Israel," or "men of Israel" may, and sometimes does, *include* the Jewish people, where all twelve tribes are included. Jewish people are Israelites just as Oregonians are Americans. But MOST Israelites are *not* Jewish, just as most Americans are not Orego-

nians. The Jewish people are the house of Judah *only*, a PART of Israel. But when these people are spoken of as NATIONS, rather than as collective individuals, the term "Israel" never refers to Judah. "House of Israel" NEVER means "Nation of Judah." The three tribes at Jerusalem under the Davidic king are called, merely, the house of JUDAH.

But of Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph, the dying Israel had said, "Let my name be named on *them*" (Gen. 48:16). And truly they now bear the name of ISRAEL.

From here on, the tribe of Judah, with Benjamin and the tribe of Levi, is called "*Judah*"—*not* Israel. The ten tribes, headed by Ephraim and Manasseh, from this time on are called "ISRAEL." They are not Judah and never were called Judah! From this time on, the children of Israel, twelve tribes in all, are *divided into* TWO NATIONS!

And now, for the first time, the BIRTHRIGHT goes into one nation, ISRAEL, headed by Ephraim-Manasseh, while the SCEPTRE remains in *another nation*, called the "house of JUDAH." The two phases of the promises to Abraham now are divided between TWO ENTIRELY SEPARATE NATIONS!

For many generations Israel and Judah remained as separate nations, in adjoining territories, having their own separate kings.

Why should ministers and professed Bible students be in ignorance of this, when four whole books of the Bible, I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles, are devoted to explaining it and recording the history of these separate, rival kingdoms? Look at the maps in the back of your Bible. There you will

see the territory of each nation plainly shown.

Judah retained the city of Jerusalem, its capital, and the territory known as Judea. Israel occupied the territory *north* of Judea. Samaria became its capital city, and the house of Israel often is called “Samaria” in prophecy. This, too, is a vital “key” to understanding prophecy. “Samaria” *never* refers to the Jewish Nation in prophecy—but always the *ten* tribes, the house of ISRAEL.

House of Israel not Judah

We want to impress, here, that Israel and Judah are not two names for the same nation. They were, *and still are*, and shall be till the second coming of Christ, TWO SEPARATE NATIONS. The “house of Judah” ALWAYS means “Jewish Nation.” This distinction is vital, if we are to understand prophecy. Because most so-called Bible students are in ignorance of this basic distinction, they are unable rightly to understand prophecy!

The next place where the term “Jew” is mentioned in the Bible, the house of Israel had been driven out in captivity, lost from view, and the term applies ONLY to those of the house of JUDAH.

Israel Driven out and Lost!

Immediately on becoming king over the house of Israel, Jeroboam (tribe of Ephraim) set up two golden calves, introducing idol worship in the kingdom. The account is found in I Kings 12:28-33.

This idolatry with Sabbath-breaking (Ezek. 20:10-24) was the great national sin, which became such a curse to Israel. Generation

after generation God pleaded with the house of Israel to turn from tradition—from their fathers’ ways—

The house of Israel lost their identifying sign of the Sabbath—and their identity!

and to return to keeping God’s commandments. But through nine different dynasties under 19 kings, Israel continued these national sins—sins *so great* in God’s sight that finally God caused them to become a conquered, captive nation.

In the years 721-718 B.C., the house of Israel was conquered and its people were soon driven out of their own land—out of their homes and cities—and carried captives to Assyria, on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea! And *then...lost from view!*

“Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: *there was none left but the tribe of Judah only*” (II Kings 17:18).

The Eternal removed who? Israel! It is *Israel*, which was removed and driven from the



Eternal’s sight until they became lost from view. Who is left? Judah *ONLY—only* the Jewish Nation! Israel was now gone! They became known as the LOST Ten Tribes and are so designated today.

In Leviticus 26 we find God’s solemn warning to all the children of Israel. IF they would worship Him *alone*, avoiding idolatry, and keep His Sabbath, walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, they would inherit the national material promises to Abraham. They would become great, rich, and powerful—the dominant nation of all earth. But, if they refused and rebelled, they were to be punished SEVEN TIMES—a duration of 2520 years (to be explained later)—in slavery, servitude, and want.

The house of Israel now entered—721-718 B.C.—(remember this date)—upon their 2520 long years of national banishment, to last until A.D. 1800!

And BECAUSE the house of Israel lost their identifying sign the Sabbath—the *sign which identified them as ISRAEL—they* utterly LOST THEIR IDENTITY! They lost knowledge even of their national name. They came to be considered GENTILES!

In Exodus 31:12-17 it is recorded that God made the Sabbath the covenant *sign* between Him and Israel. A sign identifies. At creation God rested on, blessed, made holy, and set apart for man the one day for man’s rest and worship which could keep him always in the true worship of the true God—the day that pointed back to creation. Creation is the PROOF of God. It identifies Him as the true God. It was intended to keep man in the true knowledge of the true God. When Israel threw aside God’s Sabbath, Israel soon threw aside God Himself, and went into idolatry. The Sabbath identified Israel as God’s own people because all other na-

tions long since had departed from its observance and gone into idolatry. Israel was the only nation, which kept it. Because they rejected this SIGN, they were driven out, and lost their identity (read Ezek. 20:10-24).

Judah, too, went into captivity largely because of Sabbath rejecting (see Jer. 17). But those of the Jewish Nation who returned 70 years later under Ezra and Nehemiah had learned their lesson. They became legalistically-strict Sabbatarians—adding so many of their own restrictions to it that Jesus had to sweep aside this maze of manmade rules, saying, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). To this day orthodox Jews have

retained the original Sabbath. And *because* those Jewish people who descended from the Ezra-Nehemiah leadership have re-



tained God’s covenant identifying SIGN, the world today looks upon them as ISRAEL! And yet they actually are only a *part* of JUDAH! Those of the captivity who did not return under Ezra and Nehemiah lost their identity, too, though the world does not realize it.

So “the Lord removed Israel *out of His sight*... So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria” (II Kings 17:23). They LEFT the land of Samaria, never yet to return! Gentiles were placed in their homes and cities (v. 24), and it is these Gentiles who were known as Samaritans in the time of Christ.

A more detailed account of the

captivity of Israel is found in II Kings 18:9-12, and 17:5-18.

Now the house of Israel began to “abide many days without a king” (Has. 3:4). Since THEY were the people who carried the title “Israel,” it is THEY, not Judah, who must become LOST in identity! Now they must lose their language, their religion, their land (Isa. 8:17; 28:11; 40:27; 62:2; Jew. 16:13; Has. 1:8-10; 2:5-6).

Israel Never Returned

The house of Israel did NOT return to Palestine in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, as some erroneously believe. Those who returned to rebuild the temple and restore worship in Jerusalem at that time, 70 years after JUDAH’S captivity,



were *only* those of the house of Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried to Babylon.

Note well these facts.

1) In 721-718 B.C. ISRAEL began to be “carried away out of their own land to Assyria” (II Kings 17:23). They were soon *all* removed—completely. “There was none left but the tribe of Judah only” (II Kings 17:18). JUDAH, *only, remained*.

2) More than 130 years later, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon carried the Jewish Nation—Judah—who *only* remained in Palestine away to Babylon. So *none* of the house of Israel dwelt in Palestine

at the time of this captivity of Judah.

3) Those who *returned* to Palestine to rebuild the temple and restore worship 70 years after Judah’s captivity were ALL of the house of *Judah—the Jewish Nation*—ALL of those whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away. They returned again “unto Jerusalem and Judah, *every one unto his city*” (Ezra 2:1).

Only those of the tribes of Judah, together with remnants of Benjamin and Levi, who constituted the house of JUDAH, returned at that time (Ezra 1:5). Consequently those in Jerusalem in the time of Christ were of these three tribes, NOT of the house of ISRAEL. And most, if not all, of those con-

verted were the tribe of Benjamin, as Paul said he was.

The house of Israel became known as the LOST Ten

Tribes! Now known by ANOTHER name, speaking a different language!

By WHAT name are they known today? Whoever they are, wherever they are, it is THEY, and not Judah, who are the BIRTHRIGHT possessors. It is THEY, not Judah, who, after the ending of their punishment in A.D. 1800, must inherit the unbreakable promises to Abraham of national greatness, resources, wealth and power. It is MANASSEH who, after A.D. 1800 was to become the world’s greatest single nation; Ephraim a great COMMONWEALTH of nations!

Who can they be today? □

Sweet, Savory... and Unleavened

By Julia Laughland



Today's cook does not face the dilemma that the Israelites faced when they were preparing to leave Egypt. We can plan our menus, and we do not have to pick up everything in the middle of preparation to leave our homes.

As God's children we choose to observe His Holy Days which include the Days of Unleavened Bread. In commemoration of the Israelites flight from captivity, we observe those Days by eating no

leavening just as they did. There was no time for them to wait for their bread to rise. There was no prepackaged yeast in those days. Bread rose by attracting the spores of yeast that were in the air.

That process took time. When Moses told the Israelites it was time to leave, they could not wait for the process. They snatched up their bread as it was—unleavened. "And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves" (Exodus 12:39).

Furthermore, Moses told the

people that they would continue to observe the Days of Unleavened Bread. "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days...And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the Lord did for me when I came up from Egypt.' It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year." Exodus 13:7-10.

As possible additions to menus during the Days of Unleavened Bread, here are two recipes that have been tried and declared delicious by those who have tasted them.

Buttercrunch

- 6-6 inch unsalted matzos
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup firmly packed dark or light brown sugar
- ½ cup semisweet chocolate minichips, chopped

Preheat oven to 375°. For easier cleanup, line a jelly roll pan or similar shallow pan with aluminum foil then cover with parchment paper. Arrange matzos in a single layer on parchment, cutting to fit as necessary. Bake at 375° for five minutes or until matzos are lightly browned. Reduce oven to 350°. Combine butter and brown sugar in small saucepan and bring to boil, stirring often. Cook for three minutes, stirring constantly. Pour mixture over toasted matzos. Bake at 350° for ten minutes or until the mixture bubbles. Sprinkle chocolate pieces evenly over surface. Cool for three to five minutes then refrigerate for at least 30 minutes for chocolate to set. Break into 36 pieces to serve. (Adapted from *Cooking Light*, April 2004)



Salmon Loaf

- 1 (16 oz.) can salmon
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1½ cups crushed egg & onion matzos
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice



Preheat oven to 375°. Drain salmon and mix with remaining ingredients. Place in a loaf pan which has been lightly sprayed with PAM®. Bake at 375° for one hour. Remove from oven and let sit for approximately ten minutes.

If desired, cover with a sauce consisting of 8 ounces sour cream, 2 tablespoons horseradish and 1 teaspoon mustard whisked together and spread over loaf before serving or spread on individual servings.

Coming Next Issue...



The Holy Spirit...

*...How can you be filled with
the Spirit of God?*



The Mark of the Beast...

*...Could you be involved in it
unknowingly?*



God's Love...

*...Is it just a feeling? A desire to do
good? What exactly is the love of
God...and how can you receive it?*



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