



# The Midnight Cry

March/April 2010, Volume 2, Number 3

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

## Are You Following Christ's Instructions And Keeping Passover at The Right Time and Place?



Mark 14:12-16



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## From the Editor ...



One of the great religious controversies that has raged back and forth for centuries has once again raised its diabolical head. When to observe the Passover is being questioned again! Satan the devil greatly desires to distort the facts surrounding the correct time for the commemoration of the Lord's True Passover and thereby confuse God's people. But, for those who love the Word of God, and look to it for direction and TRUTH, the study of the correct time for Passover becomes more clear and understandable!

Last month's article in *The Midnight Cry*, entitled *The Quail of Exodus 16*, by Wallace Lawton, confirms the exact time for the slaying of the lambs as commanded by God, and for the observance of God's True Passover! As originally instructed by God in Exodus 12, the slaying of the lambs was to be done between the evenings of the 13th and the 14th of the first month of the year, Nissan (Abib).

In this month's issue, Mr. Lawton examines the true meaning of some New Testament scriptures that have been rendered by the translators as contradictory to very plain statements from the Old Testament. The Bible does not contradict itself—it is TRUTH! But the translators, as sincere as they may have been, were subject to Satan's wiles and their own tradition. Nevertheless, time will tell—and TRUTH will stand! Mr. Lawton brings this out in his article, *Jesus' Last Passover: How and When was it Observed*.

We are very happy that we can offer these informative, life-saving articles, and all of us can “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18). With Passover only weeks away, here is a short summary of some of the vital truths we have learned or reviewed recently about the important subject of God's True Passover:

- The Hebrew word *ba erev* is translated in many places in the Old Testament as the English word *even* or *evening*. However, by allowing the Word of God to define *ba erev*, we found, in last month's article, *The Quails of Exodus 16*, that *ba erev* means *sunset—the end of the day!*
- In the article, it is also made plain that another Hebrew term, *ben ha arbayim*, is mistranslated as *even* or *evening* by Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, in eleven different places in Moses' writings. Yet it is correctly translated as *dusk* by the Jewish Publication Society, or as *twilight* in Young's Literal Translation of the Bible. The 1965 Bible in Basic English also properly translates *ben ha arbayim* in Ex. 12:6 as: **“Keep it [the Passover lamb] till the fourteenth day of the same month, when everyone who is of the children of Israel is to put it to death between sundown and dark.”**

*Continued on page 12.*



# Jesus' Last Passover - *When and How Was It Observed?*

by Wallace T. Lawton

In the article in last month's *Midnight Cry*, entitled "The Quails of Exodus 16," the Biblical use of the Hebrew terms *ben ha-arbayim* and *ba-erev* were carefully explained. Our merciful God had the miraculous account of the quails of Exodus 16 preserved in Scripture to prove conclusively that the correct time for keeping the Passover service is immediately after sunset (*ba erev*) of the 13th of Nisan, which is then the time period of dusk (*ben ha-arbayim*)—beginning the new day of Nisan 14.

We hope the article did prove to you the exact time God intends for the Passover to be observed! And we knew a follow-up article would be required about the New Testament Scriptures, because there

is almost as much confusion surrounding the New Testament Passover as there is about the Old Testament Passover.

The Truth of God's Word is available and can be understood, in spite of mistranslations or misrepresentations. The truth of Jesus' last Passover has been faithfully preserved in the New Testament, just as the truth about the Old Testament Passover has been preserved. Satan may try to bury the truth under an avalanche of lies and false doctrines, but the Truth of God always prevails! Yet people choose to believe false doctrine because they want to cling to their traditions, and do not love the Truth of God! (Mark 7:7-13 and II Thess. 2:10)

Luke 22:7 in the KJV reads, "Then came the day of unleavened bread,

when the Passover must be killed." This sentence has caused some confusion! It is certain that this sentence does not refer to the first day of Unleavened Bread because the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins after, not before, the Passover.

In the first century, it was commonly known that "the day of the unleavened," as in Luke 22:7, was the 14th of Nisan—Passover day!

G. Amadon, in an article titled "The Crucifixion Calendar," pointed out the error of those translators who translated this verse to read, "the first day of the festival."

“ But on what authority should the Hebrew translators, as Salkinso and Delitzch, introduce the word *chag* [a Hebrew word for "feast"], into these texts when the corresponding Greek has no word for "feast" and speaks only of the "first of the unleavened bread"—a common expression for the Jewish 14th with practically all first century writers (Journal of Biblical Literature, vol. LX111, 1944, pp. 188-189, emphasis added).

## JESUS' LAST MEAL REALLY WAS THE PASSOVER

Jesus Himself tells us that He kept THE TRUE PASSOVER, as recorded in the Gospel of Mark. Scripture shows that there is no question whatsoever that our Lord observed the true Passover at the beginning of the 14th, twenty-four hours before the Jews' Passover.

Let's begin in Mark 14:12:



And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the Passover...”

This verse is a mistranslation as proven by the Old Testament Scriptures! The Passover was killed on the 14th, and the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th.

Therefore the literal translation of verse 12 from the Greek should be **“the first day of the unleaveneds”!** The Passover was to be killed between the evenings of the 13th and the 14th, as proven in last month’s article. Then the daylight portion of the 14th was the first day of the unleaveneds, defining the first day of the year, when the people were required to “unleaven” their dwellings in preparation for the Days of Unleavened Bread—as commanded by God in Exodus 12.

Let’s continue in Mark 14, verse 12: “...when they killed the Passover...” This expression is most revealing because of the intrinsic meaning of the Greek verb. The English word translated they killed comes from the Greek verb *ethuon*. The verb root is *thuo*. The verb *ethuon* reflects the following case and action:

- 3rd person plural - they;
- Imperfect - meaning an action not yet completed, but taking place at that very moment – were killing;
- Active indicative - being done personally at that moment by the subject - they.

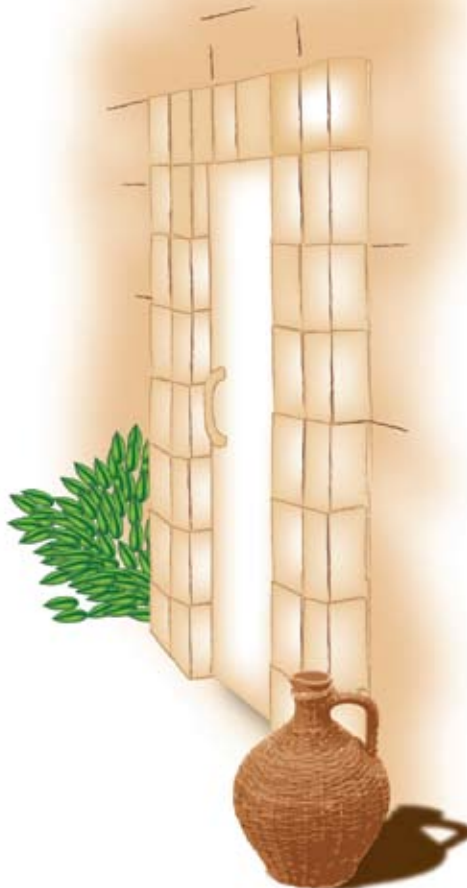
A literal translation of the Greek would be as follows:



And on the first day of the unleaveneds, when they were killing the

### Passover...”

The original Greek text shows that the lambs were being killed at that very moment, as Jesus sent His disciples into the city of Jerusalem!



*“Go into the city, and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water - follow him! And wherever he may enter, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, where is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”*

These lambs were not being killed by the priests at the temple; that would be done the next afternoon, for the 14th/15th temple Passover.

The word “they” in this verse can only refer to those who were kill-

ing the Passover lambs at that moment on the 14th. “They” could not possibly be referring to the priests at the temple, because the temple-sacrificed Passover lambs were not slain until the next afternoon.

The only logical conclusion is that “they” refers to those who were killing the Passover lambs at houses or inns, where the domestic Passover of the 14th would be kept. The lambs were being killed at the beginning of the 14th, according to the statutes and ordinances of Exodus 12. This was the exact moment that Jesus sent His disciples into Jerusalem, “...when they were killing the Passover...”

There can be no doubt whatsoever as to the time of day these verses are specifying! The disciples knew that it would soon be time to eat the Passover, but they did not know where Jesus wanted them to make the necessary preparations. Since the killing of the domestic Passover lambs was happening before their very eyes, the disciples asked this urgent question, as the properly translated combined verses of Mark 14:12 and Luke 22:7 convey:

**On the first day of the unleaveneds in which it was obligatory for the Passover to be killed, when they were killing the Passover, His disciples asked Him, ‘Where do You desire that we should go and prepare the Passover that You may eat?’**

The Gospel accounts clearly show that the domestic Passover was a common practice! It is also apparent in these accounts that the disciples were accustomed to keeping the domestic Passover, as indicated by their question, “...Where do You desire that we should go and pre-



pare the Passover that You may eat?"

It should not surprise us to learn that the domestic Passover was common at that time. The temple could not possibly accommodate the vast numbers of people and lambs required for everyone to keep the Passover within the allotted time. It would have taken several days for all the lambs

to be killed before the altar. The domestic Passover was not only common, but it was, of necessity, the predominant practice.

When we examine all three Gospel accounts which record Jesus' instructions to His disciples, it is obvious that Jesus kept the domestic 14th Passover. The evidence is overwhelming!

## Matthew's Account

Now on the first of the unleaveneds, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You desire that we should prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city unto such a man, and say to him, The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover with My disciples." And the disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the Passover (Matt. 26:17-19).

## Mark's Account

And on the first day of the unleaveneds, when they were killing the

Passover, His disciples said to Him, 'Where do you desire that we go, so we should prepare that You may eat the Passover?' And He sent forth two of His disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and you will meet

**The Gospel accounts clearly show that the domestic Passover was a common practice!**

a man carrying a pitcher of water - follow him! And wherever he may enter, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, where

is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples? And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. There prepare for us.' And the disciples went away, and came into the city, and found exactly as He

had said to them, and they prepared the Passover (Mark 14:12-16).

## Luke's Account

Then came the day of the unleaveneds in which it was obligatory for the Passover to be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare for us the

Passover, in order that we may eat it.' But they said to Him, 'Where do You desire that we should prepare?' And He said

to them, 'After entering into the city you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he enters. And you shall say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, where is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples? And he will show you a large upper room furnished. There prepare the Passover.' After departing they found everything exactly as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover (Luke 22:7-13).

Jesus did not tell the disciples that they were going to eat a pre-Passover meal a day earlier, as some have claimed. Jesus specifically told them to prepare the Passover. It was the Passover that Jesus ate, not some other type of meal! That is what Jesus Himself said! "I will

eat the Passover with my disciples!" Jesus was not instituting a new pre-Passover meal, kept a day early! No! It was simply the Passover! The disciples did not know or understand that it was Jesus' last Passover, or that He would end the old covenant with that Passover, or that He would institute the new covenant Passover that night before He was

crucified!

Furthermore, Jesus did not command Peter and John to go to the

temple to sacrifice a Passover lamb. His command was to follow a certain man to a certain house and prepare the Passover at that house. They would eat the Passover there. NOTHING COULD BE MORE CLEAR!

Jesus' own words to His disciples are overwhelming evidence that it was the Passover, not a pre-Passover commemorative meal. The context of these Scriptures proves it was the Passover! The word Passover is used eleven times in these three accounts. Furthermore, "The house" is mentioned three times. Not once is the temple mentioned, nor is the temple - killed Passover lamb remotely indicated in these accounts. There can be no doubt that Jesus kept the domestic Passover on the 14th day of the 1st month, as commanded in Exodus 12.

In spite of these clear, easy-to-understand Scriptures, the advocates of a 15th of Nisan Passover refuse to acknowledge Jesus' own words. In their study papers and doctrinal presentations, these direct statements of Jesus about His last Passover are either ignored or deliberately left out!

In summary, the New Testament clearly reveals that:

- Jesus kept THE PASSOVER, not some other meal.
- It was a proper, Scripturally-based Passover.
- He ate it on the correct day, the 14th of Nisan, at the proper time.

- He used a domestic, home-sacrificed lamb, not a temple-sacrificed lamb.

There is no indication in the Scriptures that Jesus ever kept the Passover on any other day than was explicitly commanded in Exodus 12. If He had done so, He would

**Jesus' own words to His disciples are overwhelming evidence that it was the Passover, not a pre-Passover commemorative meal.**

have been disregarding and opposing the very instructions He gave as Lord of the Old Testament. In other words, Jesus would have sinned, had He at any time in His life in the flesh ever obeyed the traditions of men instead of the commandments of God. And if He had sinned, He would have died for His own sins and could not be our Saviour!

It is of paramount importance that, as genuine Christians (those who follow Christ and keep His commands), we must renew our covenant annually at the correct time and in the correct way, as our Lord instructed us through the apostle Paul.

1Corinthians 11:23-32:

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; And giving thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way He took the cup also, after supping, saying, ‘This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; as often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread

and drink this cup, you show the Lord's death until He shall come. So that whoever shall eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, he will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. (MKJV)

With the new knowledge of “discerning the Lord's body,” and a proper understanding of the “exact” time to take the Passover service, let us also:

“Keep the Feast [of Unleavened Bread], not with old leaven neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (I Cor.5:8).

“...Your word is truth” (John 17:17).



## Call Today to Receive More Understanding





# Prepare for the Spring Holy Day Season

by John Durrad

I have found it rather strange that as we approach the start of God's Holy Day season, our minds have been directed to the end of God's Holy Day season. Of course, I'm talking about our preparation to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. It is very necessary to start thinking about the Feast this year and finalise our plans. There is nothing wrong in forward planning for the Feast, but now we do need to get our minds back to the soon coming start of God's Holy Day Plan.

Creation is the proof of the existence of God! Creation identifies God! The Sabbath is a weekly memorial of creation. It is a weekly reminder of God's power to create; therefore, it identifies God to us. The weekly Sabbath keeps us in

the true remembrance and true worship of the true God. No other day but the 7th day of the week could have that great significance and meaning. It was designed to keep us in the true worship of God.

Now, in like manner, God gave His Church 7 annual Sabbaths. These Holy Days were given to keep us constantly in the understanding of God's Plan of redemption—all the way from the sacrifice of Christ, to the putting out of sin, the receiving of God's Holy Spirit,

the return of Jesus Christ, the restraining of Satan, and the giving of the Holy Spirit to all mankind.

The whole story of the redemption of man was to be acted out in these Feast Days, year after year continually. They have vitally important symbolism and meaning, and we learn by doing! That is, we grow in understanding of their meaning by keeping and living out these days as they come to us. God wants to impress the meaning of these days on His people. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote:

Now when God made the Sabbath for man, He gave man a rest day carrying great significance and purpose. To His Church in the wilderness, God said that the Sabbath was a covenant sign between Him and His people. A sign is a supernatural proof of identity. It is the sign by which we know that He is God...Now in like manner, when God gave His Church seven annual Sabbaths, God, in His wisdom, had a great pur-

pose... For these annual days picture the different epochs in the plan of Spiritual creation – mark the dispensations, and picture their meaning... God's feasts, or holy days, or Sabbaths, were commanded to be kept year after year, and forever!... Thus God purposed to impress the truths these "high" Sabbaths picture upon all the minds of His children through all time, keeping His Church in the true understanding of His plan! (*Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Day—Which?* HWA)

Three times, or three seasons in a year, God commands we appear before Him (Deut. 16:16). We are approaching the first of these seasons now – the Spring Holy Day season. There are three major events in God's Spring Holy Day season, all of which appear in the 1st month of God's sacred calendar. The three major events are, of course, the Passover, the Night to Be Much Observed, and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Let's look at some ways to prepare for and successfully keep these three major events of the Spring Holy Day season.

## PASSOVER

# Passover

The Passover occurs every year on the 14th of Nisan, and is kept just after sunset the previous evening. How do we prepare for this most important event?

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show [proclaim] the Lord's death till

he come, Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup (1 Cor 11:26-28).

***We have an individual responsibility to take stock of our lives over the past year, and implement change where necessary.***

How do we eat and drink unworthily? It means in an unworthy manner. No human being is worthy of Christ's sacrifice. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23).

We can, however be worthy in our attitude. Taking the Passover worthily means we enter into the service with deep respect for Christ's sacrifice. We must not be casual. We must focus on Christ's sacrifice, as we did prior to baptism. We must look at the way we are presently living our lives. Are we overcoming sin? There is much to do.

What is our responsibility, given Christ's sacrifice? Paul says we must examine ourselves. Salvation is not a group affair. We have an individual responsibility to take stock of our lives over the past year, and implement change where necessary. Christ is knocking on your spiritual door. How are you going to respond to Christ?

When we examine ourselves, we should measure ourselves against Jesus Christ, not other human beings.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own

selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobrates? (2 Cor 13:5)

As we grow in a deeper and more profound knowledge of spiritual things, our ability to see ourselves accurately becomes more acute. We see things about ourselves and

our nature that we never saw at baptism. This is right! It is progress! It is what God intended.

“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good, Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful (Rom 7:12-13).

Paul is asking if that which is good (the law) brings death to him. He answers himself by saying that it was sin. Sin brought death to him, by the law. Why? In order that sin might be shown to be exceedingly sinful!

When Paul received God's Holy Spirit and began to grow, he found that his more profound knowledge of God's spiritual law made sin appear a lot worse than he first imagined. And so it is with us. The longer we live with ourselves in the flesh, the more our knowledge of God's Law convicts us of the sinful-

ness of our human nature.

As we approach the Passover, we have had one more year to live with ourselves. God is now asking us once again to partake of the broken Body and shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

Has this past year convinced you that you need the sacrifice of Christ even more profoundly than ever before? Yes, you've overcome sin. Yes, you've grown in Bible understanding. Yes, you understand government more. Yes, you get on better with other members. But have you grown in personally knowing that you need Jesus Christ more than ever before? God wants us to approach the Passover with the most earnest and heartfelt desire for the forgiveness of Christ. No one who has lived another year in the flesh with the presence of the Holy Spirit can approach the Passover without a deeper and more

sincere need for the sacrifice of Christ.

From a practical point of view, we should approach the Passover service with regard to the symbols used—eating the un-

leavened bread which represents Christ's broken Body, and drinking the red wine which represents his shed Blood. Also, of course, we follow the example of Christ with the foot-washing ceremony—a lesson in humility.

If, for any genuine reason, you miss the Passover service, you may take the second Passover 30 days later.

“And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a



man, that they could not keep the Passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day ... And Moses said unto them, stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you. And the LORD spake unto Moses saying ... The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it ... (Num 9:6-11).

Please note: you may not plan to skip the first and take the second Passover. You plan to take it on the 14th of Nisan. Only unforeseen circumstances that cause you to miss the Passover enables you to take it one month later. Those not able to travel to a Passover service (housebound) will be given instructions on how to keep it at home.

Always remember that this is a very solemn occasion and should be approached with deep respect and reverence.

## THE NIGHT TO BE OBSERVED

# Night to be Much Observed

Following the evening of the Passover, we keep the Night to Be Much Observed. It will be kept at the very start of the 15th of Nisan, which is a Holy Day.

“And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty

years, 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 from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations (Ex. 12:41-42).

Notice again from Mr Armstrong's Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days – Which?:

The night is to be “much observed.” This means we should pay careful attention to detail in our observance of this evening. Some may feel that, although it may be an enjoyable evening, it is not as important as the Passover or the other Holy Days. But that is

the wrong way to look at it. All of God's Holy Days, including the Passover and Night to Be Much Observed, are part of ONE PLAN! Remove one Holy Day and the plan fails. Keeping the Passover alone is not enough. We must observe this 2nd night to properly keep the

Days of Unleavened Bread. It commemorates the Israelites walking out of Egypt by night (Ex 13:3-4).

*We are told to remember this day, just like Malachi tells us to remember what Christ taught through the Elijah—to remember where it all began and to hold fast*

We are told to remember this day, just like Malachi tells us to remember what Christ taught through the Elijah—to remember where it all began and to hold fast!

The ancient Israelites had been held in bitter slavery. They groaned for deliverance. And God delivered them on the night after Passover – the Night to Be Much Observed. Egypt is a type of sin. Think about it. Walking out of Egypt was the most emotional, exhilarating, joyous experience of their wretched lives.

God wants this night to be a joyous, happy occasion. We should celebrate because we, too, have been delivered from Egypt—spiritually! Because of Christ's sacrifice, God requires that His Church also celebrate this fantastic occasion as a memorial of that night.

Let's consider some practical, yet necessary, aspects of this occasion. This night is actually the beginning of the first Holy Day.

We should dress in our Sabbath best. We should follow the Bible principle of dressing properly for special occasions (Matt 22:11-13). Try to meet with other members of the Church if at all possible. If nobody invites you, invite someone to your place. Gathering in

someone's home is best, but if not possible, a nice restaurant would be appropriate. Try to get a private room away from the public. Loud music, interruptions and background noise will greatly detract from the evening. Make sure the manager knows our dietary requirements, including the need for unleavened bread and unleavened products only. Remember, this is not a worldly party. It should be dignified. We should rejoice, but be moderate with our eating and drinking.

**“ Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand (Phil. 4:4-5).**

Remember, also, there will be a double service the next day, so don't stay too late.

A word of caution here—some of the split-off groups have gotten away from diligently keeping God's Holy Days, including the Night to Be Much Observed.

...let us truly realise that Satan, the devil, would use all of his vast powers of deception to confuse God's people about the accuracy of God's Calendar. He is doing this today by deceiving a number of individuals and groups into producing their own calendars and dates for God's Holy Days. In doing so, they are arrogating God's authority – an extremely dangerous thing to do! Mr. Herbert Armstrong faced the same disputes and arguments in his day that are being brought up again today. Mr. Armstrong proved that the Hebrew Calendar was God's Calendar back in the 30's and 40's, and the Church of God has followed it since then (*The Plain Truth about*

*God's Calendar*, Mr. Robert Ardis, page 7).

Although we may look on this evening as a social gathering, it is more a gathering of God's Church for a specially commanded purpose. Just as we would not invite a non-member mate or a member of a split-off group to services, neither should we invite them without ministerial approval, to the Night to Be Much Observed. This is a very special occasion for members and prospective members of God's Church. However there are certainly circumstances where someone else would be welcome, but first seek approval.

This is a night to discuss spiritual subjects. We need to leave our day-to-day cares out of the conversations on this night. God provided this occasion for us to truly celebrate coming out of the slavery of sin. Because of what God has done for us, we owe it to Him to celebrate with a high hand the Night to Be Much Observed. By doing so, we will be giving great honour to God.

**soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you (Ex. 12:15-16).**

In a Good News article of March 1979, Mr. Armstrong wrote this:

To keep us constantly in the MEMORY of the great fact that, having 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 the remission of past sins, and then we, COMMANDMENT KEEPERS Of ALL people, refuse to continue the Feast of Unleavened Bread, picturing the COMING OUT of sin – seven days of unleavened

# Days of Unleavened Bread

## THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Seven special days with great meaning and a Holy Day at each end!

**“ Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that**

bread symbolising and picturing COMPLETE putting away of sin or, in other words, THE KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS!

These FEAST DAYS picture the KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS!... To what extent shall we



put away sin? Not partially, but COMPLETELY! And, as leaven is also a type of sin--leaven puffs up, and so does sin--and, as SEVEN is God's number symbolizing COMPLETENESS, we are to follow the Passover with the seven Days of Unleavened Bread!

The process of removing leaven from our homes, and the preparing and eating of unleavened bread, are the physical symbols of this festival. Of course, it is sin we must be putting out, but God places much emphasis on the symbolism of unleavened bread. God's command is unmistakable. Remove the leaven! We may not eat it or have it on our premises. If we want to be diligent in clearing out sin, then we must be diligent in removing leaven for this seven day period.

Now notice that it is not enough to just remove leaven – we must replace it with food that represents righteousness.

“And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unlev-

ened bread (Lev 23:6).

For seven days we must eat unleavened bread, it is after all the feast of unleavened bread!

**Now notice that it is not enough to just remove leaven – we must replace it with food that represents righteousness.**

This festival, however, is so much more than ridding our homes of leaven, and consuming only unleavened products. It is an annual God-given opportunity to: Remove, Replace, Re-educate, Rejoice.

REMOVE ALL that leaven.

REPLACE With a variety of unleavened products that will remind you of God's righteousness.

RE-EDUCATE Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about this festival.

REJOICE Because God has revealed

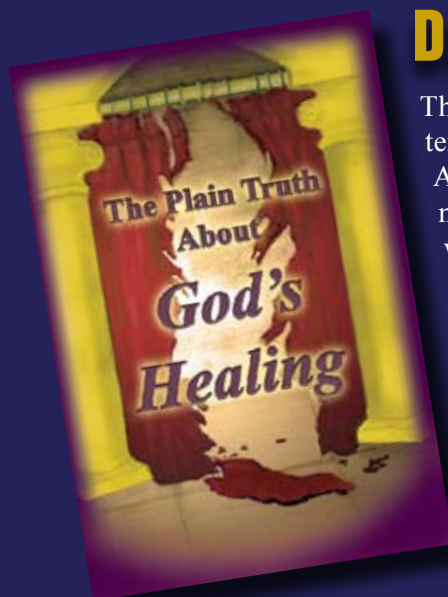
the meaning of this festival to us.

There is much to do to prepare for God's Spring Holy Day season. It is a pathway out of sin. We have been delivered from Egypt just like the ancient Israelites, except our deliverance is spiritual.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18).

Let us now show God that we mean business in the process of ridding our lives of sin. How do we do that?

By preparing carefully and diligently NOW for the soon coming Spring Holy Day season. ❖



## Discerning the Lord's Body

There are many who are weak and sick in God's Church. Some have died of terrible illnesses. Why? What has happened? God is God - He changes not! Are we doing something biblically wrong? Are we weak in the faith? Are we not discerning the Lord's body properly? These are honest questions! Now we need to honestly ask for answers and then diligently search the scriptures to determine if we are rightfully discerning the Lord's body - or do we have more to learn? We must examine this question prayerfully and carefully!

**But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (1 Cor. 11:28-30).**

Ask for, or download, the Church of God's Faithful booklet *The Plain Truth About God's Healing*.

*Continued from page 2*

## **From the Editor**

- For Ex. 12:6, the KJV renders *ben ha arbayim* as evening, but in their margin it correctly states the term as between the two evenings.
- The Holy Scriptures make it very clear that Passover occurs on the 14th of the first month and the Days of Unleavened Bread commence on the 15th. Num. 28:16-17 declares: **“And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.”**
- The Passover on the 14th and the Days of Unleavened Bread beginning on the 15th are two different occasions, but unleavened bread is used in both of them. On the Passover, the unleavened bread represents the broken (ripped and torn) BODY of Jesus our Savior. The unleavened bread eaten during the seven Days of Unleavened Bread pictures sincerity and truth!
- The original Passover lambs were to be slain *ben ha arbayim* (between the two evenings) as the sun set (*ba erev*) on the 13th of the first month. Again, see last month’s article, *The Quails of Exodus 16*.
- The lamb was then prepared and roasted, and its blood was smeared on the doorposts and lintels of the homes of the Israelites.
- The Passover lambs, after being roasted, were eaten in haste around 10 to 11 PM, with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

- The Eternal, as the Death Angel, “passed over” the homes that were “under the blood of the lamb” at the midnight hour of the 14th. Notice Num. 28:16 again: “And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Lord’s PASSOVER”! The Bible says He “passed over” on the 14th – not the 15th!
- During the original “Pass Over”, if there were any rebellious and stubborn “firstborn” who insisted on keeping the Passover on the night of the 15th, they died in their stubbornness by the hand of God at midnight on the 14th. What a lesson for today!
- The Israelites were commanded to be in their homes while the Lord “Passed Over” at midnight, and to stay in their homes until morning (Ex. 12:22).
- Pharaoh called for Moses in the night to come to him (v.30-34), but Moses could not leave his house till morning, as had God commanded.
- As the morning arrived, the Israelites left their homes and spoiled the Egyptians in haste, preparing to leave Egypt (v. 35-36). The Israelites had been doing this since God had brought the plagues upon Egypt, but apparently completed their spoiling of Egypt as they prepared to depart (see Ex. 3:21-22 and 11:1-3).
- Preparing to leave as the morning of the 14th came was a monumental task of organization, although it must have been pre-planned. And let’s add here that, IF the Passover had occurred at midnight of the 15th, they could not depart by night as the scriptures tell us, because they were not to leave their homes until morning! Therefore, they would be leaving in the daylight portion of the 15th and the night time portion of the 16th—Biblically incorrect and impossible!
- Two to three million Israelites, now released from slavery, in addition to their flocks and herds, had to gather in an orderly fashion and begin their march out of Egypt. The scriptures are plain that they left Egypt on the NIGHT of the 15th: “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. For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments” (Num. 33:3-4).
- Add to this Ex. 12:41-42: “And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that ALL the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. [For these MILLIONS to leave in an orderly fashion, it required the daylight portion of the 14th to assemble, and ALL of the night of the 15th to have ALL of the Israelites make their march out of Egypt.] It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.”



- This night to be observed is the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the 15th of Nisan—the day that begins at sunset on the “morrow” AFTER the Passover (Num. 33:3). It is Biblically impossible for the “Pass Over” to occur on the night of the 15th, with the Israelites staying in their homes until MORNING, and still leaving during the same NIGHT of the 15th!
- Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8) and He is our Passover (I Cor. 5:8). He changed the emblems of the Passover from the slain lamb to the unleavened bread and wine, representing his beaten and torn body and His spilled blood.
- Jesus kept His last Passover at the precise time between the evenings of the 13th and the 14th, and true Christians are commanded to keep it as He instructed on that Passover evening.
- The apostle Paul was inspired to write in I Cor. 11:23, “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed...” Jesus our Lord on the true Passover Night became the Passover Lamb by changing the emblems to symbolize His Body and Blood. He tells us to observe this in memory of Him.
- Prov. 14:12 tells us: “There are ways that seem right to a man but the ends thereof are the ways of death.” No commands or instructions are given for commemorating 3:00 PM on the afternoon of the 14th as the

time of Jesus’ death! The Passover lambs were to be slain between the evenings of the 13th and 14th—not at 3:00 PM! The priests in the temple sacrificing lambs at 3:00 PM on the 14th is a TRADITION of the Jews, instituted hundreds of years after the commands in Exodus 12. Nowhere in the Bible are there instructions to observe 3:00 PM, but to some very confused people, it seems so right to do it.

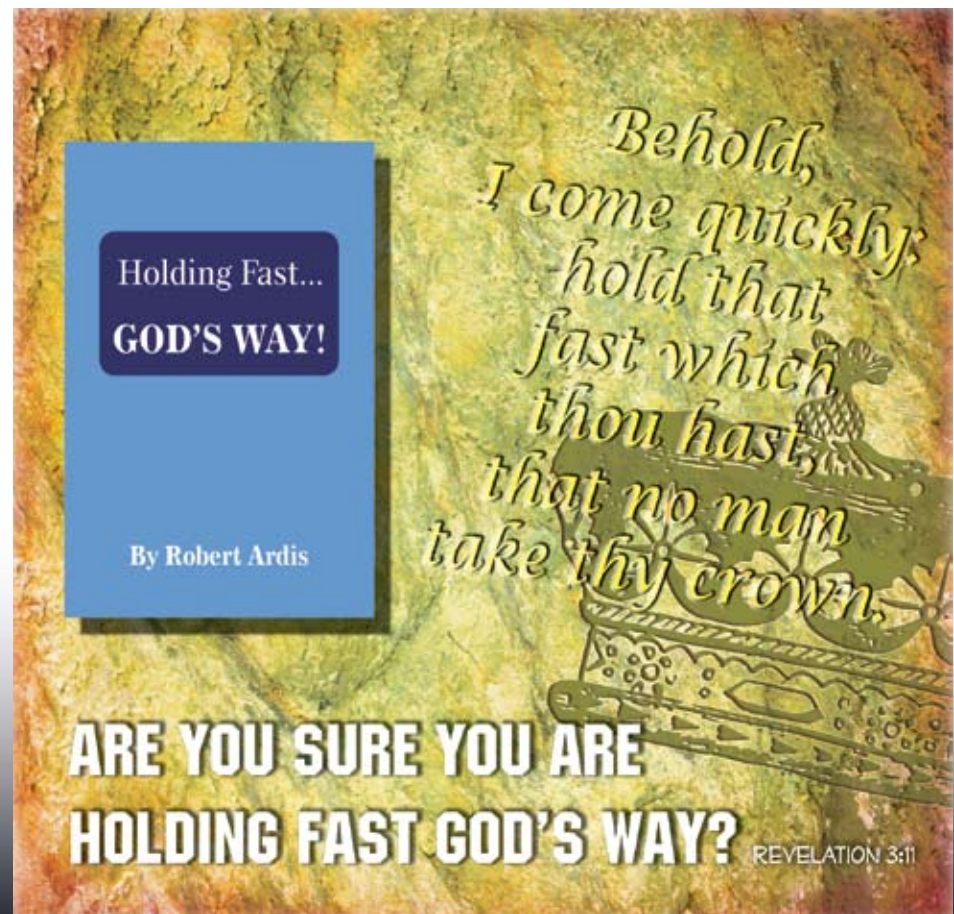
- There are no commands to observe Jesus’ resurrection either, but it seems so right to more than a billion people as they celebrate the pagan Easter in “honor” of Jesus. All of these ways of man and his traditions produce vain and confused doctrines of demons, but in their self-righteous deception they love those Satan-

inspired traditions more than they love the Word of God (II Thess. 2:9-11)!

Mr. Lawton closes his article this month by quoting from I Corinthians 5. I will do this, too, using part of verse 7 and all of verse 8: “...For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Have a truly inspiring Passover on Sunday evening, March 28; then, the next night have a wonderful Night to be Much Observed, which begins the seven Days of Unleavened Bread.

Your brother in Christ,



Holding Fast...  
**GOD'S WAY!**

By Robert Ardis

Behold,  
I come quickly;  
hold that  
fast which  
thou hast,  
that no man  
take thy crown.

**ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE  
HOLDING FAST GOD'S WAY?** REVELATION 3:11

This Month's Top Articles from

## The Faithful Watchman

Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



Through *The Faithful Watchman*, we endeavor to keep ourselves abreast of how our Lord Jesus Christ is orchestrating the ride of the 4 Horsemen as He sets the scene for the Two Witnesses to begin their 1260 days of prophesying and for the Great Tribulation to begin. Read daily updates to *The Faithful Watchman* online at [setapartbytruth.org](http://setapartbytruth.org).

### Forecast: Flood risk for third of U.S.

More than a third of the contiguous United States faces a high or above average flood risk this spring, the National Weather Service reported Tuesday.

"As the spring thaw melts the snowpack, saturated and frozen ground in the Midwest will exacerbate the flooding of the flat terrain and feed rising rivers and streams,"

"We are looking at potentially historic flooding in some parts of the country this spring," Jane Lubchenko, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said at a news briefing while presenting the government's spring outlook.

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/...>

Comment: Mankind will continue to get it wrong, whether it be religion, politics, personal relationships and even climate change. Man is simply not able to direct his steps in whatever endeavour he embarks on, because God is left out of the equation.

"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer 10:23

This report warns of extensive flooding this spring throughout the U.S. It is good to be warned, but what can you do when as the report points out, some rivers can rise three feet in a matter of a few minutes?

Man has so much information, so much knowledge available to him, and yet, without the love of God shed abroad in his heart, which requires God's Holy Spirit and obedience to His Laws, he will always fall short in his endeavours.

### U.S., U.K. Move Closer to Losing Rating, Moody's Says

March 15 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. and the U.K. have moved "substantially" closer to losing their AAA credit ratings as the cost of servicing their debt rose, according to Moody's Investors Service.

Under the ratings company's so-called baseline scenario, the U.S. will spend more on debt service as a percentage of revenue this year than any other top-rated country except the U.K., and will be the biggest spender from 2011 to 2013, Moody's said today in a report.

"We expect the situation to further deteriorate in terms of the key ratings metrics before they start stabilizing," Cailleteau said. "This story is not going to stop at the end of the year. There is inertia in the deterioration of credit metrics."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/...>

Comment: The corporations of this world make a lot of money by lending money to others, usually with a high interest rate. The US and UK governments are spending 7 percent of its tax revenue, and rising, just to service its debts.

The law of God prohibits rigorous imposing of interest or making severe demands, on a return of a loan without regard to the condition of the borrower.

"In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD." Ezek 22:12

God is even more strict as regarding lending

News Stories are searched and compiled by Mr. Ron Chambers. Comments, unless otherwise specified, are written by Mr. John Durrad.



money within His Church.

“I thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.” Ex 22:25

If only people dealt fairly with each other and did not try to always seek an unjust advantage for self, much of the world's financial troubles would not exist. God's tax is 10 per cent. Man's tax runs far higher than that and we all suffer. Greedily trying to extract the best deal for yourself no matter how the other fellow suffers benefits no one in the long run. A good system is to ensure that in any deal there is something in it for everyone involved.

## Norway doomsday seed vault hits 1/2 million mark

OSLO, Norway – Two years after receiving its first deposits, a “doomsday” seed vault on an Arctic island has amassed half a million seed samples, making it the world's most diverse repository of crop seeds, the vault's operators announced Thursday.

Located in Norway's remote Svalbard archipelago, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a safeguard against wars or natural disasters wiping out food crops around the globe. It was opened in 2008 as a master backup to the world's other 1,400 seed banks, in case their deposits are lost.

<http://news.yahoo.com/...>

Comment: It is to be commended that we would want to secure the continuation of our crop seed, especially as war wiped out seed banks in Iraq and Afghanistan, and another bank in the Philippines was flooded in the wake of a typhoon in 2006. It truly is amazing that they have amassed half a million seed samples and yet there are still some varieties that they don't have in their collection.

Some have said this could point to a preparation for a major disaster in 2012. Little does the average person realize that the four horsemen are riding now in preparation for a disaster that will pale into insignificance any disasters of the

past.

If only mankind would obey God we could have the following lifestyle even before the millennium of God's rule is ushered in by the returning Jesus Christ.

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.” Amos 9:13

## US backs off speedy Iran sanctions promised Israel

Washington eased the threat of harsh sanctions hanging over Iran's head over its nuclear program at the very moment that it was beginning to take effect and Tehran was showing signs of stress.

Tuesday March 2, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters on her plane to Buenos Aires: “We are moving expeditiously and thoroughly in the Security Council, I can't give you an exact date, but I would assume some time in the next several months.”

This abrupt reversal of US tactics on Iran's nuclear activities took place when Israeli defense minister Ehud Barak was hardly out the door from Washington after receiving assurances from administration officials that a new round of tough sanctions would be in place by the end of March, with or without the Security Council.

<http://www.debka.com/...>

Comment: Tough sanctions on Iran by the Obama administration had been promised for the end of last year and now for the end of March. Israel had held back on plans to attack Iran's nuclear facilities because of America's promise.

This abrupt reversal of U.S. tactics on Iran's nuclear activities looks very much like a double cross, enacted so soon after a course of action was agreed. Israel may well be thinking, “with friends like this, who needs enemies?”

Surely this act of betrayal will have far reach-

ing effects. God says Woe to the enemies of His Church who deal treacherously with it, and perhaps this scripture could apply to America in their dealings with their friends.

“Woe to thee that spoilest, and thou wast not spoiled; and dealest treacherously, and they dealt not treacherously with thee! When thou shalt cease to spoil, thou shalt be spoiled; and when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee.” Isa 33:1

If America continues to deal with their friends in this way they can expect at some time that these very friends will turn on them!

## Heavy Storm Kills At Least 54 in Western Europe

An brutal Atlantic storm wrought devastation across Western Europe over the weekend and into Monday, killing at least 54 people. Most of the casualties were in France, where coastal towns were flooded and battered by gusts of winds of up to 166 kilometers per hour.

At least 54 people died in a violent storm that left a

trail of destruction across Western Europe on Sunday.

<http://www.spiegel.de/...>

Comment: “All the rivers run into the sea: yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.” Ecc 1:7

Here the Bible describes the hydrological cycle. God has provided a perfect way to supply us with our water needs. The process begins with condensation, when water vapour condenses in the atmosphere to form clouds. When the clouds eventually can't hold the moisture, they release it in the form of rain, hail, snow etc. This precipitation then eventually flows back into the sea. Without this process life on earth would not be possible.

Mankind and our human activities seem destined to ruin the marvellous system God had created for us. Surely, as we see disasters increase it will become apparent that unless we act decisively now, our planet will be overwhelmed by brutal weather patterns.

Some efforts are being made by individuals and groups that see the danger, but as with most of man's efforts to try to solve the planet it amounts to too little too late!

# The Midnight Cry Has Begun

If you recognise the signs of the times as prophesied by Herbert W. Armstrong and the World Wide Church of God, and if you are seeking God's True Church at this late hour, write or call to request our FREE Literature, or download our booklets at [www.setapartbytruth.org](http://www.setapartbytruth.org).

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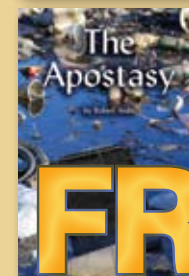
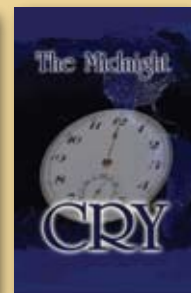
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