

eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel."

In Scripture, *yeast*, or *leaven*, is often a symbol for sin and corruption. Jesus Himself referred to the "leaven" of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians, obviously speaking of their corrupt doctrine (Matthew 16:6; Mark 8:15).

Symbolically, the Jewish families were remembering the hurried departure of the Israelites from Egypt when Moses won their release (and the women didn't have time to add yeast to their dough). But they were also cleansing their homes from symbolic impurity.

That's what we can learn from the Passover. We need to do in reality what the Jews do in symbol. We need to clear our rooms or homes of anything that suggests sin or doctrinal error. If we want to please God, we should practice "unleavened living" by making sure we don't allow error in our homes that can lead us to sin.

Is there leaven in our magazines? Our videos? Our books? Our doctrine? In our closet or drawers, is there anything that we know to be implements of sin or error leading to sin?

Let's practice unleavened living, not for just 7 days of the year but all the time. Let's get rid of our *hametz*--anything that has even a trace of sin in it. --

REFLECTION

- Do I need to do some housecleaning? What do I participate in that I know God isn't pleased about?
- Is what I believe in contrary to the word of God?

If it's got sin or error in it, throw it out!



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Unleavened Living

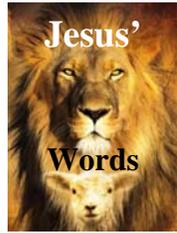
We can learn a lot from our Jewish friends.

For example, have you ever considered the effort it took for Jewish women to get their families ready for the Passover as detailed in Exodus 12? For one thing, they had to do a thorough examination of the kitchen and make sure that anything that had yeast in it was removed-- every crumb.

Still today, when Jewish families observe that special time called Passover, they first have to make sure all the leaven is gone. All yeast foods, called *hametz*, are either eaten before Passover begins or are given to non-Jewish neighbours and friends. In Exodus 12:15, the people of Israel were told, "*Remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever*



A Jewish family searches for leaven before passover



Beware of Error



Sun Myung Moon

(2 Peter 2:12) "But these, ..., speak evil of the things they do not understand, ..."
(2 Peter 2:17-18) "These are wells without water, .. {18} For .. they speak great swelling words of emptiness, ..."
(2 Peter 2:15) "... who loved the wages of unrighteousness;"
(2 Peter 2:14) "... They have a heart trained in covetous practices, ..."
(2 Peter 2:13-14) "... count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. .. {14} having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, ..."
(Jude 1:16) "These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage."

Mark 8:13-21. When Jesus tells His disciples to 'beware' of doctrinal error He has, no doubt, three facets in mind:

1. _____ error, verses 13-21

(John 4:10) "... If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."
(John 4:14) "... whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. .. the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."
(John 6:53) "... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you."
(John 6:63) "... It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."
(Matthew 6:31-33) "... Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' {32} 'For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. {33} 'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.'
(Matthew 16:11-12) "... How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?; but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." {12} Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
(Exodus 12:11) "And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover."
(Exodus 12:15) "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel."
(1 Corinthians 5:7-8) "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. {8} Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."
(Romans 14:2-3) "For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. {3} Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who

does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him."
(Romans 14:5-6) "One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. {6} He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. .. and gives God thanks."

(2 Timothy 3:16) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, ..."
(1 John 2:15-17) "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."
(John 15:19) "... If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."
(Romans 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

2. _____ error,

(2 Timothy 4:14-15) "Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. ... {15} You also must beware of him, ..."
(Revelation 2:15) "... Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."
(Hebrews 1:8-9) "But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; ... {9} You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; ...'"



3. _____ error,

(Acts 20:29-31) "... For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. {30} "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. {31} "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."
(1 Timothy 6:3-5) "If anyone .. does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, .. {4} he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, .. {5} .. From such withdraw yourself."

(Titus 3:10-11) "Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, {11} knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned."
(Romans 16:17-18) "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. {18} For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."
(Acts 20:28) "... Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

