

## Why Unleavened Bread

I heard a sermon by Elder Ben Winslet on this topic. He asked, and answered, a lot of questions and there are a couple of points I want to try to make from scripture.

Point One: Leaven, in scripture, is always a type or picture of sin. We have heard, and I have preached, sermons, which were making the point of leaven typifying the spread of the gospel. However, after more study on the subject: I have come to believe; I was preaching a wrong concept, and did not understand the use of leaven in the proper context.

Point Two: Unleavened bread is a picture of the body of Jesus Christ, who was crucified on the cross for the remission of sins. How is it a picture? The body of Jesus was sin excepted. Our sins were laid upon him and he was made sin for us, but he still had a sinless body. This is why we continue the use of unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper.

We know that the bread, that Jesus broke with his disciples in the upper room, was unleavened, because by the commandment and law of God, concerning the Passover Feast; there was to be no leaven in the houses of the Israelites, for the seven days of the passover memorial feast.

What ingredients were used to make unleavened bread? Elder Ben points out: Technically, there is no prohibition of any ingredient except leaven. Does Scripture give us any indication of what ingredients may have been used? Yes, and we can find these in the sacrificial law.

What were the meat offerings? The meat offering was not flesh but was bread or grain, as seen in: **Le 2:14** "*And if thou offer a meat offering of thy firstfruits unto the LORD, thou shalt offer for the meat offering of thy firstfruits green ears of corn dried by the fire, even corn beaten out of full ears.*" There are other scriptures, but this is very clear that the meat offering is grain.

Scripture gives us two ingredients, which were added to the meat offerings.

- **Le 2:13** "*And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.*"
- **Le 23:13** "*And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour:*"

Thus, we have flour, oil, and salt, as ingredients for the unleavened bread from scripture. Elder Winslet pointed out something I had never even thought of: The two added ingredients, oil and salt, are natural enemies to yeast. Both salt and oil can kill the effects of yeast if applied properly.

How was unleavened bread made? Unleavened bread consisted of flour, oil, salt, and water, which is mixed in proper proportions and baked into cakes of bread. What has that got to do with the Lord's Supper and the breaking of bread? This gives us the picture of the sinless body of Jesus, who shed his sinless blood for the eternal remission of our sins, enabling us to be able to sit at the communion table.

When we come to the communion table, we come in our sinful bodies. Therefore, it is needful that we come with the oil of grace, through the blood Christ, which is salvation by grace applied to our lives. Salt changes the composition of the food it is added to. Likewise, the Holy Spirit indwelling us changes us. Wherefore, our, born-again, lives are to manifest the change made in us by the application of God's saving grace. This is why we are told in scripture in: **1Co 11:28** "*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*" If we are not living a changed life, that is in accordance with "*thus saith the Lord,*" we should not partake of the Lord's Supper. The question for us all is: when we partake of the Lord's Supper, do we believe that Jesus paid the eternal price for the forgiveness of all our sins? If we come believing that it is necessary for us to do something towards our eternal forgiveness of our sins, we are bringing leaven to the table, which is against the commandment of God.

Thus, we see why Jesus broke the unleavened bread, gave it to his disciples, and commanded them to eat it. We see why he told his disciples to do this in remembrance of him. For his disciples; It was symbolic of what he was soon going to do. Jesus would leave the upper room and go to the garden of betrayal. He would be taken prisoner, spat upon, slapped, beaten, whipped, and brutalized in many ways. He would be nailed to the cross and die on our behalf. The unleavened bread reminds us of all that Jesus suffered, in his sinless mortal body, and all that he provided for us. We praise, and thank, Jesus for this selfless sacrifice on our behalf. Amen!