

# Unblemished

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land.**

**~Exodus 12:19 (NASB)**

## 1) Fundamental Redefinitions

- A) Over 400 years of captivity are soon to come to an end (Exodus 11), as God prepares Israel for departing their slavery in Egypt for a brand new reality (12:1).
- B) The establishment of a new calendar for Israel is critical (12:2) for their status as the LORD's "new possession" (6:8). This is the first significant sign of Israel's new life.
- C) The establishment of a new calendar, with new festivals and holidays, and a new focus on the agricultural cycles of life in Israel (still yet future) reveals vision for both the here and now, and for a new and brighter future.

## 2) The Passover Observance

- A) As the beginning of the new Jewish calendar (12:3), all Jewish households are to select a lamb or a goat (12:3-5; the wording is ambiguous) on the tenth day of the month to be preserved for a special upcoming feast.

- B) The lamb is to be unblemished (12:5), a sign to all of Israel that God desires and deserves purity in worship. The lamb which is chosen is unblemished, pure, and valuable.
- C) The lamb is to be slain on Abib 14<sup>th</sup> (full moon), and the blood of the lamb is to be applied to the doorposts (vertical) and lintel (horizontal) of every Jewish home (12:6-7).
- D) All the meat of the sacrificed lamb is to be consumed by the family/families which are observing this new ceremony (12:8-10). The meat had to be roasted and had to be eaten in one night -- or burned with fire.
- E) Finally, the sacrificed lamb had to be eaten in great haste, and with the understanding that it was commemorating the Lord's Passover, a sign of God's mercy to Israel in the face of horrible judgment against Egypt (12:11-13).

## 3) The Feast Of Unleavened Bread

- A) Immediately following the Passover observance, God institutes a new Jewish feast of Unleavened Bread (12:14).
- B) Leaven (the ingredient which causes bread to rise), was a biblical metaphor for evil (Leviticus 2:11; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:7-8), and the removal of leaven from both the home and all the food (12:15) was a metaphor of unblemished purity.
- C) The week long festival (12:16-20) was marked with rest from work and the consuming of unleavened bread. So serious was this observance, that ignoring the festival resulted in rejection from the Lord's Chosen People (12:19).

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For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... Do you commemorate the LORD in your household? What are ideas you have for setting apart your commitment to the LORD in your household which represents unblemished purity? Are there areas of your life which you feel lack unblemished purity? Ceremonies are supposed to be outward examples of spiritual realities. Are your "observances" consistent with your lifestyle?

## The Hebrew Calendar Compared to our Modern (Gregorian) Calendar

The Hebrew calendar was composed of 12 lunar months, each of which began when the thin crescent moon was first visible at sunset. They were composed of approximately 29/30 days and were built around the agricultural seasons. Apparently some of the names of the months were accommodated from Babylon following the time that the Israelites were exiled there.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Hebrew Month</u>	<u>Gregorian (Modern)</u>	<u>Festivals</u>	<u>Biblical References</u>
First Month	Abib (Preexile) Nisan (Postexile)	March–April	14th: Passover (Ex. 12:18; Lev. 23:5)  15th–21st: Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:14–20; Lev. 23:6)  16th: First Fruits (Lev. 23:9–11)	Ex. 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Deut. 16:1; Neh. 2:1; Est. 3:7 (cf. Gen. 8:13; Ex. 12:2, 18; 40:2, 17; Lev. 23:5; Num. 9:1; 20:1; 28:16; 33:3; Josh. 4:19; 1 Chron. 12:15; 27:2, 3; 2 Chron. 29:3, 17; 35:1; Ezra 6:19; 7:9; 8:31; 10:17; Est. 3:7, 12; Ezek. 29:17; 30:20; 45:18, 21; Dan. 10:4)
Second Month	Ziv (Preexile) Iyyar (Postexile)	April–May	14th: Later Passover (Num. 9:10–11)	1 Kings 6:1, 37 (cf. Gen. 7:11; 8:14; Ex. 16:1; Num. 1:1, 18; 9:11; 10:11; 1 Chron. 27:4; 2 Chron. 3:2; 30:2, 13, 15; Ezra 3:8)
Third Month	Sivan	May–June	4th: Pentecost [Feast of Weeks] (Lev. 23:15–16)	Est. 8:9 (cf. Ex. 19:1; 1 Chron. 27:5; 2 Chron. 15:10; 31:7; Ezek. 31:1)
Fourth Month	Tammuz	June–July		Ezek. 8:14 (cf. 2 Kings 25:3; 1 Chron. 27:7; Jer. 39:2; 52:6; Ezek. 1:1; Zech. 8:19)
Fifth Month	Ab	July–August		Not mentioned by name in the Bible (cf. Num. 33:38; 2 Kings 25:8; 1 Chron. 27:8; Ezra 7:8, 9; Jer. 1:3; 28:1; 52:12; Ezek. 20:1; Zech. 7:3, 5; 8:19)
Sixth Month	Elul	August–September		Neh. 6:15 (cf. 1 Chron. 27:9; Ezek. 8:1; Hag. 1:1, 15)
Seventh Month	Ethanim (Preexile) Tishri (Postexile)	September–October	1st: Trumpets (Lev. 23:24; Num. 29:1)  10th: Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29–34; 23:27–32)  15th–21st: Booths (Lev. 23:34–40)  22nd: Solemn assembly (Lev. 23:36)	1 Kings 8:2 (cf. Gen. 8:4; Lev. 16:29; 23:24, 27, 34, 39, 41; 25:9; Num. 29:1, 7, 12; 2 Kings 25:25; 1 Chron. 27:10; 2 Chron. 5:3; 7:10; 31:7; Ezra 3:1, 6; Neh. 7:73; 8:2, 14; Jer. 28:17; 41:1; Ezek. 45:25; Hag. 2:1; Zech. 7:5; 8:19)
Eighth Month	Bul (Preexile) Marchesvan (Postexile)	October–November		1 Kings 6:38 (cf. 1 Kings 12:32, 33; 1 Chron. 27:11; Zech. 1:1)
Ninth Month	Chislev (Kislev)	November–December	25th: Dedication (John 10:22)	Neh. 1:1; Zech. 7:1 (cf. 1 Chron. 27:12; Ezra 10:9; Jer. 36:9, 22; Hag. 2:10, 18)
Tenth Month	Tebeth	December–January		Est. 2:16 (cf. Gen. 8:5; 2 Kings 25:1; 1 Chron. 27:13; Ezra 10:16; Jer. 39:1; 52:4; Ezek. 24:1; 29:1; 33:21; Zech. 8:19)
Eleventh Month	Shebat	January–February		Zech. 1:7 (cf. Deut. 1:3; 1 Chron. 27:14)
Twelfth Month	Adar*	February–March		Ezra 6:15; Est. 3:7, 13; 8:12; 9:1, 15, 17, 19, 21 (cf. 2 Kings 25:27; 1 Chron. 27:15; Jer. 52:31; Ezek. 32:1; 32:17)

\* Periodically, a 13th month was added so that the lunar calendar would account for the entire solar year.