

# High Day

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 4/20/2019

Today is the First Day of Unleavened Bread – and we will be speaking about the Meaning of the Day. We are instructed to have meat in due season – and today is the First **High Day** of this year. (Psalm 104:27, Luke 12:42)

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the **Children of God**, even to them that **believe on His name**:

“Shortcut Christians” think to themselves that they only have to “believe on His name.”

They fail to realize that Christians not only believe in Jesus, they practice and live His moral and ethical code of conduct – especially in regard toward God and fellow man. Christians put their **trust** in the principles that Jesus stood for, like we find in:

John 1:17 ...[God’s] grace and truth came by and through Jesus Christ.

This First Day of Unleavened Bread shows us that God’s **grace** toward us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8) abides in us as **Children of God** as long as we practice and live Jesus’ moral and ethical code of conduct. We find the meaning of this First Day of Unleavened Bread in verse 29.

John 1:29 The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming unto Him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world**.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John 1:32 And John the Baptist bore record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God!

Jesus’ public ministry was new – and He had just selected His disciples and begun to teach them. The timing was just before Passover and Unleavened Bread.

John 2:1 And the third day [after Jesus was baptized] there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

John 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage.

John 2:11 This beginning of miracles [changing water to wine] did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth [He revealed] His glory; and His [newly called] disciples believed on [put their trust in] Him.

John 2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

## Jesus Cleanses the Temple

John 2:13 And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

John 2:14 And found in the Temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

John 2:15 And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew their tables;

John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things out of here; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

John 2:17 And His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. [Quoting Psalm 69:9]

John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What miracle can you show unto us, seeing that thou do these things?

We come to the answer of the question...

Mark 8:11 The Pharisees came forth, and began to question with Him, seeking of Him a miracle from heaven, tempting [Jesus].

Matthew 12:39 But He answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a miracle; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

John 2:21 But He spoke of the temple of His body.

*John fast forwards and furnishes us with what took place three years later.*

John 2:22 When therefore He was risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this unto them; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

John 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the Feast day, many believed in [put their trust in] His name [Jesus was establishing His own reputation], when they saw the miracles which He did.

Deuteronomy 16:16 **Three times in a year** shall all thy males [heads of households] appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the feast of weeks [Pentecost], and in the Feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Leviticus 23:4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

Leviticus 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S Passover.

Leviticus 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

Leviticus 23:7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Leviticus 23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

We will now take up the Holy Day Offering. Music:

As I was writing the 'Countdown to the Return of Jesus Christ,' last evening, Friday evening, the Night to Be Much Observed had arrived.

The beloved apostle John calls this a **High Day**. It is also a Double-Sabbath in that this High Day has fallen upon a weekly Sabbath. Thursday evening, the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of the Sacred Year, we were partaking of the New Testament Passover meal of Unleavened Bread and Wine – having washed one another's feet (John 13:4-7).

Yesterday afternoon at 3 pm marked the time of the death of Jesus Christ some two-thousand years ago (Matthew 27:46-50). His body was taken down and placed in a sepulcher.

John 19:30-31 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up His breath. The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation [for the First Day of Unleavened Bread], that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an **High Day**,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, which also waited for the Kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and desired the body of Jesus.

### **Messianic Prophecy**

Isaiah 53:9 And He made His grave with the wicked [the thieves who were crucified with Him], and **with the rich** [Joseph of Arimathea] **in His death**; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.

Matthew 27:59-60 When Joseph [of Arimathea – a very influential business man] had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.

## Selfsame Day

Remarkably, the timing of Christ's burial corresponded perfectly with a number of prior Biblical events of great importance. One thing the Church brethren have come to understand is **the precise timing** of Biblical events as they are performed by God – because we know that God is “hands-on” involved.

The beginning of the First Day of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6) pinpoints an important time when very special things are accomplished on the “selfsame day” in order to lay emphasis on God's great Plan of redemption and salvation. This coincidence and concurrence of dates on the “selfsame day” shows God's handiwork. God is involved – still is!

This Night to be much Observed – of Solemn Observance – is often replicated and repeated in the Plan of God because it is a most important time to God.

**Note the occasions** of when God acted at the **beginning** of the First Day of Unleavened Bread – the Night to be much Observed:

The **First occasion** was when on the **same day** the LORD made a Covenant with Abram (Genesis 15:18).

The Covenant of Promise to Abram was ratified by God with a Covenant **Sacrifice**.

The sacrifice that I will be speaking about today is NOT the typical sacrifice we are so used to hearing about where those in the Old Testament brought animal sacrifices to the temple.

Definition: A **covenant** is an agreement between two people, entities, or parties. A covenant, like a contract, is a binding [that is the general meaning of “covenant”] agreement between the two parties, which creates obligations that each must perform.

Examples: Two people can enter a contract or covenant, or God can enter a covenant, as with the nation of Israel. A covenant, like a contract, is an agreement between the two parties, which creates obligations that each must perform. What is a Covenant Sacrifice?

A Covenant Sacrifice has some basic elements: ...An oath or solemn promise to do something ...The party or parties to the covenant ...And a dead animal or animals, which have had their blood poured out.

An animal, or animals were slain by shedding their blood – then they were cut into two halves from top to bottom and laid on the ground with a little space between them.

When a **contract** was made in those days -- the word we will be using is “Covenant,” - the covenant was validated or made binding, when the contracting parties walked between the pieces of a slain animal.

It was a way of saying, “I'm putting my life on the line to keep this covenant.” And passing through such a dreadful and grisly ritual – no one could later say they did not remember entering into the covenant.

To “ratify” a covenant means to approve of, agree with, confirm, put in force, sanction, validate or establish the covenant. The Covenant Sacrifice required that the principal persons entering the Covenanting agreement must pass between the parts of the slain sacrifice – implying, that whoever broke the covenant, would be subject to the same death.

Jesus Christ asked Abram to prepare a sacrifice on Passover afternoon in preparation for the **Covenant Sacrifice**. It was the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month at the same time of day that Jesus died on Passover Day (Genesis 15:9-10).

I’ll go over this a few times in today’s sermon. Jesus Christ the God of the Old Testament was showing that He alone would take the penalty upon Himself—by the sacrifice of Himself—for mankind’s sins. Jesus made the unilateral Sacrificial Covenant, and later as Jesus Christ in the flesh, He became the Paschal victim of that sacrifice. Jesus, in passing between the pieces of the sacrifice, prophesied His own death – in order to bring all men to salvation.

Jesus stood in the breach when He passed between those sacrificial pieces of Genesis 15:17 and said in effect, “I will shed my blood and die, as these dead animals at my feet, to pay the price of the broken covenant.”

The **Second occasion** was when Israel went out of Egypt on the **same exact** night! (Deuteronomy 16:1).

Exodus 12:41-42 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 of Solemn Observance [**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.

The **Third Occasion** was when Israel entered the Promised Land at this time.

Joshua 5:10-11 The children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the **selfsame day**.

## God is involved!

The **Fourth Occasion** was when Jesus was laid in the tomb (John 19:31, 42).

The Children of God gained their **victory over sin** on the exact **selfsame** day – it marks the point of salvation – victory over bondage and over death as Jesus was laid in the tomb (1Corinthians 15:3-4) just as The Night to be Much Observed began.

We are going to see these again. The Night to be Much Observed is the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and commemorates Israel's exodus from Egypt. God promised Abraham that an heir—physical offspring—would come from his own Body.

A covenant does not become valid until it has been sealed with a blood sacrifice.

Galatians 6:16 As many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the **Israel of God**.

In Genesis 15 we will see – not the covenant with Physical Israel – but with **Spiritual Israel**.

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth **bread and wine**: and He was the priest of the most high God.

Genesis 14:19 And He **blessed** him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

Genesis 15:1 After these things [bread, wine, blessing, Chapter 14] the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision,

Genesis 15:2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless? [What about your promise, Lord?]

God had promised children to Abraham back in:

Genesis 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed [children] will I give this land:

Genesis 15:3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

This takes place as Passover is beginning on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib.

Genesis 15:4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

In 1964 I was traveling from Louisiana through Mississippi very early one **clear**, cold morning – at about 4 am – listening to The World Tomorrow and contemplating the words I was hearing:

Psalms 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Psalms 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

I stopped my pick-up truck on the side of the road on a bare hill top – miles and miles from any town. It was a moonless night and I could see billions of stars from horizon to horizon:

Genesis 15:5 [God] brought [Abram] forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and **count the stars**, if thou be able to number them: and He said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

## **It is DARK!**

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

Genesis 15:8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

### **Daylight!** Passover Day

Genesis 15:9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

Genesis 15:10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

Genesis 15:11 And when the fowls / buzzards came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

These **animal parts** were sacrificial offerings that pointed to Christ's body thereby establishing the Sacrificial Covenant that Jesus was instituting.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of the first month begins! It is the Night To Be Much Observed!

The carcasses of the sacrificial animals represent the symbolic death of the one confirming the covenant.

By passing between these carcass parts, Jesus Christ ratified the covenant in swearing by an oath that if he fails to perform the terms of the covenant, he will die, and his blood will be spilled on the ground in the same manner as the animals of the covenant sacrifice.

Genesis 15:12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an **horror of great darkness fell upon him.**

Abram's deep sleep corresponds to, and symbolizes Jesus death and burial in the tomb as the Night to be Much Observed begins.

The timing corresponds with Jesus death and being placed in the tomb.

Genesis 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

Genesis 15:14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

Genesis 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Exodus 6:4 And I have also established **my covenant** with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

Exodus 6:8 And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

Christ has died for our sins on the 14<sup>th</sup>. He was placed in the grave at sunset and the tomb was sealed.

Jesus said that He would be in there three days and three nights until He was resurrected. The Jews would be convinced that Jesus was fully dead after three days and three nights in the grave.

Being put in there in the tomb guaranteed that Jesus' death would forgive our sins upon answering God's call and repentance and salvation. Brethren, You and I are guaranteed that we are a part of the **covenant!**

Ancient Israel, except for a few chosen people, like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the prophets, did not have a reconciled relationship with God the Father.

Israel did not receive the Spirit of God. God chose Israel to be a very special people unto Him (Deuteronomy 14:2):

### **Covenant Sacrifice**

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: (2) And I will make of thee a **great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and you shall be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:7 The LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land:

About ten years later, when Abram was about eighty-five years old, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. During the dark portion of Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib, God showed Abram the nighttime stars in the sky and **promised** him innumerable descendants: As we saw a moment ago...

Genesis 15:5 [God] brought [Abram] forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and **count the stars**, if thou be able to number them: and He said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Abram, (he was not named Abraham until the advanced age of 99), asked God to **assure him** that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him, seeing that he had no children yet. God stipulated the provisions of the **sacrificial covenant**, making it clear that He would not deviate from its terms. God **promised** Abram, with an incontrovertible oath, that he would become a great nation (Genesis 12:2, 7). Then God promised Abraham that he would become a father of many nations (Genesis 17:5). Was it possible for Abram to grasp the full spiritual aspects of Genesis 15:5?

Just so we do not miss the implication here – Paul spells it out for us in **Galatians 3** – that these future children are not all Abraham's physical children – but they also include all those who become **spiritual** children – through Christ.



## One Seed—Christ

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his **seed** [Singular] were the promises made. [God] did not say, "And unto seeds, as of many; but **as of one**, and to thy seed," **which is Christ**.

The one seed, the spiritual offspring of Abraham, is Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Galatians 3:29 If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, **and heirs according to the promise**.

Abram showing some trepidation because he remained childless at an advanced age, and remembering God's prodigious promise which was remarkably great in extent, asked God how He was going to perform His promise (Genesis 12:7):

Genesis 15:2, 8 Abram said, Lord GOD, what will you give me, seeing I go childless... whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

The **Covenant of Promise** to Abram was ratified by God with a **Covenant Sacrifice**. Jesus Christ's sacrifice of His life provided the ratification of the New Covenant. Jesus Christ asked Abram to prepare a sacrifice on Passover afternoon in preparation for the **Covenant Sacrifice**. It was the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month at the same time of day that Jesus died on Passover Day:

Genesis 15:9-10 And [the LORD] said unto Abram, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

Known historically as a "covenant between the parts," the parties to such a ritual would both **pass between the parts** of severed animals. In so doing, they were stating that if one (or both) of them broke the covenant agreement, they should likewise be **put to death** (Jeremiah 34:18-20).

In this case however, Jesus Christ the God of the Old Testament was showing that **He alone** would take the penalty upon Himself—by the sacrifice of Himself—for mankind's sins. That is why, as we will see, Abraham did not pass between the pieces—only Jesus passed between the parts of the animals. Thus in this ceremony, our Lord and Savior pledged His own life to guarantee the fulfillment of that covenant! This sacrifice which Abraham prepared, those slain animals, corresponded to, and symbolized Jesus' body, who was the ultimate sacrifice killed on Passover, and the One who made the covenant. Notice that the timing is progressing into the **next day**, because according to God's clock the day comes to an end **at sunset** – and a new day begins at dusk just before the stars come out.

Genesis 15:12 And when the **sun was going down**, a trance-like sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of profound darkness fell upon him.

That took place on The **Night to be Much Observed**. (Exodus 12:40-42).

Abram's deep sleep corresponds to, and symbolizes Jesus death and burial in the tomb as the Night to be Much Observed begins. The Night to be Much Observed marks the beginning of the First Day of Leavened Bread which begins at sunset.

Genesis 15:17-18 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that **passed between those pieces**. In the **same day** the LORD **made a Covenant** with Abram.

What Abraham saw was like a bright blast furnace – a brilliant shaft of light that passed through the sacrifice (Isaiah 62:1, Daniel 10:6, Exodus 19:18)! Jesus Christ made a very emphatic point of passing through the pieces of the Sacrificial Covenant. That was that oath by God Himself—the Covenant Sacrifice.

Jesus said in effect, “I will give my life to bring this Covenant to fruition.”

Abib 15<sup>th</sup> had arrived—it was the Night to Be Much Observed and the beginning of the First Day of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6).

The Feasts of the Lord are rich in symbolism and meaning of which the world is blind—and that is why the Feasts of the Lord are commanded assemblies for the Children of God. It was none other than Jesus Himself—who was the smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

We find in the New Testament that Paul explains the extreme importance of this **Sacrificial Covenant** – and how it was made:

Hebrews 6:13 For when God made **promise to Abraham**, because He could swear by none greater, He swore by Himself.

Jesus stood in the breach when He passed between those sacrificial animal carcasses of Genesis 15:17 and said in effect, “I will shed my blood and die, as these dead animals at my feet, to pay the price of the broken covenant.”

God and Abram were close enough friends, that he was made to understand that complete justification of man would **require the life** of One who was greater than everyone being justified—which could only be the Creator God? When Abram witnessed this phenomenal spectacle – not only was he greatly impressed – **he believed!!!**

The God of the Old Testament made the unilateral Sacrificial Covenant, and later as Jesus Christ in the flesh, He became the Paschal victim of that sacrifice. Jesus, in passing between the pieces of the sacrifice, prophesied His own death – in order to bring all men to salvation. The Children of God gained their victory over sin on the exact **selfsame day**.

Christ’s sacrifice marks the point of salvation – victory over bondage and over death as Jesus was **laid in the tomb** just as The Night to be Much Observed began – on this First Day of Unleavened Bread. The Sacrificial Covenant was the sign or **miracle** that Jesus would surely keep His oath to Abraham to provide him with children that would be in number as the stars in the sky and the sand of the seas.

God is intricately, minutely and meticulously involved in the details of our lives – in ways in which we are not even aware of at the time in order to lead us in our coming out of Sin. We must learn to lay our lives down for one another. No one will go into the Kingdom until he learns to do so.

Revelation 12:11 And [the saints] overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

We are to come completely out of sin. For us, this coming out of Sin is not a mere suggestion – but a requirement for our salvation. As we have seen many times, Egypt is a type or picture of sin in the Bible. The Israelites would not have survived had they remained in Egypt – remained in sin – and we will not be saved if we do not come completely out of sin.

Numbers 33:1 These are the journeys of the Children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron.

There was a **bright full moon** – just like last night- to light their way.

Numbers 33:3 And they departed from Rameses, [Egypt] 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.

That exodus began last night – The Night to Be Much Observed. It says in 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.

There are so many pieces to the story of how **God worked** to bring about our coming out of Sin – it did not begin with Moses at the Exodus. God has been intricately involved in leading us in our coming out of Sin from the beginning of creation.

We began the First Day of Unleavened Bread last night with the Night to Be Much Observed or Remembered.

Exodus 13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

In the single greatest act of love in making possible our coming out of Sin, Jesus Christ swore to Abraham in a Sacrificial Covenant – and then later fulfilled His oath – by becoming our Sacrifice by pouring out His life's blood and dying on the cross. The New Testament Christian **Passover** is a memorial of that fulfillment of the **Covenant** Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Paul wrote about a simple **contract** between two men – saying that neither man could alter the terms of the contract after the agreement was struck.

Galatians 3:15 Though it be but a man's **covenant**, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannuls it, or adds thereto.

The Soncino Chumash has the meaning of the covenant to be on, Jeremiah page 234: (Jeremiah 34:18-20)

“May the One who breaks the covenant be cut in two as the calf is divided.”

Soncino says that the purpose of these animals, represented here, was to enter into a covenant (same as an oath) which could not be annulled.

It was well understood that the **Life** was in the blood. (Leviticus 17:11) Those entering the Covenant Sacrifice were saying, in effect, “If I fail to keep covenant, then let my blood be poured out like this slain sacrifice.” – “If I break the covenant I am willing to be **cut in two** pieces.”

To this day, people still speak of “cutting a contract” – from this common practice of cutting the covenant sacrifice in half.

Israel broke the Covenant—BUT—Jesus died!

The animal to be sacrificed was cut in two so that the contracting parties might pass between the pieces; therefore “**cutting the covenant**” and passing between the two pieces signified making the covenant.

One other example of “Cut a covenant” for your notes brethren:

In Genesis 21:25-32 there was a conflict between Abimelech and Abraham over who had dug and owned a water well at Beersheba (‘well of oath’). Abraham “cut a covenant” (Genesis 21:27) using sheep and oxen in the covenant as a witness to Abimelech. For seven ewe lambs Abimelech admitted under oath that the well belonged to Abraham.

Remember that the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures coming out of sin – and we understand that, “I will put sin out of my life...” Let’s understand that that there is only one way to come out of sin – and that is by Jesus Christ.

God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees and made promises to him – but they were conditional promises. Abram would have to do certain things – leave home and go elsewhere... (Genesis 12:1)

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families [kindreds], of the earth be blessed. [Nations are families grown large.]

There is a hint how far reaching God’s **spiritual** blessings will extend...

The Children of Israel gained their independence from Egypt on The Night to be Much Observed as they came out of Egypt. We, brethren, gained our victory over sin – it marks our point of salvation – our victory over bondage and over death as Jesus was laid in the tomb just as The Night to be Much Observed began. Jesus was laid in the grave and our sins were paid.

End: High Day