

# TAKING LEAVEN SERIOUSLY

- "Spring Cleaning" tradition in the Middle East directly connected to this Biblical command.
- 🪷 Jewish tradition – Bedikat Chametz – "The Search for Leaven" – Spring Equinox
  - 🪷 Persian tradition – Khaneh-Tekani – "Shaking the House" – Nowruz – New Day/Year
  - 🪷 Are you ready to SEARCH and even SHAKE your house, to remove all traces of leaven?
1. Ex 12:15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. Indeed on the first day you cause leaven to cease from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that being shall be cut off from Yisrael.
    - 🪷 "Cause leaven to cease" = "shabbat" (Hebrew)
    - 🪷 This year: 1<sup>st</sup> day of UB falls on a Shabbat! (UB = Unleavened Bread)
    - 🪷 Today: Let us not only cease from work, but also from falsehood!
  2. 1 Cor 5:7-8 Cleanse out the old leaven, so that you are a new, unleavened lump. Messiah our Pesach was slaughtered for us. So let us celebrate the festival, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of evil and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
    - 🪷 OLD leaven – palaios – old, ancient, worn out, of no use.
    - 🪷 SINCERITY – elikrineia – judged by sunlight.
    - 🪷 TRUTH – aletheia – frankness of mind which is free from pretence, falsehood and deceit.
  3. Luk 12:1 He began to say to His taught ones, first, Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.
    - 🪷 Notice the words "began" and "first" – First things first!
    - 🪷 BEWARE – prosecho – to devote one's thought and effort to a certain matter.
    - 🪷 HYPOCRISY – hupokrisis – pretending/professing what one does not believe.
  4. Ps 51:6 You have desired truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You make me know wisdom.
    - 🪷 INWARD PARTS – tuchot (tuchah) – the innermost thoughts, desires and intentions.
    - 🪷 HIDDEN PART – satum – the part of me that is a secret to others.
    - 🪷 WISDOM – chochma – a process of emptying oneself of old and self-centred ideas, allowing Yahweh to fill one's being with his thoughts and truths.
  5. Mat 16:11 Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees ... then they understood that He spoke about the doctrine of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
    - 🪷 DOCTRINE – didache – teaching (in this case) that is false/not true
    - 🪷 BEWARE – prosecho – to devote one's thought and effort to a certain matter.
    - 🪷 Majority of ordinary Jews were exposed to the teachings of Pharisees (synagogue) and Sadducees (temple). Our situation today ...
  6. Zep 3:13 The remnant of Yisrael shall do no unrighteousness and speak no falsehood or deceit. For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, with none to frighten them.
    - 🪷 TSEFANYAH – Yahweh has kept secret; Yahweh has hidden.
    - 🪷 REMNANT – she'erit - The mark of the "remnant" – total absence of falsehood.
    - 🪷 FEED – ra'ah – two elements: eating and friendship – no place for pretence!
  7. Rev 21:27 And there shall by no means enter into it whatever is unclean nor anyone doing abomination and falsehood but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
    - 🪷 Feast of UB as a dress-rehearsal for entering the new Jerusalem.
    - 🪷 FALSEHOOD – pseudos – anything that is not what it seems to be ("pseudograph")
    - 🪷 Notice the central position of the Lamb's Book of life – Pesach!