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CGI Canada Newsletter

A Letter Preserves Truth

THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Should the Feast days be kept?

SEEING GOD Through the eyes of a child

Sabbath Service info for March



Table Of Contents

4

A Letter Preserves Truth - Elder Horane Smith shares an ancient letter revealing the truth of the Passover.

7

The Days of Unleavened Bread - Patrick Bastien discusses the importance of these holy days.

10

Should the Feast Days be kept? - Solomon Bleary expounds on the reasons for keeping the Feast Days.

16

SEEING GOD Through the eyes of a child - Infuse article by June Rush explains how we should train up our children in God.

17

BLOG by David Townson / Evangelism 2026 Update for the Online Ministry Education Initiative.

22

Brunner Hill Blessings by Janet & Herb Jacobs.

23

Member Spotlight / Birth Announcement from Shelly and Mike Morris, CGI Kitchener.

27

Sabbath Service Schedule / Outreach Tools & Resource info.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the March edition.

We will soon be enjoying warmer weather as our Spring Holy Day Season approaches. This should be a time of reflecting, refreshing, and renewal, as we prepare to humbly come before Yahweh to re-dedicate ourselves in covenant with Him through the washing of each other's feet and taking of the Passover emblems. We are grateful to belong to the family of God and to be called children of God, and co-heirs with Christ. May all blessings abound at this time!

This month's featured article is - **A Letter Preserves Truth** by Elder Horane Smith, followed by **The Days of Unleavened Bread** by Patrick Bastien. Take some time to read **Should the Feast Days be kept?** by Solomon Bleary, and our Infuse article **SEEING GOD through the eyes of a child** by June Rush. Next, enjoy a **BLOG by David Townson**, and an update from our **Evangelism Ministry**. And don't miss our regular features - **Brunner Hill Blessings** by Herb & Janet Jacobs, and our **Member Spotlight**. Finally, join us as we congratulate Shelly & Mike Morris of CGI Kitchener on their **Birth Announcement**.

If you have an interest in providing Content for the monthly newsletter please contact me at the email below. I'd love to hear from you.

II Corinthians 9:8 NKJV *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."*



Maria McLaughlin

Editor

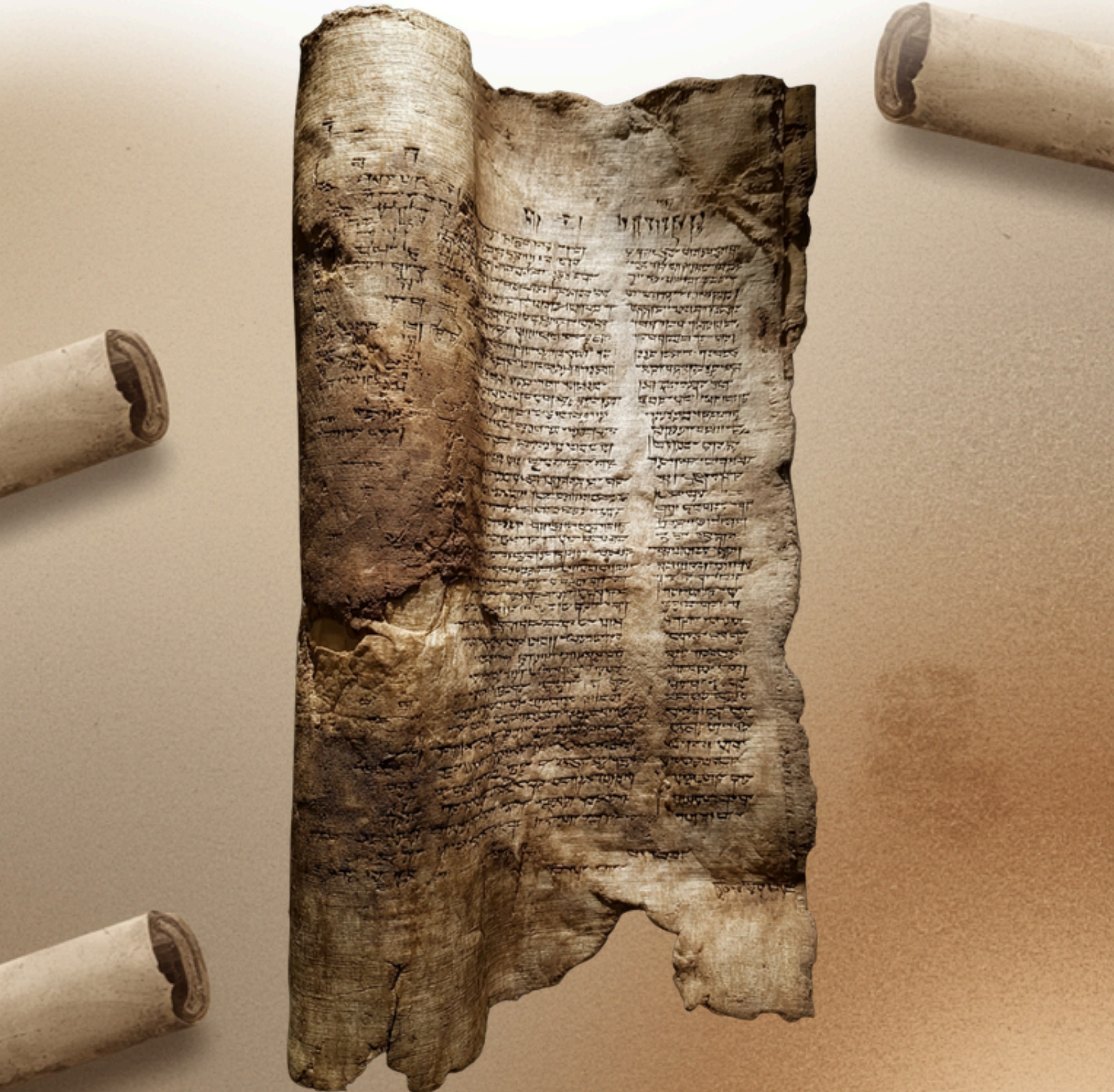
CgiC Newsletter

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A Letter Preserves Truth

Horane Smith



From biblical history, we know the Christians of **Asia Minor** did not keep Easter in the early part of the Second Century A.D. They kept the Passover.

We know, too, Polycarp, the last known living apostle and student of the apostle John, held firm to his belief that the Passover should be kept on the 14th of Nisan, an observance he learned from John.

It was customary for the early Christians to celebrate the death of Jesus with a Pascha meal on the date of the Jewish Passover (1 Cor. 5:7-8), not Easter. The Easter observances came much later. **“At first there was no annual celebration of the resurrection.** Eventually, in the gentile world, the day of resurrection was added to the Pascha festival. That day was Sunday. At the Council of Nicea (325) it was ruled that Easter Sunday would be celebrated on the Sunday immediately following that full moon which came after the vernal equinox. At the same time, the Council decided that the vernal equinox would be March 21 in the Julian calendar (Eusebius, Vit. Const. 3.18). **(Synder GF. Irish Jesus, Roman Jesus: the formation of early Irish Christianity. Trinity Press International, 2002, p. 183)**

Around 150 A.D., **Polycarp** journeyed to Rome to meet **Anicetus**, regarded in Catholic circles as the 11th Pope, to discuss various heresies and not to change the Passover to Easter Sunday, which was already been observed in some areas.

Early church **historian Irenaeus** records, “For neither could Anicetus persuade Polycarp to forego the observance, inasmuch as these things had been always observed by John the disciple of our Lord, and by other apostles with whom he had been conversant; nor, on the other hand, could Polycarp succeed in persuading Anicetus to keep the observance in his way.”

Some twenty years later, the Christian leader Polycrates, who belonged to a family in which he was the eighth Christian bishop; and he presided over the church of Ephesus, would confirm that the Christians of Asia Minor still observed Passover as Polycarp and other great men of God had done. The Catholic Historian Eusebius quotes a letter written by Polycrates where he affirms “We observe the exact day (14th of Nisan); neither adding, nor taking away.”

Here’s the letter:

“As for us, then, we scrupulously observe the exact day, neither adding nor taking away. For in Asia great luminaries have gone to their rest, who shall rise again in the day of the coming of the Lord, when He cometh with glory from heaven and shall raise again all the saints. I speak of Philip, one of the twelve apostles, who is laid to rest at Hierapolis; (continued on the next page)

and his two daughters, who arrived at old age unmarried; his other daughter also, who passed her life under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and reposes at Ephesus; John, moreover, who reclined on the Lord's bosom, and who became a priest wearing the mitre, and a witness and a teacher-he rests at Ephesus.

Then there is **Polycarp**, both bishop and martyr at Smyrna; and **Thraseas** from Eumenia, both bishop and martyr, who rests at Smyrna. Why should I speak of **Sagaris**, bishop and martyr, who rests at Laodicea? of the blessed **Papirius**, moreover? and of **Melito** the eunuch, who performed all his actions under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and lies at Sardis, awaiting the visitation from heaven, when he shall rise again from the dead? These all kept the Passover on the fourteenth. day of the month, in accordance with the Gospel, without ever deviating from it, but keeping to the rule of faith.

Moreover I also, Polycrates, who am the least of you all, in accordance with the tradition of my relatives, some of whom I have succeeded-seven of my relatives were bishops, and I am the eighth, and my relatives always observed the day when the people put away the leaven-I myself, brethren, I say, who am sixty-five years old in the Lord, and have fallen in with the brethren in all parts of the world, and have read through all Holy Scripture, am not frightened at the things which are said to terrify us. For those who are greater than I have said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

I might also have made mention of the bishops associated with me, whom it was your own desire to have called together by me, and I called them together: whose names, if I were to write them down, would amount to a great number. These bishops, on coming to see me, unworthy as I am, signified their united approval of the letter, knowing that I wore these grey hairs not in vain, but have always regulated my conduct in obedience to the Lord Jesus."

So, does the Holy Bible sanction a festival now known as Easter? Not at all. Some people believe Easter and Passover are the same festival, but far from it. Easter has roots in paganism. Have you ever wondered what bunny rabbits or Easter eggs have to do with the death of the Christ? They came from this pagan worship.

What the bible teaches is the **New Testament Passover**; is it any wonder the bible describes Christ as "our Passover?" ([1 Cor. 5:7](#)). Think about it! Ω

For more on this subject click on any of these links: [How was Passover Replaced by Easter](#); [Christ Our Passover](#); [Should Christians Observe Easter?](#) and read our FREE booklets.

THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Patrick Bastien



When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, His intent was to make them a model nation. He wanted them to be a light to the world, so He gave them specific statutes and judgments, and warned Israel to follow His instructions.

God's instructions to Israel included a series of divinely appointed festivals that were to be observed every year. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was one of the seven annual Festivals (or Holy Days) which came right after the Passover. God told Moses,

“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread ... Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.” (Exod. 12:15-17)

Exodus 12:39 further explains,

“And they baked unleavened cakes of dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared previously for themselves.” (Exod. 12:39)

Who Should Keep the Feast?

Today, most people erroneously assume that these biblical Holy Days were only given to the Jews and not required of Christians. However, these people are mistaken!

The Bible clearly reveals that Jesus and His disciples kept the Days of Unleavened Bread (Luke 22:1). Jesus' parents, Joseph and Mary, went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover (Luke 2:41). Furthermore, Jesus Christ often spoke about the significance of leaven, which makes the Feast more meaningful in His plan for humanity.

During His ministry, Jesus used the parable of the loaves and the fishes to explain the significance of leaven and sin to the Pharisees and Sadducees. Notice, Jesus said He didn't speak to them concerning bread. They then understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven in the bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Be aware of the leaven; bad doctrines affect the soul as leaven does in a meal: they assimilate the whole spirit to their own nature. A man's particular creed has a greater influence on his temper and conduct than most are aware. Pride and hypocrisy constituted the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The apostles understood Jesus had warned them against the self-righteousness of the Pharisees, which produced hypocrisy, pride, envy, lust, and the false doctrines of the Sadducees, which denied many essential truths revealed in the Old Testament (Matt. 16:5-12).

Notice how the early church, imitating Christ in His actions, observed the Days of Unleavened Bread.

“Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, where do you want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” (Matt. 26:17)
(continued on the next page)

The apostle Paul kept God's Feasts, referring to the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread while visiting Troas (Acts 20:4-6). During the Feast, Paul taught the same spiritual lessons as Jesus by creating a vivid mental picture, associating sin with leaven.

Notice how Paul rebukes the Corinthian congregation for its division, jealousies, and tolerance of sexual misconduct, using leaven to illustrate sin:

“Your glory is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” he asked. ‘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. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.’” (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

Clearly, we see that leaven represents sin. Obviously, this is a New Testament command for keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread, given to a mostly Gentile church at Corinth.

How are Christians to Keep This Feast?

As we approach Passover and remember Jesus Christ as the supreme sacrifice of the true “unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,” His followers will diligently remove all leaven from their homes because of its representation. The principle is clear, baked products containing leaven (sin) should be discarded. For seven days, they will eat only unleavened products (Lev. 23:6-8).

They will perform this ‘spring cleaning’ while remembering that just as crumbs of leavened bread may have fallen into the hidden corners and secluded areas around their homes, so too sin may be lurking in the hidden quarters of their lives. Indeed, some may be surprised by the places they find leavening agents.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a time for personal reflection and examination. We should meditate on our attitudes and ask God to help us recognize and overcome our shortcomings. Observing the Festival helps us to realize our need for Christ's help to overcome our weaknesses.

Yet, this Feast is certainly a time for rejoicing because Christ freely gives us the help we need. True Christians must get leaven out of their homes and off their property while focusing on the reflected spiritual meaning of completely ridding sin from their lives.

They are to remind themselves they have a continuing responsibility before God to overcome sin, thereby, becoming a new lump (person) for Jesus Christ our Passover (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

Ω

Should the Feast Days Be Kept?



By SOLOMON BLEARY

The feast days and weekly Sabbath stand or fall together. In **Leviticus 23:1**, God uses the possessive pronoun “*MY appointed festivals, the festivals of the LORD*” to show ownership. **Leviticus 23** addresses God’s seven annual holy days and the Sabbath.

Many will say the feast days are just for the Jews, which is a fallacious argument. One must remember that all the laws were given to the Jews. “*To Israel the adoption to sonship; the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship, the promises. The patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah...*” (**Romans 9:4**). All the Sabbaths were given to the Jews; therefore one should not single out one and say the rest are abolished. How will you understand God’s plan of salvation without keeping the holy days?

One argument is that the weekly Sabbath is from creation, but the feast days are not. The moeds, or appointed times, in Genesis **1:14** refer to the feast days. Notice: “*And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times [annual feast days and the weekly Sabbath].’*” The weekly Sabbath and feast days are God’s moeds, or appointed time. Therefore, since we are using the argument of “first mention,” the feast days come before the weekly Sabbath. Once we use “first mention,” we should keep the feast days.

Some argue that the feast days (**Leviticus 23**) are a part of the sacrificial system of the Levites. One large group argues that the Sabbath is different from the holy days; yet, sacrifices were done not only on the holy days but also on the Sabbath (**Numbers 28**).

“*On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, together with its drink offering and a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil. 10 This is the burnt offering for every SABBATH*” (**Numbers 28:9–10**). “*In addition to what you vow and your free-will offerings, offer these to the LORD at your appointed festivals: your burnt offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings, and fellowship offerings... Moses told the Israelites all that the LORD commanded him*” (**Numbers 29:39–40**).

Sacrifices were made on the weekly Sabbath and annual feast days. The same knife that sticks sheep sticks goat. Thank God for Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who became our substitutionary sacrifice for all sacrifice for sin.

Hebrews 7: 24–27 states: “*But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once and for all when he offered himself as the substitutionary sacrifice for us.*” (continued on the next page)

One will argue Jesus' death does away with the feast days because it was a part of the sacrificial system. If that is the case, we should stop keeping the weekly Sabbath because it too is a part of the sacrificial system.

Numbers 28 and **Leviticus 23** mentions all the appointed times—the weekly Sabbath as well as the annual feast days—on which we should come before the Lord to be holy. Therefore, we should not be comfortable keeping only one of God's appointed times; we must keep all of them. God commands that no regular work be done on the weekly Sabbath, and He commands the same for the annual Sabbaths. If we should not keep them, why did God give the same stipulation for the feast days that He gave for the weekly Sabbath?

The next argument is of the eschatological future as we see in the prophecy about the weekly Sabbath and feast days: *“From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another” (Isaiah 66:23). “For if Joshua had given them rest, then there remains, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God” (Hebrews 4:8–9).* These passages are consistent with **Ezekiel 45:21–25** and **Zechariah 14:16**. The former mentions keeping of the Passover and Feast of Tabernacles in the future millennial reign with Christ, and the latter states, *“Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.”*

One should not say that this has passed, because there has never been a time in history that ALL NATIONS have kept the Feast of Tabernacles. Therefore, this must be the age to come, when all people will keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Why pick one of the eight Sabbaths to keep and leave the rest when all the Sabbaths are “holy convocations”?

In **Leviticus 19:3**: *“Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.”* Verse 30 continues, *“Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.”* Here our obedience to God by keeping His holy Sabbaths is associated with our obedience to our parents. God wants us to be obedient to Him, our heavenly Father, as a child is obedient to his parents. How would we be holy to God if we are not obedient in keeping His holy days?

Leviticus 19:2: *“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’”* Abraham was obedient to God. **Genesis 26:5**: *“because Abraham obeyed me and did everything, I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees, and my instructions.”*

The Sabbaths are God's Holy instructions that make us holy (set us apart) to Him. One must remember that each Sabbath has its whole meaning in Jesus Christ. The weekly Sabbath is a reminder of creation (**Genesis 2:2**). The Passover is a reminder of Jesus being our Passover Lamb (**John 1:29**). The Days of Unleavened Bread reminded us that Jesus is the Bread of Life (**John 6:35- 40; 1 Corinthians 5:8**). To receive life, we have to take part of the Bread of Life. Pentecost, which means fiftieth, reminds us of the law given on Mount Sinai (**Exodus 19:18**) and of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:1**). (continued on the next page)

The Feast of Trumpets reminds us that we must be ready for Jesus' return (**Matthew 25:1-13**). Trumpets reminds us that we must keep watch for the return of Jesus. **First Corinthians 15:52**: *"In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed"* (cf., 1 **Thessalonians 4:16**). The Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, reminds us of the day when we will be at-one with God (**Romans 6:5- 10; Revelation 21:3-4**). The Feast of Tabernacles reminded us of God's Kingdom on the earth (**Acts 1:2; Zechariah 14:4, 16, 19**).

These are the new meanings of the feast days with Christ as the centre. Therefore, we do not keep the feast days with the same meaning as the Jews; we keep them with Jesus in mind. The feast days for the Jews were about the harvest. However, today the feast days are about the harvest of mankind with Jesus being the First that the Father raised from the dead (**1Corinthians 15:23**).

The meaning of the Sabbath and holy days have changed. The weekly Sabbath is about the rest we share, both now and in the future, in Christ (**Hebrews 4:8**). The holy days contain the plan of salvation. The Father is harvesting man from the "second death." The second death is described in **Revelation 20:13-14**: *"The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death."*

The plan pictured in the Sabbath and holy days is all about saving man from death. For us, the Passover is not a remembrance of the slaying of the firstborn in Egypt or the exodus that followed; the new "Passover" we take is Christocentric—Christ is at the centre. It is He who is now our sacrifice, our Passover Lamb. **John 1:29**: *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"* **Hebrews 10:12-14** states that Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for all time and that He sat down at the right hand of God after making the sacrifice.

If Jesus did not want us to keep the feast days, He would not send the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Look at what Jesus commands, knowing very well the people would understand what He meant. **Acts 1:3-5**: *"He appeared to them over forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"*

Why would Jesus tell them to wait if He did not want them to keep the Feast of Pentecost? In Acts 2:1, once the Day of Pentecost had arrived, the Holy Spirit was given and the Church was founded. Acts 2:1, 4: *"When the day of Pentecost fully came, they were all together in one place.... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."* Why did God add a new meaning to a feast that they should not keep? It would seem that if He did not want them to keep it, He would have waited until Pentecost passed before sending His Spirit. The fact that He gave His Spirit at Pentecost indicates He wants us to keep it. (continued on the next page)

Remember **Matthew 5:17**: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”* The question is, what did Christ abolish? The physical sacrifice system of animals. Nonetheless, Jesus Christ is now the perpetual sacrifice that encompasses the entire sacrificial system the Jews made to God. Therefore, now the sacrifices continue in Christ because His sacrifice serves as a sacrifice today for those who come to believe in Him. So those laws are still there in Christ. See **Hebrews 9 and 10**. In **Matthew 5:18**, Christ, who is now the sacrificial lamb for all, says, *“I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

One thing that is not yet accomplished is our resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15: 20-23**); this is what the feast days look forward to. **Acts 15:21**: *“The law of Moses was preached in every city and read in synagogues on every Sabbath.”* Here one might argue the weekly Sabbath was kept but not the feast days. But what was the “law of Moses” that was preached every Sabbath? This must be the Torah, the five books of the law. For believers in Jesus, the Torah carried powerful Christological meanings. In **John 5:46-47**, Jesus says, *“If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”* Simply put if you do not believe in Moses how are you going to believe what Jesus said?

First Corinthians 5:6-8: *“Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival.”* Here Paul gave a direct command—“let us keep the Festival”—not only to keep the Passover but also the Days of Unleavened Bread. This is consistent with **Matthew 26:17**: *“On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?’”*

The “Passover” and the “Days of Unleavened Bread” and “Festival” are used interchangeably. Therefore, we cannot keep one and not keep the others. Paul said in **Acts 24:14, 16**, *“I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets.... So, we can always strive to keep a clear conscience before God and man.”* Holiness is what God requires from us. We must return to the Law and Prophets and uncover the Christological meaning and importance of the holy days.

By now the dust should be settled and the path made clear—we should keep the feast days. But what about **Colossians 2:16** and **Galatians 4:10**? I will do a thorough exegesis of these scriptures. Let us look at Paul’s missionary journey 20 years after Jesus’ death. Keep in mind all the scriptures (**Acts 16:13; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Acts 2:1; Acts 20:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Acts 27:9; Zechariah 14:16**) implying the feast days were kept after Christ and in the Millennium. Remember that 20 years would have passed from Jesus’ death. Why would Paul mention the feast days if the New Testament Christian should not be keeping them? (continued on the next page)

In **John 7:2-14**, Jesus is keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. The feasts are the appointed times in Scripture that we must come before the Lord to be made holy by Him.

Amos 5:21-22: *“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.”* One would read this and go away thinking God hates His feast days. The problem was not with the feast days, but with the people.

Amos 5:25-26: *“Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, the star of your god which you made for yourselves.”*

The problem was not the feast days; it was mixed worship of idols and gods. **Isaiah 1:13-14:** *“Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths, and convocations I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. I hate Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals with all my being.”* If we are saying God hates the feast days, here too God hates the Sabbaths. Therefore, it could not be about the Sabbaths or feast days; it would be the people worshiping idols and false gods that is the problem.

The New Testament Christians kept the Sabbath and FEAST DAYS long after Jesus' death. In **1 Corinthians 5:8**, why would Paul advise the Corinthians church, *“therefore keep the festival of the feast,”* if they weren't keeping it?

A last-ditch argument against feast-keeping is that the feast days are not codified in the Ten Commandments like the weekly Sabbath. For some who argue this way, we reply with this question: Tithing is not a part of the Ten Commandments, so why do you collect tithes? We have to be consistent. **Genesis 1:14, Numbers 28, and Leviticus 23** are all codifications of the weekly Sabbath and feast days. Therefore, **Exodus 20** and **Leviticus 23** show mankind how we should keep His Sabbaths.

God gives His feast days to call out people. In **John 6:44**, Jesus says, *“No man comes to Me unless the Father who sends, He draws him.”* Christ is coming back for a Commandment-keeping people (**Revelation 12:17**). If we are not commandment-keeping people, how will we be saved and be a part of the first resurrection?

Revelation 20: 4-6: *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them.”* This is what the feast days are all about—our deliverance, through the redemptive work of Christ, from the second death.

Ω



SEEING GOD

Through the Eyes of a Child

infuse
Spring 2007

By June Rush

Every Christian mother knows what it feels like when her child looks up at her and asks, "Mommy, Where did God come from?"

When my son was small, he was taught about God. He would listen very intently to every word I read him from the Bible or his Bible study lessons from church. One day while we were going through one of his lessons, he asked me that question, the question about God's existence, that I really didn't have an answer for.

He said, "Mommy, if God made me and you and Daddy, then who made God?" I told him that God had always existed. "But how?" He wanted to know. It gets to the point that we as parents have to admit that we don't have all the answers for our children. We don't know how He came into existence. He has always been there since before the beginning of time.

God doesn't expect us as His children to know all things. All He expects of us is to become like little children. Children look to their parents as a god to them, until they reach a certain age of understanding. They expect us to give them protection, heal their wounds, and take care of their every need, to feed them when they are hungry, and give them a drink when they are thirsty.

The Bible tells us in **Mark 10:13- 16**, "**People were bringing little children to Him to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them. 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.' 'I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never inherit it.' And He took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.**"

The Bible tells us, unless we become like little children, we will never inherit the Kingdom of God. Children are teachable and begin learning from a very young age that will mold them into what God wants them to be. To see God as a little child is the beginning of our spiritual walk with God.

Luke 2:41-52, we read "**Every year his parents went up to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.**" **When Jesus was twelve years old they went up to the feast (according to the custom). After the feast was over while his parents were returning home, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking He was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among relatives and friends. When they did not find Him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him. After three days they found**

Him in the temple courts sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us like this?' Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you. 'Why were you searching for me, he asked?' 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?'"

When a child is learning to walk he is unstable and falls over and over again. He never stays where he falls, but picks himself up and starts all over again. After awhile the falls become less and less.

The same is true with us as parents. We fall in our spiritual lives, but instead of quitting, we have to start anew. **Luke 2:52**, "**And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men.**"

We, as parents, are to set the right example for our children, teaching them the right Godly principles with love and compassion, teaching them to put others' needs before their own and to love everyone, regardless of who he may be or what church he attends.

The fathers need to be there while their children are growing up to set an example of how the children should treat their mother and show respect for her, as she does him. Then when they grow up they will treat their own mates with love and respect.

Pray together as a family, live, laugh and love each other. Think of the others' needs before your own. God promises us He will never leave or forsake us. Are you as a child of God growing in knowledge of His Word and teaching it to your children?

The Bible says to, "**train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.**" He may go out when he is young and become part of the world, but he will always return to the basics of what his father and mother have taught him.

Are you as parents putting all your trust in the Lord, just as your little child does in you? Or are you falling short of this responsibility that God has given you?

Our children are on loan to us, they really belong to God. Learn to love and trust in God as your little child trusts in you. Become a reflection of Him, so your child can be a reflection of you. After all God is the greatest parent that will ever exist. Ω

David Townson

BLOG

February 2026

How can we understand what is going on in the western world?

God said He would punish Israel for their disobedience.

This applies to modern Israel talking about the 10 tribes who are now located in most of the western world.

So much is going on that it is not possible for one person to fully understand.

It takes time for civilization to crumble and collapse. It does not happen instantly. It happens gradually as set out in **Isaiah 30:12-13**

**12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: “Because you despise this word,
And trust in oppression and perversity, And rely on them,
13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you Like a breach ready to fall,
A bulge in a high wall, Whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant.**

There are people in this world - not believers, who are alarmed by changes in their area of expertise and knowledge. You can try to build a picture about what is going on by connecting to these people. Accumulation of this knowledge provides a more complete picture. What follows is a list of those people who can be found on **YouTube**.

Canada:

Northern Perspective

Moose on the Loose

ELV8 Podcast

Brian Lilley of the Toronto Sun

Jasmine Laine - Overopinionated!

Candice Malcolm Show

Juno News

China

Lei's Real Talk- Analysis of the Politics of China

Demographics:

Peter Zeihan

Logistics

What is going on with shipping?

Health-Medical

Dr. John Campbell

Chris Martensen

(continued on the next page)

Woke

Jordan Peterson
Douglas Murray
Triggernometry

History

Victor Davis Hanson
The Rest is History

David Starkey

The Creation

John Lennox

Science

Sabina Hossenfelder

Economics

Coin Bureau Finance

Weather

Ryan Hall

THE MIDDLE EAST

TOUSI TV

These will give you a picture of what is going on in various areas.

You can determine which areas are of interest to you and explore the moving parts of The Massive Change that is taking place before our eyes...

2 Corinthians 2:8-11

**Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him (the offender).
For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are
obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*.
For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one
for your sakes in the presence of Christ,
lest Satan should take advantage of us;
for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

I do not pretend that all these people are correct all the time but they provide significant insights on what is happening in The Western World! Ω



EVANGELISM 2026 UPDATE

CGIC Online Ministry Education Initiative

CGIC will be initiating an Online Ministry Education Initiative.

The Program will consist of 4 Modules:

- Module 1: Biblical Hermeneutics
- Module 2: Homiletics (Preaching and Teaching)
- Module 3: Church Administration and Leadership
- Module 4: Pastoral Counseling and Care

Duration: 4–8 weeks total (depending on pacing.)

Delivery Mode: Online (Live or Hybrid)

Weekly Time Commitment per Module: 4 hours

- 2 hours Lecture
- 2 hours Tutorial / Practical Application

Target Audience: Emerging pastors, Speakers, emerging speakers, Deacons, church leaders, ministry interns.

Program Completion:

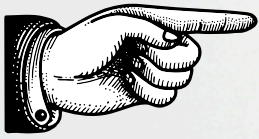
- Assessment based on participation, practical exercises, short assignments.

A Certificate of Completion will be issued upon successful participation in all modules.

(continued on the next page)



CGIC Online Ministry Education Initiative



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

DON'T WAIT - REGISTER TODAY!!

Module 1: Biblical Hermeneutics Begins soon!

To REGISTER, please click the link and send your Name and Telephone # to this email: training@cgicanada.org
For more information call Tel#: 226-289-2100

Module 1: Biblical Hermeneutics

Objective: Equip students with sound principles for interpreting Scripture accurately and responsibly.

Sunday March 15, 2026 - Lecture (1 ½ Hours):

- Definition and purpose of hermeneutics
- Historical, grammatical, and literary contexts
- Old Testament vs. New Testament interpretation
- Genre analysis (narrative, poetry, prophecy, epistle, apocalyptic)
- Common interpretive errors and how to avoid them
- Christ-centered interpretation

Sunday March 22, 2026 - Tutorial / Workshop (1 ½ Hours):

- Guided text interpretation (OT and NT passages)
- Contextual analysis exercises
- Group discussion on difficult or controversial texts
- Short exegetical assignment review

Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret biblical texts using established hermeneutical principles.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Deborah Mac Ausland's journey to find the right church finally came to an end when she joined the Kitchener congregation in 2013. Deborah was born at the RCAF station Zweibrucken in Germany in 1964. She now resides in Kitchener.

Her diverse background includes serving in the air reserves and working as an art and math tutor. She is currently enrolled in the honour science program at Wilfred Laurier University.

Deborah's many hobbies include photography, multimedia art including painting and rock collecting. She also enjoys hiking, weightlifting, attending dog, horse and air shows, this showcases her love for adventure and creativity.

Birth Announcement

from Shelly and Mike Morris, CGI Kitchener



Welcome to the world my little miracle baby. Our sweet Leo Douglas Morris surprised us by coming at only 28 weeks and 5 days on Jan. 27/2026. At a small but mighty 3 lbs 2 ounces this boy is the true definition of a fighter. Thank you to all of my loved ones who have been praying for us and sending your love. My boys are the most beautiful things I have ever seen. Mike and I are so in love with this amazing little family we have been blessed with 🤔 ✨ Praise God for all of His power and guardian angels He has gifted us with 🙏

Is the **New Testament Passover/LORD Supper** just a meaningless ritual that we partake in yearly if we feel like doing so? Or is it a command from God?

If we don't take the Passover, then what?

As the spring Holy Day season approaches, you are invited to a special presentation,

'Why Do You Need the New Testament Passover?'

on Wednesday March 25th, 8 PM - 9 PM

Join us online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83766598048?pwd=eWVMbUhrUVBYdUlxTWtKNkREWSszQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 6659 8048

Passcode: 512300

One tap mobile

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+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

FOR WHENEVER YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26



What is the future of Christianity in Canada?

Join CGI Burlington's **KEEPING WATCH PODCAST**
For a Three-Part Series on Christianity In Canada

For more info, click on these video links:

- [adavis s Video - 2026 \(1\).mp4](#)
- [Christianity-in-Canada-Is-Changing-All_Dates.mp4](#)
- [Christianity_In_Canada_20Seconds_March_7.mp4](#)



Our Most Important Outreach!?!

Every Week, a TRUE Christian perspective

On World events & Key topics

**** CLICK HERE ****

For all recent episodes





QUESTIONS THAT MATTER

CANADA IS CHANGING – HOW WILL BELIEVERS RESPOND?



75%

Say It's Harder to Be Christian in Public



50%

Drop in Church Attendance (Last 10 Years)



62%

Believe Feelings > Morals & Truth



68%

Worry About Sharing Faith



FAITH & CULTURE

- 1. Where Do You Stand?**
When Faith Meets Culture?
- 2. What Does Conviction Look Like?**
In Today's Canada?
- 3. Tradition or Truth?**
What Should We Hold Onto?
- 4. Speak Out or Stay Silent?**
Wisdom or Surrender?



CHURCH & DISCIPLESHIP

- 1. Adapting or Drifting?**
Faithful or Falling Away?
- 2. What Does Faithfulness Cost?**
Are We Willing to Pay the Price?
- 3. Believers or Consumers?**
What Are We Raising?
- 4. Discipleship in a Digital Age?**
Are We Ready?



TRUTH & GRACE

- 1. Who Defines Truth?**
Bible or Culture?
- 2. Stand Firm with Grace?**
Conviction + Compassion?
- 3. Compromise for Approval?**
Worth the Cost?
- 4. Truth Without Hostility?**
Love in Action?



WITNESS & INFLUENCE

- 1. Reacting or Leading?**
Be Salt & Light?
- 2. Shape Society?**
Influence Policy & Culture?
- 3. Attendance or Impact?**
Real Life Change?
- 4. Where Has God Called You?**
Speak Up Now!

COURAGE & CONVICTION

- 1. Ready for Pressure?**
Stand Firm in Faith?
- 2. Next Faithful Step?**
What Will You Do?
- 3. Real Revival?**
What Would It Take?
- 4. Watch or Act?**
Write the Future!

THE TIME IS NOW.
STAY INFORMED. STAND STRONG. TAKE ACTION.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION >

A PERIOD FOR SELF EXAMINATION...

During this time of the calendar year, we usually ask the brethren to begin a period of self-examination leading up to the New Testament Passover/LORD Supper (March 31).

1 Corinthians 11:28, advises us, *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup," to ensure they are discerning the Lord's body, lest they bring judgment on themselves."*



SPRING HOLY DAY SEASON 2026

PASSOVER: Tues. March 31 @ 7 PM - 10 PM
(Remember to take a basin and a towel)

NIGHT TO BE MUCH REMEMBERED: Wed. April 1 @ sunset (in homes)

FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD: Thurs. April 2 @ 1:30 PM
(Puslinch Community Centre)

LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD: Wed. April 8 @ 1:30 PM
(Puslinch Community Centre)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY!

March Sabbath Service

Toronto

March 7 - Victor Paron
March 14 - Dwight Chin
March 21 - Bernard Wilson
March 28 - Courtney Edwards
March 31 - Passover Service -
Bernard Wilson @ Puslinch
Community Centre

Kitchener

March 7 - Rick Dubler
March 14 - Bernard Wilson
March 21 - Kenroy Allen
March 28 - Adam Dubler
March 31 - Passover Service -
Puslinch Community Centre

London

March 7 - Heinrich Peters
March 14 - Rick Dubler
March 21 - Mel Rahel
March 28 - Bernard Wilson
March 31 - Passover Service -
Heinrich Peters

Kawartha Lakes

March 7 - Taped Sermon
March 14 - Stephan Willshaw
March 21 - Taped Sermon
March 28 - Jim French
March 31 - Passover Service -
Stephan Willshaw

Burlington

March 7 - Adrian Davis &
Jan Kowalczyk
March 14 - Adrian Davis &
Jan Kowalczyk
March 21 - Adrian Davis &
Jan Kowalczyk
March 28 - Adrian Davis
March 31 - Passover Service -
Puslinch Community Centre

Ottawa

March 7 - Taped Sermon
March 14 - David Townson
March 21 - Jim French
March 28 - Taped Sermon
March 31 - Passover Service -
Jim French & David Townson

Oshawa

March 7 - Taped Sermon
March 14 - Jim French
March 21 - Taped Sermon
March 28 - Larry Arnburg
March 31 - Passover Service

For more info - see the
Congregation websites
@ Cgicanada.org



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