

First Corinthians, Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

An Outline

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1. The following is a brief outline of an article I am working on dealing with the themes of Passover and Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:5-8) found in the apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.
2. In chapter five, Paul refers to "Christ, our Passover" (5:7, All scripture quotations are from the *New King James Version*), and to keeping "the feast . . . with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (5:8).
3. Throughout this letter, Paul makes six references to the fact that the Corinthians were either "puffed up" or should avoid being "puffed up" or "arrogant" depending on the translation used (4:6, 18, 19; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4). Based on the context of 5:2; "puffed up" is a reference to the "leaven [bread] of malice and wickedness" (see 5:1-8).
4. Paul writes in chapter ten about Israel's crossing of the Red Sea (10:1-2), which happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:6-8; Num. 33:1-8).
5. Also, in chapter ten, mention is made of the New Covenant Passover symbols of bread and wine (10:16-17).
6. In chapter eleven Paul gives instructions to the Corinthians on how to properly observe the New Covenant Passover (11:23-34).
7. In chapters twelve and fourteen, Paul addresses the use of the gifts of the Spirit. The apostle John's account of Jesus' final Passover, records Christ's teachings about the need for the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15).
8. In chapter thirteen, commonly known as the "love chapter" Paul writes about the importance of love (13:1-13). During His final Passover, Jesus also spoke about the importance of love (John 13:34, 35; 15:12, 17).
9. Finally, Paul in chapter fifteen addresses the significance of Christ's resurrection to salvation (15:1-23). As we know from reading the four Gospel accounts, Jesus' resurrection occurred during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.