

Message Eight

The Appearance of the Kingdom of the Heavens (1)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 13:24-43.

I. The parable of the tares reveals the establishment of the kingdom and its false constituents—13:24-30, 36-43.

- A. The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed are the sons of the kingdom, and the tares, the false believers, are the sons of the evil one—vv. 37-38.
- B. The kingdom of the heavens was established with the sons of the kingdom, the wheat, but the sons of the evil one, the tares, grew up to alter the situation; The sons of the kingdom constitute the kingdom, and the sons of the evil one have formed the outward appearance of the kingdom, today's Christendom—v. 38.
- C. Throughout the New Testament we see the growth and development of the tares—Acts 20:29-30; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Gal. 2:4-5; Phil. 3:2; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:14-15; Heb. 12:15; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 John 2:18-19; 2 John 7; Jude 4, 8-16; Rev. 2:2b.
- D. In the eyes of God, the tares are exceedingly evil; the judgment upon the tares will be very serious because they have been confusing, frustrating, and damaging God's economy—Matt. 13:30, 40-42.
- E. Satan sowed tares among the wheat to frustrate the life of the wheat from growing—vv. 25-30; cf. v. 33; 1 Cor. 10:16-17.

II. In Matthew 13:31-32 we have a parable telling of the abnormal development of the outward appearance of the kingdom of the heavens:

- A. Satan is very subtle in changing the principle of life to make the mustard seed grow not according to its kind—v. 32:
 - 1. According to the law of God's creation, every plant must be according to its kind—Gen. 1:11-12.
 - 2. The mustard seed should become an herb to produce proper food for people, but Satan made it a tree to become a lodging place for so many birds (evil persons, spirits, and things)—Matt. 13:32.
 - 3. Because the nature of the mustard seed was changed, it is no longer an herb to feed people but a tree to lodge birds; this great tree is today's Christendom—cf. Dan. 4:4-26.
- B. The parable of the mustard seed corresponds to the third of the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3—the church in Pergamos, which signifies the church in union with the world and becoming monstrously great—2:12-17.
- C. The great tree in Matthew 13 will be fully developed into Babylon the Great, which is full of leaven, pollution, corruption, and all kinds of evil things—Rev. 18:2.

III. Matthew 13:33-35 shows us the inward corruption of the outward appearance of the kingdom.

- A. The church, as the practical kingdom of the heavens, with Christ, the unleavened fine flour, as its content, must be a loaf of unleavened bread—1 Cor. 5:7-8:
 - 1. However, the woman, signifying the Catholic Church, added leaven (signifying evil, heretical, and pagan things) into the fine flour (signifying Christ as the meal offering for the satisfaction of God and man)—cf. Lev. 2:4-5, 11.
 - 2. This woman is the great harlot of Revelation 17, who mixes abominations with the divine things; Jezebel, the pagan wife of Ahab, is a type of this apostate church—vv. 4-6; 1 Kings 16:31; 19:1-2; 21:23, 25-26; 2 Kings 9:7.
 - 3. The Catholic Church has fully leavened in a hidden way all the teachings concerning Christ; the Lord wants to recover all the leavened truths—cf. Gen. 18:6; Matt. 15:3; John 18:37-38.

4. Such leavening is absolutely against the Scriptures, which strongly forbid putting any leaven into the meal offering—Lev. 2:4-5, 11.
 - B. The Lord Jesus warned us to beware of the leavens of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herod—Matt. 16:6, 12; Mark 8:15; cf. Luke 12:1.
 1. The Pharisees were filled with the leaven of hypocrisy, ambition, and pride—Matt. 23:6-7, 13-15, 23, 25-32; Rev. 17:4.
 2. The Sadducees were filled with the leaven of denying resurrection, angels, and spirits, like today's modernists—Acts 23:8.
 3. The leaven of Herod is the corruption and injustice in politics—Mark 6:26-27; Rev. 17:1-2.
 - C. The enemy Satan has corrupted the church by leavening the church—Acts 5:1-11, 6:1; 1Cor. 5:1-8; 1Tim. 1:3-4; Col. 2:16; Acts 15:1-2; Gal. 6:15; Acts 11:2-3; Gal. 2:12-13; 1:14; Col. 2:8, 20-23; Rev. 2:18-29; 3:1-6; Col. 3:10-11; Gal. 5:19-21.
 - D. We need to enjoy Christ as our unleavened banquet, the reality of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for the entire period of our Christian life—1Cor. 5:7-8; Exo. 12:15-20.
- IV. The picture of Christendom in Matthew 13, given in a prophetic way, unveils the real situation of today's deformed and degraded Christianity.**
- A. As a religious system, Christianity is deformed from the form of the revelation in the holy Word and is also degraded—Eph. 3:3-11; 2 Tim. 2:19-21:
 - B. We should stay away from the practice of deformed and degraded Christianity and come back to the divine revelation for the Lord's recovery—Matt. 16:18.

Message Eight

Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 13:24-43. **24** Another parable He set before them, saying, The kingdom of the heavens has become like a man sowing good seed in his field. **25** But while the men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares in the midst of the wheat and went away. **26** And when the blade sprouted and produced fruit, then the tares appeared also. **27** And the slaves of the master of the house came and said to him, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where then did the tares come from? **28** And he said to them, An enemy has done this. And the slaves said to him, Do you want us then to go and collect them? **29** But he said, No, lest while collecting the tares, you uproot the wheat along with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Collect first the tares and bind them into bundles to burn them up, but the wheat gather into my barn.

31 Another parable He set before them, saying, The kingdom of the heavens is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, **32** And which is smaller than all the seeds; but when it has grown, it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of heaven come and roost in its branches.

33 Another parable He spoke to them: The kingdom of the heavens is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened. **34** All these things Jesus spoke in parables to the crowds, and apart from a parable He spoke nothing to them, **35** So that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world."

36 Then, leaving the crowds, He went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable of the tares of the field clear to us. **37** And He answered and said, He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; **38** And the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; **39** And the enemy who sowed them is the devil; and the harvest is the consummation of the age; and the reapers are angels. **40** Therefore just as the tares are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the consummation of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will collect out of His kingdom all the stumbling blocks and those who practice lawlessness, **42** And will cast them into the furnace of fire. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

I.

Acts 20:29-30. **29** I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** And from among you yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverted things to draw away the disciples after them.

Rom. 16:17-18. **17** Now I exhort you, brothers, to mark those who make divisions and causes of stumbling contrary to the teaching which you have learned, and turn away from them. **18** For such men do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach, and through smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

2 Cor. 11:13-15. **13** For such ones are false apostles, deceitful workers, transfiguring themselves into apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder, for Satan himself transfigures himself into an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is no great thing if also his ministers transfigure themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Gal. 2:4-5. **4** And this, because of the false brothers, brought in secretly, who stole in to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into slavery. **5** To them we yielded with the subjection demanded not even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

Phil. 3:2. Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the concision.

1 Tim. 1:19-20. **19** Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith; **20** Of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan that they may be disciplined not to blaspheme.

2 Tim. 4:14-15. **14** Alexander the coppersmith did many evil things to me; the Lord will recompense him according to his works. **15** You also guard against him, for he greatly opposed our words.

Heb. 12:15. Looking carefully lest anyone fall away from the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and through this many be defiled;

2 Pet. 2:1-3. 1 But there arose also false prophets among the people, as also among you there will be false teachers, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled. **3** And in covetousness, with fabricated words, they will make merchandise of you, for whom the judgment of old is not idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

1 John 2:18-19. 18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out that they might be manifested that they all are not of us.

2 John 7 For many deceivers went out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Jude 4, 8-16. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who of old have been written of beforehand for this judgment, ungodly men, perverting the grace of our God into licentiousness and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. **8** Nevertheless in like manner these dreamers also defile the flesh and despise lordship and revile dignities. **9** But Michael the archangel, when he contended with the devil and disputed concerning the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a reviling judgment against him but said, The Lord rebuke you. **10** But these revile the things that they do not know; and the things that they understand naturally, like animals without reason, in these they are being corrupted. **11** Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain and have rushed out in the error of Balaam for reward and have perished in the rebellion of Korah. **12** These are the hidden reefs in your love feasts, feasting together with you without fear, shepherding themselves; waterless clouds being carried off by winds; autumn trees without fruit, having died twice, rooted up; **13** Wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shames; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness is kept for eternity. **14** And Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied also of these, saying, Behold, the Lord came with myriads of His saints **15** To execute judgment against all and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly works which they have done in ungodliness, and concerning all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him. **16** These are murmurers, complainers, going on according to their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling things, flattering persons for the sake of advantage.

Rev. 2:2b. I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false

1 Cor. 10:16-17. 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ? **17** Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

II

Gen. 1:11-12. 11 And God said, Let the earth sprout grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit according to their kind with their seed in them upon the earth; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed according to their kind, and trees bearing fruit with their seed in them according to their kind; and God saw that it was good.

Dan. 4:9-12, 26. 9 O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery troubles you, here are the visions of my dream that I have seen; now tell me its interpretation. **10** Now these were the visions of my head upon my bed: I was watching and there was a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. **11** The tree grew great and became strong, And its height reached to heaven, And the sight of it to the end of all the earth. **12** Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, And the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches; And all flesh fed from it.

26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

Rev. 2:12-17. I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false

Rev. 18:2. I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false

III

1 Cor. 5:7-8. **7** Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed. **8** So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Lev. 2:4-5, 11. **4** And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil or unleavened wafers anointed with oil. **5** And if your offering is a meal offering baked on a flat plate, it shall be of fine flour mingled with oil, unleavened. **11** No meal offering that you present to Jehovah shall be made with leaven, for you shall not burn any leaven or any honey as an offering by fire to Jehovah.

Rev. 17:4-6. **4** And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the unclean things of her fornication. **5** And on her forehead there was a name written, MYSTERY, Babylon The Great, The MOTHER Of The HARLOTS And The ABOMINATIONS Of The EARTH. **6** And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And I marveled with great marvel when I saw her.

1 Kings 16:31. And as if it were a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took as his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshipped him.

1 Kings 19:1-2. **1** And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and all about how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. **2** And Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, The gods do so to me and even more, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like the life of one of them!

1 Kings 21:23, 25-26. **23** And concerning Jezebel, Jehovah also spoke, saying, The dogs will eat Jezebel by the rampart of Jezreel. **25** (Indeed there was none like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of Jehovah because Jezebel his wife urged him on. **26** And he acted very abominably in going after idols, according to all that the Amorites did, whom Jehovah had dispossessed before the children of Israel.)

2 Kings 9:7. And you shall strike the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of My servants the prophets and the blood of all the servants of Jehovah at the hand of Jezebel.

Gen. 18:6. And Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, Quickly prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it, and make cakes.

Matt. 15:3. And He answered and said to them, Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?

John 18:37-38. **37** Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears My voice. **38** Pilate said to Him, What is truth? And having said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, I find no fault in Him.

Matt. 16:6. And Jesus said to them, Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matt. 16:12. Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mark 8:15. And He charged them, saying, Watch! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.

Luke 12:1. Meanwhile, when the myriads of the crowd were gathered together so that they trampled on one another, He began to say to His disciples first, Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Matt. 23:6-7, 13-15, 23, 25-32. **6** And they love the place of honor at the dinners and the chief seats in the synagogues **7** And the salutations in the marketplaces and to be called by men, Rabbi. **13** But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you close off the kingdom of the heavens in the face of men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to enter. **14** But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour the widows' houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers. For this reason you shall receive greater judgment. **15** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you go about the sea and the dry land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of Gehenna as yourselves. **23** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you give a tenth of the mint and the anise and the cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law -- justice and mercy and faithfulness. But these you should have done and not neglected the others. **25** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but inwardly they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. **26** Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup and the dish so that their outside also may become clean. **27** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you resemble whitewashed graves, which outwardly appear beautiful but inwardly are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. **28** So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. **29** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build up the graves of the prophets and adorn the tombs of the righteous, **30** And say, If we had been there in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. **31** So then you testify against yourselves that you are the sons of those who murdered the prophets. **32** And you, fill up the measure of your fathers!

Rev. 17:4. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the unclean things of her fornication.

Acts 23:8. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel nor spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.

Mark 6:26-27. **26** And the king was very grieved, yet because of the oaths and those reclining at table, he did not want to refuse her. **27** And immediately the king sent a guard and ordered him to bring his head. And he went out and beheaded him in the prison,

Rev. 17:1-2. **1** And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits upon the many waters, **2** With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and those who dwell on the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Acts 5:1-11. **1** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property **2** And put aside for himself some of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it. And he brought some part of it and laid it at the feet of the apostles. **3** But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to deceive the Holy Spirit and to put aside for yourself some of the proceeds of the land? **4** While it remained, was it not your own? And when it was sold, was it not under your authority? Why is it that you have contrived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God. **5** And when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and expired; and great fear came upon all those who heard this. **6** And the young men arose and wrapped him up; and carrying him out, they buried him. **7** And it happened that after an interval of about three hours, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. **8** And Peter answered her, Tell me whether you have sold the land for this much? And she said, Yes, for this much. **9** And Peter said to her, Why is it that it was agreed between you two to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out. **10** And she fell down instantly at his feet and expired. And the young men came in and found her dead; and carrying her out, they buried her with her husband. **11** And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all those who heard these things.

Acts 6:1. And in these days, as the disciples were multiplying in number, a murmuring of the Hellenists against the Hebrews occurred, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily dispensing.

1 Cor. 5:1-8. **1** It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication that does not even occur among the Gentiles, that someone has his stepmother. **2** And you are puffed up? And have you not rather mourned, that the one who has done this deed might be removed from your midst? **3** For I, on my part, though being absent in the body but present in the spirit, have already judged, as if being present, him who has thus done this, **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you and my spirit have been assembled, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **5** To deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. **6** Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? **7** Purge out

the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed. **8** So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Tim. 1:3-4. 3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things **4** Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

Col. 2:16. Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath

Acts 15:1-2. 1 And certain men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers, Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved. **2** And when no little dissension and discussion with them came about through Paul and Barnabas, the brothers directed Paul and Barnabas and certain others among them to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem concerning this question.

Gal. 6:15. For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.

Acts 11:2-3. 2 And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision disputed with him, **3** Saying, You went in to men who are uncircumcised and ate with them.

Gal. 2:12-13. 12 For before some came from James, he continually ate with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to shrink back and separate himself, fearing those of the circumcision. **13** And the rest of the Jews also joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was carried away in their hypocrisy.

Col. 2:8, 20-23. 8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ; **20** If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances: **21** Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch, **22** (Regarding things which are all to perish when used) according to the commandments and teachings of men? **23** Such things indeed have a reputation of wisdom in self-imposed worship and lowliness and severe treatment of the body, but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Rev. 2:18-29. 18 And to the messenger of the church in Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God, He who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like shining bronze: **19** I know your works and love and faith and service and your endurance and that your last works are more than the first.

Rev. 3:1-6. 1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead. **2** Become watchful and establish the things which remain, which were about to die; for I have found none of your works completed before My God. **3** Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you. **4** But you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they will walk with Me in white because they are worthy. **5** He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. **6** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Col. 3:10-11. 10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, cythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Gal. 5:19-21. 19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20** Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, **21** Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Cor. 5:7-8. 7 Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed. **8** So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Exo. 12:15-20. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off

from Israel. **16** And on the first day you shall have a holy convocation, and on the seventh day a holy convocation. No work at all shall be done on them, except to prepare what every person will eat, that alone may be done by you. **17** And you shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall keep this day throughout your generations as a perpetual statute. **18** In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty- first day of the month in the evening. **19** For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses. For whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the assembly of Israel, whether a sojourner or a native of the land. **20** You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.

IV

Eph. 3:3-11. **3** That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief, **4** By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, **5** Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit, **6** That in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel, **7** Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me according to the operation of His power. **8** To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel **9** And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been chidden in God, who created all things, **10** In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church, **11** According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

2 Tim. 2:19-21. **19** However the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness. **20** But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor. **21** If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

Matt. 16:18. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.