

THE 7TH DAY – ONLY THE BEGINNING

Our Father in heaven, yours is the greatness, and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Help us to set our heart and our soul to seek you while you may be found. We have gathered together in your name according to your command to receive your instruction of truth with joy and thanksgiving for your faithfulness. We are completely dependent upon you. Thank you for the things that you are working out in our lives. We rely upon your Holy Spirit to energize us and keep us as your servants in close communication with you in prayer, and study. We ask for discernment of your truth with a contrite heart and daily renewal of your Holy Spirit.

We are reaching out to this world with your gospel and warning message to repent and turn back to you before the hour of your judgment comes upon this world. We desire to do those things pleasing in your sight. We bring to you those who have not come today for one reason or another that you will work with them, because you love each and every one of us. We all need to repent, and we all need to change and not be offended at one another. If we are offended, it means that we do not love your law, because you have said, great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them. We look to you for instruction, inspiration and direction and power to overcome. It is not by physical power or might, but by your spirit that we will conquer and overcome. Let us humble ourselves in your sight. Fill us with the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the Holy Spirit that we need to endure to the end, so that we will not be shaken by the world around us and the things that are coming. Help us stand with our eyes fixed on you and love you with the entirety of our mind, heart, soul and strength. Thank you Eternal God for calling us in such a time and such a place that we might be your servants. Blessed be your name forever. Amen!

Leviticus 23:6-8—Today is the 21st day of April and the 21st day of Nisan/Abib. Nisan 21st of the 7th day of unleavened bread is a commanded holy day on which we are to worship together. Today is a holy convocation.⁴ “These are the feasts of the Lord; holy convocations which you shall proclaim in their seasons.⁵ In the 14th day of the first month at even is the Lord’s Passover.⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: **seven days you must eat unleavened bread.**⁷ In the *first day* you shall have a holy convocation: you shall do no servile work therein.⁸ In the *seventh day* is a holy convocation: you shall do no servile (customary) work therein.” We conclude the Feast of Unleavened Bread this day (#7) at sunset.

Exodus 12—God gives Moses the beginning of the Hebrew year and the command to sacrifice the Lord’s Passover lamb on Nisan (Abib) 14. God passed through the land of Egypt that night and slew all Egypt’s first born of man and beast causing Pharaoh to decide to let the slaves go.

¹⁴ “This day shall be unto you for a memorial: and you shall keep it a feast to the Lord

throughout your generations: ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.” *The Lord* passed over the door of the Israelites when he saw the blood upon the lintel and on the two side posts, and did not suffer the destroyer to come in unto their houses to smite them.

¹⁵ “Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses; for whosoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. ¹⁷ And you shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this self-same day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall you observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever. ¹⁸ In the first month on the fourteenth day of the month at even, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day (21st) of the month at even (sunset). ¹⁹ Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eats that which is leavened even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall you eat unleavened bread.”

Tonight we can go back to eating leavened bread again—yeast raised breads, pastries and so forth. Today is the final day of eating unleavened bread this year. God says we are to observe this forever—an ordinance forever. *What does this day represent?* This day I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. *What day did Israel cross the Red Sea?* They crossed the Red Sea the 7th Day of Unleavened Bread. **Exodus 13:3**—“Remember this day, in which you came out from Egypt, out of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. ⁶ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the Lord. ⁷ Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven day; and there shall be no leavened bread be seen with you, neither shall there be leaven seen with you in all your quarters.” ⁸ And you shall show your son in that day, saying, *this is done* because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.”

Each one of us needs to view ourselves as coming up out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea—we need to see ourselves there. We are doing this—me personally—you personally, each one of us together as sons of Israel we came through the Red Sea. To us it is spiritual. We came out of the world and became servants and sons of God through baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit. So God has delivered us from Satan’s clutches and the world around us. The Lord has done marvelous things for you and me. So God says we are to tell our sons, we do this because of what the Lord God Almighty Eternal YHVH did for me. We need to take this personal and realize that God has sent his only begotten son who died for each one of us on the stake that we might live through him. He also commanded us to *love one another* (Leviticus 19:18).

1 John 4:7-8—“God’s Spirit is love. If a person does not or will not follow God’s command that person does not know God; for God is love.” That person needs to humble self and repent. There is no excuse for anybody to ever get offended at God’s people. It is like being offended at God himself. Jesus said, “as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me.” Do you want to offend Christ and God? Those who are unforgiving will perish in dust and ashes. Woe unto those who depart from the body of Christ and stomp on the body of Christ by rebellion and impertinence. In order to tell our children what God has done for us, we

have to recognize what God has done for us and appreciate our new freedom and liberty from the bonds of slavery that God has removed.

Exodus 13:9-10, 14-15—“*It shall be for a sign unto thee upon your hand and for a memorial between your eyes that the Lord’s law may be in your mouth: for with a strong hand has the Lord brought you out of Egypt.*” What is going to be for a sign? Keeping the feast Days of Unleavened Bread shall be for a sign, especially the first and last days are a sign and memorial. This means that we ought to be looking at and thinking about them and focused on keeping them. The Lord’s law and commandments need to be in our mouth—to teach and do, and speak of God and His holy days—not let them be ignored and forgotten.¹⁰ “You shall therefore keep this ordinance (rule) in his season from year to year.”

¹⁴ “And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying , ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, By strength of hand the Lord brought **us** out from Egypt from the house of bondage.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go that the Lord slew all the first born of man and the firstborn of beast; therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all that opens the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. And it shall be for a token upon your hand, and for frontlets between your eyes: for by strength of hand the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt. When Pharaoh had let the people go, God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest per adventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt : but God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed (armed) out of the land of Egypt.²¹ The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, or the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”

Egypt is a type. It stands for this world. God has brought us out of this world to be a part of his nation (kingdom) to the Promised Land. God is still in the process of bringing us out, and we have begun the journey. This day depicts Israel leaving the borders of Egypt, and actually crossing the Red Sea and achieving their freedom from Pharaoh. The Red Sea crashed down around him and his army destroying them all. God brought us out of Egypt and is delivering us today and will deliver us as long as we remember that he is the Lord our God and we strive to serve and obey him. Pharaoh is a type of the devil, stubborn and refuses to repent.

1 Samuel 15:22-23—Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.” Being stubborn-minded is like being an idol worshipper, instead of worshipping the one true God of Israel. Brethren, if we reject the Lord and get into a stubborn, contrary spirit then he will reject us. Anyone who becomes stubborn and rejects the teaching of God will not be in the kingdom of God. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Acts 12:1—“Herod the king stretched forth his hands and began to vex certain of the church, and he killed James the brother of John with the sword. Because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also.” (Luke says: Then **were** the days of unleavened bread.) We

can take this to infer that this happened during the time of the days of Days of Unleavened Bread and they were not done away or abolished. Even more so, **1 Corinthians 5:6**—Paul tells the Corinthians “your glorying is not good. Don’t you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore, purge out the old leavening that you may a new lump and you truly are unleavened. Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the Feast (of ULB), not with old leaven of malice and wickedness.” Paul is talking about the Days of Unleavened Bread and that they are to be spiritually leavened as they are unleavened physically during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread has great meaning for God’s people. The seven days are a picture of deliverance of God’s people from Egyptian slavery. The seventh day is a day of great victory and triumph of overcoming. **Exodus 14:9-12**—“Pharaoh and his army overtook Israel camping by the sea and they were sore afraid and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, have you just carried us forth out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? We told you in Egypt, let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians. It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than die in the wilderness.’¹³ “Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall see them no more forever. ¹⁴ The Lord shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace.’ ”

Philippians 4:13—“**I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.**” We alone cannot deliver ourselves out of Egypt – overcome drug addiction, alcoholism, and various pulls of the flesh. But with the help of the Holy Spirit we can overcome all things.

Exodus 14:15—“And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? **Tell the children of Israel to go forward.**”¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.¹⁷ And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” It is recorded in Jewish history that Nashon of the tribe of Judah jumped right into the water and was up to his neck in water as the waters began to recede and a great passage opened up in the sea as the water stacked up like two giant walls on the right and left sides of dry land as Moses lifted up his rod and stretched out his hand over the sea. So Israel went forward.

Pharaoh was the antichrist of that generation, the persecutor of God’s people.¹⁹ “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch (between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.), that **the Lord** looked down upon the

army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He **troubled the army of the Egyptians.**²⁵ And he took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for **the LORD fights for them** against the Egyptians.” The Egyptians got the point that God exists and fights on behalf of his people. He intercedes for his people and delivers them out of trouble, trials and tests when they keep their eyes on him and cry out to him, and then wait quietly trusting in Him and then going forward when his Spirit tells us to go forward (like an army).

²⁶ “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.’²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. **Not so much as one of them remained.**²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.³⁰ So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.³¹ Thus Israel saw *the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt*; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.” Israel did not have to fight. They were safe, secure and their oppressors dead. They had gone from the depths of fear and horror to the heights of ecstasy.

Exodus 15:1-19 —“Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song—the “Song of Moses” to the Lord.

I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously!

The horse and its rider, He has thrown into the sea!

² The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation;
He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

³ The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name.

⁴ Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power;

Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

⁷ And in the greatness of your excellence, You have overthrown those who rose against You;
You sent forth your wrath; It consumed them like stubble.

⁸ And with the blast of your nostrils The waters were gathered together;

The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.’

¹⁰ You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

“The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling will take hold of them; all the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

¹⁶ Fear and dread will fall on them; by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over whom You have purchased.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which you have made for your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.¹⁸ The LORD shall reign forever and ever. ¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.”

The Song of Moses ends just like it started with the same phrases and expressions and is called the “never ending song” – an eternal song. It is like a circle. It ends where it begins and begins where it ends. Miriam, the prophetess, sister of Moses and Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. Miriam answered them, “Sing you to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider has he thrown into the sea.” We can have a moment of great JOY and then turn right around and become unfaithful, angry and bitter and ungrateful.

Pharaoh and his army is a type of Satan. Satan is alive on planet earth today. Pharaoh and his army are dead, but we have a new “end-time” Pharaoh and antichrist (enemy of God’s people) in the White House and reigning in Washington, D.C. He is still rising up and getting his act together to persecute God’s people. The nation and its leaders have turned against God vehemently. In 2/10/11 Dr. Paul L. Williams declared “President Barack Hussein Obama has authorized 80,000 Muslims to immigrate next year to the United States.” “He is doing this by executive order. Additionally, he has promised to bring a minimum of 100,000 additional Muslims per year, for the next 5 years. Mr. Obama says that the increase in Muslim immigrants is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.”

As of November 2011 an estimated 2.6 million observant Muslims reside in the United States. Many live their lives according to *Islamic sharia law*, the moral and religious code of the Islamic faith which governs every aspect of a Muslim’s life. They have brought the worship of Allah and Islam to America. Sharia law makes Islam much more than a religion. Its broad doctrine and application to non-Muslims make Islam a political entity and they believe in conquests, not freedom of religion. When Muslims bring legal disputes into U.S. courts, a legal dilemma often arises, pitting individual rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and laws against Islamic sharia law. American law reflects Judeo-Christian values and tradition. These have always operated under the precept, “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s.” Their separation, which created the historic distinction between religious leadership and secular authority in the U.S. is now being threatened, as sharia has encroached into the American legal system and Muslim advocacy groups have increased pressure to institute sharia law. Increasingly, U.S. courts have yielded to sharia law.

The U.S. Trade center was attacked and destroyed by Saudi Muslims. America has been fighting Muslims in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, our embassy destroyed in Benghazi killing our Ambassador and four Americans. There is a conspiracy in the rising of power of our present

president, a Muslim in background and actions. We have yet to see what will come to pass. God will dispense with this modern Pharaoh as he did with the ancient Pharaoh. The coming of Messiah will be the one who will deliver us, not by our own hand, but the hand of Almighty God.

John 1:1-14—“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” The Word became the one we know as Jesus Christ. “And the Word was made flesh (took upon himself human flesh) and dwelt among us.” “This same Word of God will return from heaven with the armies of heaven (Revelation 19:14-16) following him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. “Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his apparel (robe) a name written on it, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” He is going to deliver us, just as Israel was delivered at the Exodus from Pharaoh of Egypt at the Red Sea in a way that is going to be fantastic and bring glory to him and to His name. God is guiding us today with his strength to the kingdom of God, if we believe. We have to believe and obey. We are to listen and learn.

Exodus 15:22—“Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went three days into the Desert of Shur and found no **water**. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the **waters** of Marah, for they were bitter. That is why the place is called Marah. The people complained against Moses, saying what shall we drink? So Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he threw it into the waters, the waters became sweet.” There the Lord made a made a statute (decree) and an ordinance (law) for them, and there **he tested them**. He said, “*If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all his statutes, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians,* for I am the Lord who heals you.”

Do you ever feel tested? We are tested every day. Sometimes we see it as a test and sometime we are not aware we are being tested. Things happen and come up that are a test. We can pass the test or fail. If character is built then you pass the test. On the other hand if you cringe and hold back in fear or get upset and angry you can flunk the test. Testing is part of God’s plan to discern whether or not we are going to obey him. We all are going to be tested in this life. How are we going to handle tests that come along? Will we humble our self before the hand of God and say Lord whatever you tell me to do, I will do? Will we go forward in faith?

Exodus 16:1-32—“The whole congregation journeyed from Elim and came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt, (three weeks later after the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread). There the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron. They said to them, ‘Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of **meat**, and when ate **bread to the full**; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’ ” There were 600,000 men armed for war that marched out of Egypt, in addition to their children, wives and the elderly—somewhere between two and three million people.

⁴ “The Lord said to Moses, I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather a certain quota for that day. **I will test them** and see whether they will walk in my law or not. It shall be on the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather daily.” We are always going to have tests. Some people are failing the test because they are not willing to walk in God’s law. It is a matter of pride. God looks to the person who humbles himself. **Luke 14:11**—“For whosoever exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.” God walks in his law, so if we want to walk with him we have to walk in his law and commandments. The number one commandment is found in **Mark 12:30-31**—“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment ³¹ and the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

We are to learn from tests and trials. Some people lack the fear of God, or they would behave a lot differently. They would not criticize and rebuke other people when it is not their business to do so. I am reminded of a quotation from the English poet Alexander Pope's : An Essay on Criticism 1709: *An essay on criticism*,

Such shameless bards we have; and yet 'tis true,
There are as mad, abandon'd Criticks too.
The Bookful Blockhead, ignorantly read,
With Loads of Learned Lumber in his Head,
With his own Tongue still edifies his Ears,
And always List'ning to Himself appears.
All Books he reads, and all he reads assails,
From Dryden's Fables down to Durfey's Tales.
With him, most Authors steal their Works, or buy;
Garth did not write his own Dispensary.
Name a new Play, and he's the Poet's Friend,
Nay show'd his Faults - but when wou'd Poets mend?
No Place so Sacred from such Fops is barr'd,
Nor is Paul's Church more safe than Paul's Church-yard:
Nay, fly to Altars; there they'll talk you dead;
For Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread.

Some people act like fools looking down on others and blazing into them giving orders like some great ruling authority. That is not the way God's kingdom works.

Numbers 12:3—“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.” Aaron and Moses were brothers. When Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu, who were priests, took it upon themselves at the temple, to put fire in their censer and incense thereon and offered strange fire (not commanded by God) before the Lord, fire came down from God and devoured them – cremated on the spot and they became dust and ashes, but their clothes were not singed. Acting on their own and doing something that God had not commanded was considered an act of rebellion (a sacrifice of fools). They were overly zealous and ignorant. Too much zeal can be a bad thing.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 –“Keep your foot when you go to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.” The New King James translation says “walk prudently.”² “Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven and you upon earth: therefore let your words be few.” **Exodus 16:7, 10 -15**— Moses told the Israelites that their complaints were not against himself and Aaron, but against God. Israel did not cry out to God in prayer, but complained to Moses because they were not yielded and submitted to God.

Moses and Aaron answered to God.¹⁰ “As Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses: ‘I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto the, saying, At evening you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and **you shall know that I AM the Lord your God.**’ What was the purpose of this miracle? The purpose of this miracle was to teach Israel to know “I AM THE ETERNAL YOUR GOD.” That evening quails came up and covered the camp: and in the morning when the dew that lay round about the host (camp) lifted, a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost lay upon the face of the wilderness. The children of Israel said to each other, ‘What is it?’ ” (Hebrew: manna). They did not know what it was.

Exodus 16:16-33—Moses told them, “This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. This is the thing that he has commanded: Every man is to gather it according to his eating, an omer (measure: 2.087 qt.) for every man according to the number of your persons: take for those in your tents.” When they did measure it out, “he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.” God said, “Leave nothing of it till the morning.” Moses was angry with those who did not listen. If left, it bred worms and stank. When the sun became hot, it melted. Disobedience had its own reward. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much, two omers for one man: and the rulers of the congregation came and saw Moses. Moses told them. “The Lord has said: tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord: do your baking and boiling today and the remainder lay up for you to be kept until the morning. They laid it up till morning and it did not stink, nor was there any worm in it. Moses said: Eat that today for today is a Sabbath unto the Lord: today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it: but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none.”

²⁹ “Some went out on the seventh day to gather and they found none. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘**How long refuse you to keep my commandments and my laws?** See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.’³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.³¹ The house of Israel called its name manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years.”

Exodus 17:1-9—“Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin according to the commandment of the Lord and made camp in Rephidim: and there was no water for the

people to drink and the people once again murmured (argued) against Moses: ‘Give us water that we may drink.’ Moses replied, ‘Why chide me? Why do you tempt the Lord?’ And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, ‘What shall I do unto this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ ” Instead of crying out to God, they people blamed Moses. Israel really attacked God when they complained against Moses. If you need water, ask for it. God says: “Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened to you.” Petition God for your needs in an attitude of worship, praise, humility and thanksgiving. God told Moses ⁶ “I will stand before you there upon the rock in Horeb: and you shall smite the rock, and there shall water come out of it, that the people may drink. Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Moses called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the arguing and contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord saying, Is the Lord among us or not?’ ”

Israel had all these miracles and they still had the attitude of complaining, arguing and contention after the weeks and months seeing the Lord working in Egypt, the plagues and deliverance at the Red Sea. They just wouldn’t stop complaining. God is testing us, brethren. Every day is a test. Are we going to survive the test and make it to another day, or fall by the wayside, drift away and become angry and bitter? It is up to each one of us to decide. God provided and worked miracles yet Israel continued in a rebellious spirit and things got worse because of a wrong attitude and spirit. The Amalekites came against them at Rephadim. Amalek today is one of the tribes of Esau. The Palestinians were always fighting the Jews in the West Bank and the people of Turkey are largely descending from Amalek. The Ottoman Empire (Turkey) oppressed the Jews, ate Christians and murdered about a million Armenian Christians during WW I. Turkey has inspired and joined with Al Qaeda and terrorists groups in Syria to fight king Bashar of Syria. Turkey is a member of NATO which is supporting these rebels who are annihilating Christians.

Joshua 17: 10 –“Joshua led the Israelites to fight Amalek. Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the mountain to observe the battle. When Moses raised his hands, Israel prevailed in the war, but when his arms became heavy and he let down his hands Amalek prevailed. So Moses sat down on a stone and Aaron and Hur stood on either side of Moses and held Moses hands up in the air until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek with the edge of the sword. God delivered Israel. Moses built an altar there and called it the Lord is my Banner—*Yahveh Nissi*.”

The Lord is our banner—our God, our Savior and deliverer. This day pictures the Lord as a man of war who is our salvation. He fights for us, if we obey his commandments and do what He says and love one another. If we do that and endure to the end, we will see our Lord in His kingdom.

Amen!