

## Waved loaves of leaven By Frank Febus

Lev 23:16-17

16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations **two wave loaves** of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be **baken with leaven**; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

KJV

**This scripture has always stirred my curiosity as to the significance of leaven baked into the loaves ceremonially waved before the Lord. Why is leaven in the church? This is undeniably the picture the Lord presents. The convocation is Pentecost thus pointing to the first fruits generation or first generation of the church.**

**My interest lies in the usage of leaven in having any positive association with the Lord. Leaven has had negative connotations associated with it throughout scripture.**

**The first application of leaven in scripture is found in Leviticus. The feast of unleavened bread is being celebrated and no leaven is to be found in the homes of the Israelites under the penalty of death.**

Ex 12:15

15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for **whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.**

KJV

**The Lord warned Moses not to allow the priests to defile their sacrifices with leaven.**

Ex 34:25

25 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven ; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.

KJV

**In the new testament the usage of leaven begins to paint an interesting picture. Leaven in every day usage makes the dough raise for a number of baking usages. It makes something larger than what once was. With that in mind, let us see the kingdom through parables that speak of unintended expansion of the kingdom of God.**

**The parable of the wheat and the tares describes that ‘the enemy has done this’. Unexpected company in the kingdom was planted by the devil. The tares are burned at the end of the age. The tares are in the kingdom, that is what the bible clearly states. The timing of this is the first generation church.**

Matt 13:30

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and **in the time of harvest** I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to **burn them**: but gather the wheat into my barn.

KJV

**The parable of the grain of mustard seed follows with the same theme. Something very small becomes so great or large that the fowls of the air lodge in its branches. Here again the enemy has lodged himself amongst the church.**

Birds or fowls in scripture have been portrayed as an enemy. “The prince of the power of the air” is probably a good fit.

Matt 13:31-32

The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that **the birds of the air** come and lodge in the branches thereof.

**Women in typology usually depicts a religious system.**

Zech 5:5-9

5 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.

6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth.

7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is **a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah.**

8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.

9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out **two women**, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven.  
KJV

Rev 17:3-4

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw **a woman** sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

**The next parable in this series promotes the same theme of an evil intention to subvert the church. The woman hides the leaven, there was a system within a system promoting false doctrine in the first generation church.**

Matt 13:33

33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

**Spiritual adultery is equated to leaven kneaded in the dough (false doctrine in the body) with this scripture.**

Hos 7:3-5

3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

4 They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneeded the dough, until it be leavened.

5 In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.

KJV

Jesus defines what leaven represents in this warning to his disciples. The doctrine of the Pharisees and the Sadducees is the oral tradition of the elders. This system of biblical understanding was an attempt to plant a system within a system. It would try to bring the church under the work of the law. Matt 16:6-12

6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of **the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

8 Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

**12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

KJV

Paul illustrates the connection between the practice of circumcision and leaven in the church. The judiazers were obviously at work in Galatia , thus the leaven working in a measure of meal.

Gal 5:2-9

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be **circumcised**, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, **that he is a debtor to do the whole law.**

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

KJV