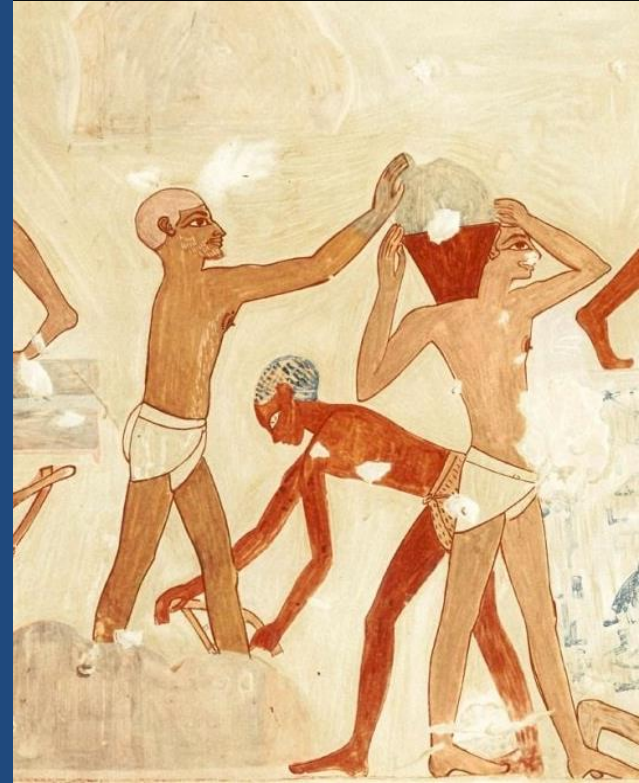


Leavening & Oppression



... a shadow of the coming things, and the
body of the Christ ...

^{YLT} Colossians 2:17

I have come to believe that:

- leavening pictures the willingness of the Hebrew people to OPPRESS each other.
- the reason YHVH used leavening as the symbol of that oppression is because once oppression begins, it can quickly spread throughout the camp.

I hope to show that:

- oppression was alive and well among the Hebrew people even during their slavery in Egypt
- oppression among the Hebrews continued after they crossed the Red Sea
- oppression was prevalent among the Jewish people in the 1st century

Oppression in Egypt



What is 'oppression'?

“unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power”

Miriam-Webster online dictionary

Why did the Hebrews fail to bake bread on
the evening of Passover?

NKJ **Exodus 12:33-34, 39** And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, *We be all dead men.* ³⁴ And the people took their dough before it was **leavened** (**chamets**), their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders ... ³⁹ And they baked **unleavened** (**matstsah**) cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not **leavened** (**chamets**); because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

NKJ **Exodus 13:6-8** ⁶ "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread (**matstsah**), and on the seventh day *there shall be* a feast to the LORD.
⁷ "Unleavened bread shall (**matstsah**) be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread (**chamets**) shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven (**se'or**) be seen among you in all your quarters.
⁸ "And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, '*This is done* because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.'

Why were they not ready?

- Bondage not that severe?
- Good food in Egypt?
- Leaders mislead them?
- Bondage would follow them if they left?

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My Conclusion

- They were never told that they would be leaving (at least not in a convincing way)
- They feared their oppressors would leave with them.

Their oppressors were their HEBREW taskmasters!

Hebrew Taskmasters



“taskmaster” = ‘maciym’ (מַסִּיִם – 4522)

“a body of forced laborers”

NKJ Exodus 1:10-11 "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set **taskmasters** over them to afflict them with their burdens... .

“taskmaster” = ‘nagas’ (נָגַשׁ – 5065)

“to press, drive, oppress”

^{NKJ} **Exodus 5:14** Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's **taskmasters** had set over them, were beaten *and* were asked, "Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?"

^{NKJ} **Exodus 5:15** Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why are you dealing thus with your servants?"

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NKJ Exodus 5:21 ... "Let the LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us."

^{NKJ} **Exodus 3:7** And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows ...⁹ "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

“Toward the end of the (current Torah) portion, in Exodus 5:6, Pharaoh issues a new decree. Until this point, the Egyptians had provided the Jewish slaves with straw in order to assemble the bricks necessary for their work. Now, in retaliation for Moses asking that the people be set free, Pharaoh orders that the Jews themselves shall be responsible for collecting the straw... .

According to an interpretation by Rashi, the well-known 11th century commentator, the taskmasters were Egyptian, while the **officers were Jewish**. The taskmasters oversaw the officers, who in turn were responsible for directly supervising the slaves, their own brothers. Thus, the Egyptians pitted Jew against Jew, threatening the officers with severe punishment if they didn't spur their brothers to produce enough.”

“Pitting Jew vs. Jew” posted by “My Jewish Learning Center”

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/seeing-the-broader-picture/>

the Elders of Israel



Leaven = Oppression



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‘leavened’ is ‘chamets’ (חַמֵּץ – 2557)

- from root – ‘chamates’ (חַמַּץ – 2556)
- ‘chamates’ means “cruel, oppress, be ruthless”

^{NKJ} **Psalm 71:4** Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, Out of the hand of the unrighteous and **cruel** (**chamates**) man.

^{NKJ} **Isaiah 1:17** Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the **oppressor** (**chamowts**); Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Related word -

- ‘chamas’ (חַמָּס – 2555) - “violence, cruelty”

^{NKJ} **Proverbs 3:31** Do not envy the oppressor (**chamas**), And choose none of his ways.

the Mixed Multitude



^{NKJ} **Exodus 12:38** A **mixed multitude** went up with them also, and flocks and herds -- a great deal of livestock.

‘erev rav’ - (עֵרֶב רַב – 6154 + 7227)
literally – “a great mixture”

A History of Hebrew on Hebrew Oppression



NKJ Exodus 21:1 "Now these *are* the judgments which you shall set before them: ² "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.

NKJ Leviticus 25:39 ' And if *one of* your brethren *who dwells* by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave ... ⁴² 'For they *are* My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. ⁴³ 'You shall not rule over him with rigor, but you shall fear your God.

Hebrew on Hebrew Oppression in the Tanakh:

- Wife of the sons of the prophets (2Kings 4:1)
- Solomon's labor force (1 Kings 11:26-28; 12:18)
- Zedekiah and Jewish slavery (Jeremiah 34:8-22)
- Nehemiah and Jewish slavery (Nehemiah 5:1-19)

The Leaven of the Pharisees



NKJ John 11:47-48 ... "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. ⁴⁸ "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

^{NKJ} **John 3:1** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, **we know that You are a teacher come from God**; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

^{NKJ} **Luke 12:1** ... "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy . . ."

^{NKJ} **Matthew 16:12** Then they (the disciples) understood that He did not tell *them* to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

‘doctrine’ = “didache” (1322) – ‘teaching’

^{NKJ} **Matthew 23:4** "... they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

^{NKJ} **Luke 11:52** "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

^{NKJ} **Matthew 23:13** "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees - hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

^{NKJ} **Matthew 23:25** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of **extortion** and self-indulgence.

'extortion = 'harpage' (724)
"the act of plundering, robbery "

^{NKJ} **John 12:42** Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

What is Leavening?

- a grievous sin that splits God's people into classes and pits Hebrew against Hebrew.

Why abstain from eating it during DUB?

- Because we have all been redeemed - both taskmaster and slave – by the blood of the Lamb, Messiah Yeshua – and we are all equals.

"But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers."

^{ESV} **Matthew 23:8**

שְׁלוֹם לְכֶם

Shalom Aleichem

Peace be Unto You