

Leaven As A Symbol In The Bible



Bible Study Begins in 15 Minutes

Leaven As A Symbol In The Bible



Symbols & Parables

- A Parable is **not** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is intended to be **similar** to a real event or a comparison that has to be **interpreted** to reveal the true meaning .

Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

- **What does “leaven” mean / symbolize in the Old Testament Scriptures?**
- **Leaven (*seor*) Literal – Leaven / Metaphor – “swelling by fermentation”**
 - **Exodus 12:15, 19; 13:7**
 - **Deuteronomy 16:4**
- **Leviticus 2:11: 6:17** – No grain offering could be made with leaven. Because leaven symbolizes the pervasive character of evil, it was inappropriate to use it in offerings which typified the propitiatory sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

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 - **Deuteronomy 16:4**

- **Leviticus 7:11-13** – “This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offering...by way of thanksgiving, with sacrifice of thanksgiving...offer unleavened cakes... with the peace offerings...his offering with cakes of leavened bread”.

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 - **Exodus 12:15, 19; 13:7**
 - **Deuteronomy 16:4**
- **Leviticus 23:17 – “You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the Lord”.**

Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

- What does “leaven” mean / symbolize in the Old Testament Scriptures?
- Leaven (*chamets*) Literal – Leaven / Metaphor – “to be leavened, be sour, to be cruel, oppress, ruthless”
 - Exodus 12:19-20, 34, 39
 - Psalm 71:4; 73:21
- Hosea 7:4– They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.

Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

- The parable of leaven describes something that starts very small, but grows into something very large.
- **Matthew 13:33**
- **Luke 13:20-21**



Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

- **What does “leaven” mean / symbolize in the New Testament Scriptures?**
- **In the Parable accounts: Leavened (*zumoo*) / verb form**
 - **Literal – Leaven / Metaphor – “inveterate mental and moral corruption, viewed in its tendency to infect others”**
 - **I Corinthians 5:2-8 – “Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.**

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 - **Literal – Leaven / Metaphor – “inveterate mental and moral corruption, viewed in its tendency to infect others”**
 - **Galatians 5:9 – “A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.”**
 - **In this particular context, Paul is speaking about the influence of false teachings in the church and the return to physical circumcision. It is with false teachings, if we let it spread, it will permeate and mislead the whole church.**

Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

- **What does “leaven” mean / symbolize in the New Testament Scriptures?**
- **In the Parable accounts: Leaven (*zume*) / noun form**
 - **Literal – Leaven / Metaphor – “inveterate mental and moral corruption, viewed in its tendency to infect others”**
 - **Matthew 16:6, 11 12**
 - **Mark 8:15**
 - **Luke 12:1; 13:21**
 - **I Corinthians 5:6-8**
 - **Galatians 5:9**

Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

■ What could the dough represent?

- **Romans 11:16** - "If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too."
- In the Parable of Leaven, the Greek word "Flour" or "Meal" is *aleron*, which means "wheat flour / meal."
 - Remember the Parable of the Wheat and Tare; Wheat were the Sons of the Kingdom, as defined by Jesus Christ.
 - **John 6:48-58** – The bread is Jesus Himself, "I am the bread of life."
 - **I Corinthians 10:17** – "Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

■ Significance of Leaven Being Hidden

– **Matthew 13:33**

– In the Parable of Leaven, the Greek word “Hid” is *enkrupto*, which is the root for the word “encrypt”; Meaning to “to conceal” or “to keep secret”.

▪ **Zechariah 5:7-8** – “Wickedness”

▪ **Revelation 2:20** – “Jezebel”

▪ **Revelation 17:1** – “Great Harlot”

▪ **Jude 4** – “...certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you.”

▪ **II Peter 2:1** – “...who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master...”

Warning of Three Kinds of Leaven

- **Jesus warned His disciples of three kinds of leaven**
 - **Luke 12:1** “...Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”
 - **Matthew 16: 6, 11** - “...Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
 - **Luke 20:27; Acts 23:8** - Unbelief ; resurrection, angels or spirits
 - **Mark 8:15** “...Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”
 - **Luke 13:32** – “Go and tell that fox...”

Life Application: Meaning / Symbolism of Leaven

- **By utilizing the symbol of Leaven, a warning given to those who have put themselves under the rule of the Kingdom of Heaven, that we cannot allow our thinking to be assimilated to that of the world around us, hypocrisy and unbelief.**
- **Sin is often an unseen pervasive evil influence that can spread, in those who have put themselves under the rule of the Kingdom of Heaven, if we are on our guard and continually examining ourselves.**

GROUP DISCUSSION

