



AUTHORITY JESUS  
 MERCHANTS  
 PASSOVER REMOVE  
 ROBBERS

**Heb 8:13**, “By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.” This verse typically serves as the clear line in the sand that distinguishes the “Old” from the “New” Testament.

In the context of the Hebrew letter, much of the focus is on the sacrificial system, primarily that the old sacrifices are insufficient to cleanse sins, because Jesus is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (**John 1:29**).

In a similar way, Jesus described how he is bringing a new kind of kingdom, with a more powerful king. He says in **Luke 11:21-22**, “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.”

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he proclaimed several things that are significant. First, the leaders recognized this act as a challenge to their authority (**John 2:18**). This was important to establish so people would feel confident trusting in Jesus’ commands even if it violated Pharisaical law. Second, this was done during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which had clear instructions about throwing the yeast out of the house (**Deut 16:3**). Jesus had warned the apostles of the yeast (hypocrisy) of the pharisees and religious leaders (**Matt 16:6**). Finally, there’s a very clear application to the faithful follower to get rid of the sin in their life.

**1 Cor 5:6-8**, “Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Read **John 2:13-17**

How does Satan “attack” Jesus and his purpose?

*(read the temptations of Christ in Matt 4 & Luke 4)*

Try to imagine how the religious leaders could have interpreted Jesus’ actions. *(Consider Dan 11:31-37 as a possible interpretation)*

Jesus accuses them of making his house a den of thieves, a reference from **Jer 7:9-11**. How does that text further explain what was happening at the temple?

If we are now the temple of God (**1 Cor 3:16; 6:19-20**), what does Jesus need to clean out to make his temple holy?

Why do you think that John records this event early in his ministry, but all the other gospel writers record it happening at the end of his ministry?