

THE MESSENGER



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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The Lord's Supper

by Dempsey Collins

INTRODUCTION: The institution of the Lord's Supper is found in these passages:

- A. Matthew 26:26-29
- B. Mark 14:22-25
- C. Luke 22:19-20
- D. I Corinthians 11:23-25

The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Saviour during the last Passover meal observed by Him. This occurred upon the evening of His betrayal, and not too many hours from His crucifixion. Since there are several antitypes and models of Christ and His supper to be found in the Passover feast it would be profitable for us to go back and consider the institution of the Passover and what this feast consisted of.

God had already sent nine plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians, and had now threatened him and his people with the tenth and most severe plague – the death of the firstborn among man and beasts.

In detail Jehovah had informed Moses and Aaron of His intentions to pass through Egypt and smite all the firstborn, both man and beast. In order that the “destroyer” might pass over the houses of the Israelites, God arranged a plan whereby they could be saved from this terrible calamity. Israel was, according to Exodus 12, commanded to:

- Vs. 3 “Take a lamb for themselves, according to their father's households, a lamb for each household.”
- Vs. 5 “The lamb must be an unblemished male, a year old from sheep or goats.
- Vs. 6 “Slay the lamb at twilight or on the 14th day of Nisan” (Joshua 5:10 – eve of 14th day)
- Vs. 7 “Take some of the blood and put it on the top and sides of the doorpost of the houses in which they eat.”
- Vs. 8 “Eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.”
- Vs. 46 “No bones are to be broken in preparing the lamb.”
- Ex. 13:9 “They were to remember that with a powerful hand God had brought them out and delivered them from Egyptian slavery and bondage.” (Ex. 12:14)
- Num. 9:13 Neglect of this feast would cause one to be cut off from his people. “That man shall bear his sin.”

ANTITYPES OF THE TRUE SUBSTANCE

1. God said, “and the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live and when I see the blood I will pass over you and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Ex. 12:13). Thus the blood of an unblemished lamb saved the Israelites from death. Peter points out “we are redeemed with the precious blood as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ” (I Peter 1:18, 19). Peter had heard it earlier stated by John the Baptist, “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Thus our salvation by means of the shed blood of Christ is clearly and unmistakably taught. Jesus was “without blemish” and “without spot”, undefiled or influenced by the world. In the words of Paul, “Jesus is our Passover” (I Cor. 5:7).
2. As the Jews while partaking of the Passover were to remember freedom from the bondage and slavery of Egypt by the powerful and gracious hand of God, so Christians today while partaking of the Lord’s Supper are to remember their freedom from the bondage and slavery of sin by the gracious hand of God through His son Jesus Christ.
3. As an exact day for the observance of the Passover was given, in like manner God has given an exact day for the observance of the Lord’s Supper. The first day of each week (Acts 20:7; Ex. 12:6).
4. God said, “When I see the blood I will pass over you.” Now if there were any who refused, ignored, neglected or were too busy to attend this feast of the Passover, they had to suffer the consequences of the promised calamity just the same as the cruel Pharaoh. Being circumcised Jews and members of the Covenant of Abraham did not exempt them from the destroyer. It is clear that when the death messenger did not see the blood, he did not pass over, but passed in, and the result was death and sorrow in that home. In order for the Jews to derive any benefit from the blood of the lamb they had to be obedient and observe God’s commandments in reference to that blood.

Though Christ has shed His blood for all mankind (allowing all to have access to it), unless an individual is obedient to God’s commands which reveal how to come in contact with that blood, he will derive no benefits from it and thus is cut off from God.

5. We learn from Numbers 9:13 that if an individual neglected the Passover Feast then he faced serious consequences. Today as well, if we willfully forsake the Lord’s feast we face serious consequences. Even if one should consistently partake, but do so in an unworthy manner, “he eateth and drinketh judgment to himself” (I Cor. 11:29). How much worse would it be for one to willingly forsake it altogether?
6. Finally, as no bones of the Passover lamb were to be broken (Ex. 12:46), so also no bones of the Son, the Lamb of God were broken. As was prophesied “A bone of Him shall not be broken” (Psa. 34:20) and fulfilled “When the soldiers came to Jesus they saw that He was already dead and so did not break His legs” (John 19:32-36).

Thus the Passover feast was not only commemorative (Ex. 12:25-27; 13:9), it was also antitypical; it was prospective as well as retrospective.

to be continued

NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16