

Review:

Did you gain any insights as you read through Genesis 12-20?

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-20 (NIV)

¹⁷On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. ²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.

What do you know about the Passover Feast?

Exodus 12:1-20 (NIV)

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

⁷Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

¹²"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord--a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat--that is all you may do.

17 "Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

What is the point of the Passover Feast?

The Passover had a number of elements that God commanded them to include in the feast. What do you think was the meaning of each element to the Israelites who celebrated the first Passover?

The Lamb:

The Bitter Herbs:

The Unleavened Bread (bread without yeast):

Over the years the Israelites added symbols to the feast to help every generation remember the dramatic way God rescued them as a nation from slavery. These symbols are still used in Passover celebrations today.

Present Jewish Passover Symbols

What do you think is the meaning of each symbol?

Roasted lamb shank bone:

3 Loaves of unleavened bread called the Unity:

Horseradish (bitter herb):

Charoseth (chopped apple and cinnamon):

Parsley dipped in salt water:

A hard boiled egg splashed with salt water:

Sometimes a bitter vegetable (romaine lettuce) is also used, instead of salt water, to represent the bitterness of slavery.

4 Cups of Wine:

1. The Cup of Sanctification
2. The Cup of Instruction
3. The Cup of Redemption
4. The Cup of Praise

Matthew 26:26-28 (NIV)

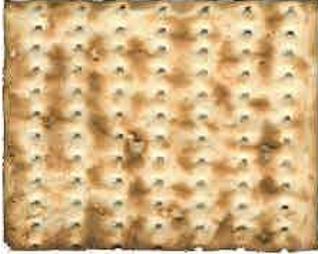
²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus, during his last supper, reinterpreted these elements as symbolically referring to himself. Why do you think Jesus would compare his life to the Passover experience of the Old Testament?

Our modern day celebration of the last supper focuses on two main elements, the bread and the wine.

As we take a closer look at each element, try to determine the symbolism from a "New Testament perspective".

THE PASSOVER BREAD:



Why are there three pieces of bread called a Unity?

Why is the bread made without yeast?

What is the significance of the middle loaf being taken, broken, wrapped in a cloth and hidden behind a pillow?

What, potentially, is the symbolism of the bread having holes and stripes?

Isaiah 53:5 (NASB)

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. [and with his stripes we are healed. KJV]

THE WINE

The cup Jesus referred to in the last supper was the third cup called the Cup of Redemption. What is Jesus saying is the symbolism of this cup of WINE?

In scripture wine has both the symbolism of God's wrath being poured out and in complete contrast, a picture of his abundant provision and joy. In what ways does Jesus' death fulfill both of these pictures?

What emotions might we expect to be evoked as we celebrate the Lord's Table?

1) _____

2) _____

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:24,25 (NIV)

²⁴"This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁵"This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Why do you think Jesus wants us to continue to celebrate this feast?

Why do you think it might be important for a church to celebrate this together?

How often do you think we should celebrate the Lord's Table?

What do you think are some of the personal benefits you might receive from celebrating the Lord's Table with your church family?

What might be lacking in your life should this ceremony be neglected in your life?

HOME STUDY:
Read Genesis 21-30