

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

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It is just over 2 weeks away to Passover! The evening of April 7.

This week and next ... we'll review the Passover emblems (Bread and Wine). Today we will review the wine — the Blood of the Lamb. And hopefully ... we'll take some time individually to prepare ourselves for the Passover.

Passover is the most solemn ... sober ... evening of the year. We don't want to just "turn up" casually ... totally un-prepared.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Proclaim/show the Lord's death.

1 Corinthians 11:27-30

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. *(are dead)*

Unworthy manner ... examine yourself before! This is a life and death warning.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

31 **For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.**

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Judge yourself — if you are not living right — deal with it!

We should definitely use the next couple of weeks to have a look at ourselves ... our attitudes ... our enthusiasm for the things of God (such as His Word ☺).

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

7 **Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

8 **Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Jesus is our Passover. Sacrificed for us!

Every year we need to refresh this message.

Let's go back to the very first Passover.

Exodus 12:1-6

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: **'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.**

4 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

5 **'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.** You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

6 **'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.** (*Between the two evenings ... twilight ... Ben Ha Arbayim*).

Take a lamb ... without blemish. (This is a domestic Passover). On the 14th day ... just after sunset (twilight — Ben Ha Arbayim).

Exodus 12:7-13

7 **'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses** where they eat it.

8 **'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.**

9 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire--its head with its legs and its entrails.

10 'You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

11 **'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.**

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: **I am the LORD.**

13 **'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.**

The Blood is essential — a sign of life and death!

Exodus 12:21-23

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, **"Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.**

22 **"And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin.** And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

23 **"For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over**

the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

The Body? What is the significance of the lamb's body? We will study that next week.

1 Peter 1:17-19

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

18 knowing that **you were not redeemed with corruptible things**, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

We were redeemed (set free) by the Blood of The Lamb. We are no longer captive.

We were all facing death — there was no way we could save ourselves.

Romans 6:17-23

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And **having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

22 But **now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.**

23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Wages of Sin = Death. The Gift of God is Eternal Life.

How? BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were still without strength, **in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood,** we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only that, but **we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

We are justified by His Blood. Reconciled to The Father ... through the death of His Son. No more death. We are on the way to The Kingdom.

“Justified”. When God checks our record — we are clean! No longer subject to eternal death.

Revelation 1:4-6

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To Him who loved us and washed us**

from our sins in His own blood,

6 **and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,** to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We have been washed ... bathed ... from our sins in Jesus' Blood.

If there's no shed blood — of the Passover Lamb — we're still in our sins.
Facing eternal death.

We don't merit Jesus' sacrifice. It is not something that we deserve. It is God's plan. His goodness. His grace.

Colossians 1:13-14

13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness (like ancient Israel was rescued from the power of Pharaoh?) and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**

14 **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1:19-23

19 **For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,**
20 **and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him,** whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 **And you,** who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now He has reconciled (to The Father)**

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

23 **if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,** which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

The death of the Passover Lamb was the very beginning of the Israelites' journey to freedom and the Promised Land. The death of Jesus and His shed blood is the beginning of our journey from sin to salvation. Something to REMEMBER EVERY YEAR at this time.

The Old Testament Passover was pictured by the blood of the lamb and the eating of the roast lamb. Jesus changed the emblems for New Testament believers.

Mark 14:10-25

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them.

11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

12 Now **on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, (right then ... were killing the "Domestic Passover" — NASB. Though most followed the priests' example at the Temple — slaying their lambs the following afternoon about 3 pm)** His disciples said to Him, "**Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?**" *(And Jesus did eat the Passover)*

13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him.

14 "Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, '**The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"**'

15 "Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us."

16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and **they prepared the Passover.**

17 In the evening He came with the twelve. *(The foot washing took place first)*

18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "**Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.**"

19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?"

20 He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.

21 "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born." *(Compare John's Gospel Chapter 13 ... Judas had now left before taking the New Testament Passover)*

22 And as they were eating, **Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."**

23 **Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.**

24 And He said to them, "**This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.**

25 "Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

BREAD: THIS IS MY BODY) which they ate

WINE: THIS IS MY BLOOD) and drank

John 6:25-35

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

27 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? (*Faith believes ... and then sees*) What work will You do?"

31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

32 Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**

33 "**For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**"

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 **And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.

John 6:48-58

48 "**I am the bread of life.**

49 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 "This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

51 "**I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.**"

52 The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.**

54 "**Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.**

55 "**For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.**

56 "**He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**

57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 "**This is the bread which came down from heaven**--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. **He who eats this bread will live forever.**"

Verse 53: UNLESS YOU EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN — YOU HAVE NO LIFE!

How do we eat Jesus' flesh ... and drink His blood? The nearest we get symbolically is at Passover — the Bread and the Wine.

The deeper meaning here ... is to assimilate Jesus and His ways so He becomes A LIVING PART OF US. We wouldn't just look at physical bread ... study the recipe ... smell it. We could starve! We eat it for health and life. It becomes part of us.

We don't just "look at Jesus". Or study "about" Him. HE'S TO BECOME A PART OF US.

Galatians 2:20

20 "**I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

JESUS CHRIST LIVES IN ME — IN THIS FLESHLY LIFE!

To eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood means more than just "look at" Jesus in the distance. More than just study "about Him".

When you eat physical food ... it becomes part of you. So it should be with Jesus ... His mind ... attitude ... outlook ... we're to produce fruits of the spirit. We should be fully aware of the price Jesus paid. Not treat Jesus' blood and death casually (in an unworthy manner).

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 **For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,**

27 **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.**

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 **Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."

31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

Some people by their words and actions show contempt for Jesus' blood. They reject the Passover Lamb and its sacrifice.

It is good for us to review the Gospel accounts of Jesus' sacrifice. To help us to grasp the enormity of what Jesus went through for us.

Matthew 26:26-30

26 **And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."**

27 **Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."**

28 **"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."**

29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The New Testament Passover.

Matthew 26:36-40

36 **Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."**

37 **And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.**

38 **Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." Stay here and watch with Me."**

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

Jesus' intense suffering has already started (His "Passion").

Matthew 26:38 (WEYMOUTH)

38 "**My soul is crushed with anguish to the very point of death;**"

Matthew 26:38 (NIV)

38 "**My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.**"

Jesus was doing this for us.

Matthew 26:47-54

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now **His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."**

49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

54 "How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

Jesus was betrayed and arrested. He gave Himself up ... He wasn't really taken.

Matthew 26:57, 65-68

57 **And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.**

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!"

66 "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." *(these were the religious leaders of the day)*

67 **Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,** *(these are the religious leaders)*

68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" *(Jesus was blind-folded at this time)*

He was then abused by the religious leaders.

Matthew 27:15-37

15 **Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.**

16 And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

20 But **the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.** *(They stirred the mob up)*

21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

22 **Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"**

23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, **"Let Him be crucified!"**

24 When **Pilate** saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he **took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.** You see to it."

25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and **when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.**

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

28 **And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.**

29 **When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him,** saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

30 **Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.**

31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

35 **Then they crucified Him,** and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

"They divided My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots."

36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:
THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Jesus was scourged ... mocked ... crucified.

Matthew 27:45-50

45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

46 **And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"

48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

50 And **Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.**

Jesus died! Drained of His blood.

Verse 46: not so much “forsaken” by God (God turning His back as Jesus has become sin) ... but rather Jesus crying out “How much longer”?!

ARAMAIC ENGLISH NT: “My EI! My EI! [Lemana Shabakthani] Why have You spared Me”? Meaning: Why am I still here after all this time?

Almost immediately — Jesus died.

Jesus gave us His all. Emptying Himself of His Eternal Godhead — being made flesh — dying in agony as a blood sacrifice. Our Passover Lamb.

Let’s re-read:

1 Corinthians 11:23-31

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: **that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

26 **For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**

27 **Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

28 **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

29 **For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. *(Are dead)*

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

In the next couple of weeks ... let’s find some time to ponder and meditate on Jesus’ blood shed for us ... so we can take the Passover wine in a worthy manner.