

PASSOVER PREPARATION 2020

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As you hopefully will know ... it is less than 4 weeks away to Passover.

It is a busy period for us ... Passover ... The Night To Be Much Observed then the Feast of Unleavened Bread — there's a lot happening.

Traditionally ... I take the Sabbaths leading up to Passover to review the lessons we should be learning. To be properly prepared ... and to take it in a worthy manner.

We're all busy ... distracted ... let time slip by. We don't want to turn up on this night poorly prepared ... not mentally or emotionally ready.

Let's start with an important Passover warning from the scriptures and why we need to be thinking ahead.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV)

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.**

This night pictures the remembrance of the Lord's death. So we need to be careful how we keep this memorial.

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 (NKJV)

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. (None of us is worthy of Jesus' sacrifice)**

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.** (*Many have died ... prematurely ... because they have had problems taking the Passover. We need to take it properly*)

We have got to examine/scrutinise ourselves ... before taking the Passover.

The Passover is one of the most important events in our calling ... the beginning of our salvation. If we don't keep the Passover ... we won't have eternal life!

Maybe we've kept it for 10 ... 30 ... 50 years? We could become casual ... taking it lightly ... and start to "drift away". We need to value the Passover and what it represents ... to us!

Also ... it is a good time to redress the balance? Over the years ... The Church of God groups are often accused of not focusing enough on the person of Jesus Christ. We are accused of talking of God ... God ... God ... Father ... but the accusation is that we downplay the person of Jesus Christ (maybe that is our reaction to the Protestant world ... all Jesus and not too much mention of the Father?). Maybe the balance isn't right. Passover changes that.

Of course ... Jesus is central to the Father's plan ... and our part in it ... so if it's true that we tend not to highlight Jesus (?) ... Passover gives us the opportunity to really emphasise Jesus' role.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV)

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.**

Christ is our Passover ... sacrificed for us believers ... so let us keep The Feast ... of Unleavened Bread.

To help us to understand better ... let's go back to the first Passover ... the beginning. (One value of the Holy Days is that it keeps us in the cycle. Never more than 12-13 months between the reminders of key milestones).

Exodus 11:1-7 (NKJV)

1 And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. (*Up to this day ... there had been 9 plagues*)

2 Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbour and every woman from her neighbour, articles of silver and articles of gold."

3 And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

4 Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt;

5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.

6 Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.

7 But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

The first born of the Egyptians were to die ... devastating. Yet ... God would PASS OVER His people. Protection ... salvation.

Exodus 12:1-5 (NKJV)

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. (*Abib/Nisan*)

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 neighbour 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. ***(originally ... the Passover was kept in individuals homes ... a domestic Passover ... based in the house)***

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

They were to choose a male lamb ... pointing to Jesus Christ ... without blemish ... like Jesus Christ. Keeping it in their homes made Passover a "domestic arrangement".

Exodus 12:6-13 (NKJV)

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.** *(At twilight = Ben Ha Arbayim = between the two evenings. The Rotherham's Emphasised Bible: "Slay it between the two evenings". Evening 1 = sunset. Evening 2 = darkness falls ... early ON THE 14TH day!)*

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.** *(The first part of the Passover ... The blood of the Lamb = Life and Death!)*

8 **Then they shall eat the flesh on that night;** roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs **they shall eat it.** *(Two parts to the Passover ... including eating the body)*

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, ***(daybreak)*** 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. ***(Some translations: trepidation)*** 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.** *(When God sees the blood ... He will PASS OVER. No blood on the door ... you will be slain ... if you are the firstborn)*

Remember the Passover is on THE 14TH OF NISAN ... when God actually passed over! God didn't pass over on the 15th!

Exodus 12:21-27 (NKJV)

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.** *(Jesus is our 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.** *(The morning = daybreak. In Egypt ... about 6 am)*

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.**

24 **And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.** *(Observe forever)*

25 It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.

26 And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'

27 that you shall say, **It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt** when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

The blood was a MAJOR PART... then ... and for us too ...now!

Let's look at another example of Jesus as our Passover.

1 Peter 1:13-21 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but **as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,**

16 because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"

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, (*redeemed = set free ... delivered ... rescued*)

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

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

We are no longer captive. We have been rescued ... set free ... delivered ... by the blood of Christ.

The story of the Passover focuses on The Lamb. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. It is one of His titles.

John 1:29-39 (NKJV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptising with water."

32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained upon Him.

33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And **I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**"

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. (*John and Andrew*)

36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**"

37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

John Baptist was a witness to the Lamb of God ... the Son of God.

It is Jesus' title. It fits His role as Passover ... one who redeems ... delivers ... rescues.

The title of "Lamb of God" is used over 25 times in the Book of Revelation alone.

Revelation 5:8-13 (NKJV)

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before **the Lamb**, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 **And have made us kings and priests to our God;**

And we shall reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

12 saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honour and glory and blessing!"

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honour and glory and power

Be to Him who sits on the throne,

And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Jesus is the Lamb who was slain. The Passover Lamb who was slain for us.

Revelation 7:9-17 (NKJV)

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, **standing before the**

throne and before *the Lamb*, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to *the Lamb!***"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honour and power and might,
Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and **made them white in *the blood of the Lamb***."

15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

17 for ***the Lamb* who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters**. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (*here is a Lamb who is going to be a shepherd*)

Passover study is very much the study of the Passover Lamb. The Passover events play a major part in the Gospel accounts (almost half of the Book of John is taken up with Jesus' final Passover).

Matthew 26:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,

2 "**You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.**"

3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.

5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Passover is coming up.

Matthew 26:17-20 (NKJV)

17 Now on the **first day of the Unleavened Bread** the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "**Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?**" *(The Disciples know that Jesus is going to eat the Passover)*

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.**" ' "

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; **and they prepared the Passover.**

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. *(To eat the Passover)*

Matthew 26:26-30 (NKJV)

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.

Two emblems: The Bread and the Wine.

Mark 14:12-17 (NKJV)

12 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, *(the transition day)* **when they killed the *Passover lamb, (they *were killing the Passover lamb)** His disciples said to Him, "**Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may 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.***

Mark 14:12 (NASB)

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, ***when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed,*** His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

Jesus modified the emblems.

Back to:

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NKJV)

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.”***

The Bread represent Christ’s Body

The Wine represents Christ’s Blood

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NKJV)

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

“As often”: Not “as often” as you want!

- Catholics ... Take Holy communion ... Mass every Sunday ... and some ... everyday
- Seventh Day Adventists ... quarterly
- Some other Protestants ... 1st Sunday of the month

It’s a “memorial day” ... an anniversary of Jesus’ death. One day of the year like Remembrance Sunday ... 4th July ... Thanksgiving ... Xmas ... Good Friday ... Easter. AN ANNUAL EVENT.

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NET)

26 **For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 (NKJV)

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)**

1 Corinthians 11:28 (AMP)

28 **Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

So. We don't just turn up! Prepare! Consider what it pictures ... what it means! To us! Are we grateful? Do we have a personal relationship with our Passover Lamb?

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

5 **Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (AMP)

5 **Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith** and showing the proper fruits of it. **Test and prove yourselves [not Christ].**

Examine yourself ... test and prove yourselves. Ahead of the Passover is a good time! How do we compare to last year's Passover?

John 6:25-35 (NKJV)

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? What work will You do? (*Seeing is believing*)

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.**

John 6:41-58 (NKJV)

41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "**I am the bread which came down from heaven.**"

42 And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves.

44 **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by God.'

Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

47 **Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**

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.***”

What does it mean to eat Jesus’ flesh? To “eat” is to take into our bodies ... to assimilate ... digest ... becomes part of our being ... part of us. We don’t just look at the bread ... admire it ... we could starve! 😊

Taking the Passover annually ... is the clearest we can get to picture the “eating” of Jesus’ body and drinking His blood.

And UNLESS WE EAT AND DRINK — NO LIFE!

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.**

Jesus' Blood and Death is the greatest gift He and the Father could have given — out of love for their creation (you and me). To treat it lightly — and take the emblems of Passover casually — is not a place we want to be.

So let's not delay ... and start preparing for Passover in 4 weeks time.

Perhaps the most meaningful Passover ever for us?