

THE LORD'S SUPPER: From the PASSOVER to the CROSS

Sunday, February 21, 2021 — The Lord's Supper series — Pastor Andrew Coleman

OUR GOAL: To understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper and God's purpose for it in our lives. Many are confused about the Lord's Supper...

- 1) **What to call it?**
- Communion — 'with unity'*
 - Eucharist — 'thanksgiving'*
 - The Table of Remembrance — 'the Passover meal'*
 - The Lord's Supper — 'the Last Passover → the Cross'*

2) **What are its Old Testament origins? It is central to over all redemption plan of God.**

A — God promised **Abraham** that He would bring his offspring into the Land of Canaan.

- This is where we get the term: "the Promised Land"
See Genesis 15:12-17; Exodus 2:23-25

B — God's people were stuck in Egypt under Pharaoh's rule.

- God's people cried out for deliverance and God heard their cry.
- God raised up Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand their release.
- Pharaoh continually refused through 9 plagues of judgment. Exod. 4-10
- Finally, God declared he would kill all of Egypt's firstborn sons because Pharaoh refused to let God's firstborn, Israel, to go. Exod. 4:22-23 11:1-10

C — God delivers His people in a very specific way in Exod. 12:1-8

- God tells His people to...
 - slaughter a year old sheep or goat
 - smear its blood over the door of the house
 - roast it and prepare unleavened bread and bitter herbs
 - and eat all the meat in that night...
with shoes on, staff in hand and 'in a hurry'.
- The condition was clear; no blood, no deliverance.

EXODUS 12:12-13

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

D — God commands His people to annually celebrate this great deliverance.

- It reminds them that through a blood sacrifice they were passed over.
- So thus began the very specific remembrance feast of Passover.

EXODUS 12:25-27

25 And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

E — This deliverance marked the birth of the nation of Israel as God’s people.

- The people rescued by God and called His own people.
- Only Israelites could eat the Passover — no foreigners were allowed. Ex 12:43, 45
- For a foreigner to join the nation he had to enter the covenant and be circumcised. Then he could be considered a ‘native’ of Israel. Ex. 12:48
- The whole community is to celebrate Passover together. Ex. 12:47
- It was observed in your house, with your family. Ex. 13:14

F — This national deliverance was to be personal from generation to generation.

EXODUS 13:3, 8 (also see DEUT. 26:5-8 for subsequent generations— *us, we, our*)

3 Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

8 You shall tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’

- In the exodus from Egypt we see God’s deliverance came by blood sacrifice.
- This sacrifice inaugurated a new nation chosen for God’s salvation.
- From this nation would come God’s true people from every nation.
- Every OT sacrifice pointed to the coming final sacrifice — the Messiah.

3. What are the origins of the Lord’s Supper in the NEW TESTAMENT?

A — Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples just prior to His crucifixion.

- We call this ‘the Last Supper’, but ‘the Last Passover Supper’ is better.
- He turned the focus from deliverance from Egypt to deliverance from sin and death.
- He would exchange His perfect life for our sinful death.

JOHN 1:29 (John the Baptist rightly declares)

Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

- Luke 22:14-15 tells us Jesus ferently desired to eat this Passover with His disciples before He would suffer and die for them.
- At the Last Passover Supper, Jesus turns friends into family.
- His true family are those who receive his sacrifice.

B — During the Passover meal Jesus makes what must have been an astonishing statement to His disciples when he said, “This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

He then took the cup and said, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

- The long awaited promise that God would establish a new covenant as seen in **Jeremiah 31:31-34** was finally at hand!
- He would write his law on his people’s hearts transforming them from the inside out! They will love him freely and he will forgive them fully and finally.
- As a wife or husband wear a wedding ring to remember their commitment to one another, Jesus gives us this bread and cup to remember his love for us.

C — On the cross, Jesus obliterated the symbolism of sacrifice with the real sacrifice.

- God Himself lays down His life for His people.
- His blood washes away their sin and seals them in Him forever.

DO YOU SEE HIS SACRIFICE FOR YOU?

DO YOU SEE HIS PLAN?

REPENT AND RECEIVE HIM.