

UNDERSTAND THE BREAD OF PASSOVER

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Passover is rapidly approaching — just 10 days away! Hopefully we are getting ready ... including time for some self-examination?

Last week we reviewed the meaning of the Blood of the Passover Lamb ... and its New Testament equivalent ... the Wine at Passover to picture Christ's blood.

There are 2 very distinct parts to the Passover:

- Old Testament: The Blood of the Lamb and the roast lamb to eat
- New Testament: The Wine and the Broken Bread.

Today ... we'll review the 2nd part ... for us ... eating the Broken Bread.

Let's go back to the first Passover.

Exodus 12:1-3, 5-13 (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.**

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.

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

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.** *(After sunset and before it gets jet black)*

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**. (*In 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.

The blood is clearly a sign of key importance ... a matter of life and death. When God sees it — He passes over the house.

But what about the Lamb's body? Just dispose of it? No! Everyone was to **EAT THE LAMB** ... partake ... consume ... digest. This is a very important part of the Passover!

Exodus 12:43-50 (NKJV)

43 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "**This is the ordinance of the Passover**: No foreigner shall **eat it**.

44 But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may **eat it**.

45 A sojourner and a hired servant shall not **eat it**.

46 In one house **it shall be eaten**; **you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.**

47 All the congregation of Israel shall **keep it**. (*Eat it*)

48 And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall **eat it**. (*Only circumcised person shall eat it ... ie only baptised members*)

49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

50 Thus all the children of Israel did; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

Note: **EAT ... EAT ... EAT.**

The Blood is just one part. Accepting Jesus' shed blood for forgiveness is just one part. We need to understand the whole picture!

For most Israelites this was the part of the Passover they were most involved in. One man might slay the lamb — but then **the entire family sat down to eat the Passover lamb.**

Eating the lamb is a major part of Passover. We know the blood represents Jesus' death and the forgiveness of our sins.

But what does the eating of the lamb's body signify?

In the New Testament ... we see there are still 2 parts — 2 emblems.

Mark 14:12-16 (NKJV)

12 **Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when 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?"** (*You eat the Passover to keep 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?"** ' (*Jesus is going to eat the Passover*)

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.**

Prepared the Passover! And JESUS ATE THE PASSOVER.

Mark 14:22-24 (NKJV)

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."** (*This represents My body ... eat it*)

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.**

The Wine and the Bread — picturing Jesus' Blood and Body (blood and body of the Lamb of God).

Two parts repeated by the Apostle Paul in:

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (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."**

("Broken" omitted in some translations ... for example in the NASB, NIV, NRSV, ESV. But ... 95% of the Greek manuscripts contain the word "broken")

1 Corinthians 11:25-31 (NKJV)

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.** *(A very solemn evening. Celebrated on the anniversary ... once per year)*

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 prematurely dead)**

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

We must discern the Lord's Body ... otherwise we may take the Passover in an unworthy manner ... or be sick.

Most of the church world has a reasonable understanding of what the Passover Wine represents — the Blood of Jesus for forgiveness.

But what does the Broken Bread picture? What did eating the Lamb's body in the Old Testament point to?

There's a possible clue in Psalms.

Psalms 105:26-38 (NKJV)

26 He sent Moses His servant,
And Aaron whom He had chosen.
27 They performed His signs among them,
And wonders in the land of Ham. **(Egypt)**
28 He sent darkness, and made it dark;
And they did not rebel against His word.
29 He turned their waters into blood,
And killed their fish.
30 Their land abounded with frogs,
Even in the chambers of their kings.
31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
And lice in all their territory.
32 He gave them hail for rain,
And flaming fire in their land.
33 He struck their vines also, and their fig trees,
And splintered the trees of their territory.
34 He spoke, and locusts came,
Young locusts without number,
35 And ate up all the vegetation in their land,
And devoured the fruit of their ground.
36 **He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land,
The first of all their strength. (That's all of the 10 plagues)**
37 He also brought them **(Israel)** out with silver and gold,
And **there was none feeble among His tribes.**
38 Egypt was glad when they departed,
For the fear of them had fallen upon them.

Psalms 105:37 (GNB)

37 ... and **all of them were healthy and strong.**

Psalm 105:37 (TLB)

37 ... **there were no sick and feeble folk among them.**

It is inevitable that there would be a considerable amount of sickness ... frailty ... among the millions of Israelites in Egypt? But now they need to be fit and healthy to walk for weeks and months on end — across deserts and through mountain ranges.

How come they were all fit and healthy? Even the elderly? What brought that about?

I'm going to suggest it's because they all ate the Body of the Passover Lamb — which healed them. My hypothesis 😊!

If the Old Testament lamb's body brought healing — is it possible that Jesus' Body brings healing? That the Broken Body of Jesus — symbolised by the Broken Passover Bread — is for our healing?

Isaiah 52:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Behold, **My Servant** shall deal prudently; (*My Servant — talking about Jesus*)

He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

14 **Just as many were astonished at you,**

So His visage was marred more than any man,

And His form more than the sons of men;

Isaiah 52:14-15 (NET)

14 ... **He was so disfigured He no longer looked like a man;**

15 **His form was so marred He no longer looked human —**

But why? After all ... it is possible to execute quickly and shed blood (Guillotine?). Forgiveness is through the Blood. Why the beating ... pain ... anguish ... to Jesus' Body?

Isaiah 53:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For **He** shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.

He has no form or comeliness;

And when we see Him,

There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

3 **He** is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 **Surely He has borne our griefs**

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But **He was wounded for our transgressions,**

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

And by His stripes we are healed.

Verse 4 is a poor translation. In most places the Hebrew words are translated “sickness or disease” ... and “pains”.

Isaiah 53:4 (NRSV)

4 **Surely He has borne our infirmities**
and carried our diseases;

Isaiah 53:4 (CJB)

4 In fact, **it was our diseases He bore,**
our pains from which He suffered;

Verse 5 says “by His stripes (wounds or blows) we are healed”. The Hebrew is most commonly used for physical healing. The Hebrew is “Rapha” — which we see in God’s name — Jehovah Rapha — God our Healer. (**Exodus 15**)

So it looks like Jesus Himself took our sicknesses ... diseases and pains. Brought about by His beating — His stripes.

Or ... are we misunderstanding the Hebrew?

The New Testament gives us the answer. The Apostle Matthew quotes verse 4 using Greek.

Matthew 8:14-17 (NKJV)

14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever.

15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, **and healed all who were sick,**

17 **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."**

Matthew 8:17 (NLT)

17 **"He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."**

- The context is physical healing
- Matthew quotes as "infirmities and diseases"

Jesus' Blood purchased forgiveness for all. His Broken Body purchased healing for all.

Both forgiveness and healing were paid for at the same time — at the Cross.

- Jesus shed His Blood ... He died — for our forgiveness from sin and to deliver us from the death penalty
- Jesus gave His Body to be scourged ... beaten ... to suffer pain for many hours for our healing.

There are two parts to the Passover. There are two parts to Jesus' sacrifice.

1 Peter 1:17-21 (NKJV)

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.**

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.

You and I have been redeemed by the precious Blood of the Lamb.

1 Peter 2:21-24 (NKJV)

21 For to this you were called, **because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:**

22 “Who committed no sin,

Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, **when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten,** but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 **who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,** that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—**by whose stripes you were healed.**

Stripes = “Molops” in Greek = wounds (NIV, RSV, NASB etc translate it that way)

Healed = “laomai” in Greek = physical healing. The word appears 28 times in the New Testament (eg Centurion’s Servant — the Woman With The Issue of Blood — the Lame Man healed by Peter and John at the Gate Beautiful)

So Jesus as our Passover Lamb provides both forgiveness and healing.

Psalms 103:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And forget not all His benefits:

3 **Who forgives all your iniquities,**

Who heals all your diseases, (Passover is a good reminder ... 2 parts!)

4 Who redeems your life from destruction,

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

The same Jesus ... same event ... same suffering ... paid for both salvation and healing.

Most of the church world knows about the Blood of Jesus. There are lots of hymns and songs.

But it seems **there is little knowledge of the Broken Body of Jesus and its relevance to our healing!**

Yet the provision of healing has always been part of the message of Christ and the Work of God. If Jesus gave His Body to be brutally beaten for our healing — why would we not remember that? Would it be right to just ignore that part of Jesus' sacrifice?

Matthew 9:35-10:1

35 **Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.** *(Jesus had a 3 part ministry ... teaching ... preaching and healing).*

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."

1 **And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.**

Healing was a major part of Jesus' Ministry and an integral part of His disciples' ministry.

Mark 16:15-20 (NKJV)

15 And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** *(Still applies today!!)*

16 **He who believes and is baptized will be saved;** but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 And **these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;**

18 **they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."** *(Part of the commission to believers)*

19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.**
Amen.

The Commission for us today ... includes **healing the sick** (no time restriction).

Acts 5:14-16

14 And **believers** were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

15 so that **they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.**

16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, **bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.**

Believers knew that healing was available.

We should certainly keep this aspect of Jesus' sacrifice fully in mind when we take the Passover in a few days time. BOTH THE WINE AND THE BREAD — TWO PARTS. We need to respect both parts.

Unfortunately ... over the past few years some false teaching has come into the Churches of God. **Some no longer teach that the Broken Bread pictures Jesus' Body being broken for our healing.**

Instead ... the Broken Bread is said to picture the Church?!

In the WCG ... Joe Tkach Senior explained the taking of the Passover Bread unworthily as: ***"If they had understood then they would have seen that by taking the Bread they expressed love for The Church"***. What??

Another Church of God minister said: ***"Let's not think about the Lord's Dead Body ... it's how we're getting along with our brothers ... the whole Church. Think about the brethren ... scattered ... lonely."***

Paul says that Passover proclaims the Lord's Death till He comes. But rather than focus on Jesus' scourged Body and His Stripes for our healing ... we are to focus on how we're "getting on" with each other?? **NO!!** That would be

taking Passover in an unworthy manner!! **Complete nonsense!! TURNING THE WINE OF THE WORD INTO WATER!!** They have no faith!

LET'S STICK WITH THE TRADITIONAL TEACHING OF THE CHURCH OF GOD — IT'S BIBLICAL!

1 Corinthians 11:23-31 (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.**

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 prematurely*)

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

1 Corinthians 11:29 (TLB)

29 For if he eats the bread and drinks from the cup unworthily, not thinking about the body of Christ and what it means, **he is eating and drinking God's judgment upon himself; for he is trifling with the death of Christ.**

We don't want to be guilty of "trifling" with the death of Christ. That's why Passover is such a solemn evening. It pictures the death of the Son of God ... the death of the Messiah.

Let's make sure that we're prepared and ready!