

DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY

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Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread are racing towards us. Hopefully, we have been pondering on the meaning.

There are two parts to the Passover ... the Blood of The Lamb ... and The Body of The Lamb. In the New Testament we have the wine ... and the broken bread. Two distinct parts to the Passover. Both parts are vitally important to us.

Exodus 12:5-13 (NKJV)

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)

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, (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. (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.

Two parts ... the Blood and The Body ... eating the lamb ...which if you don't do ... you aren't eating The Lord's Body. It is a key part of The Passover.

Exodus 12:23-24 (NKJV)

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.

Exodus 12:8 (NKJV)

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

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. **(To keep the Passover ... you need to splash the blood ... and EAT THE LAMB!!)**

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**. (You have to eat the lamb to KEEP THE PASSOVER)

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.

Numbers 9:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying:

2 "Let the children of Israel **keep the Passover at its appointed time**.

3 **On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time.** **According to all its rites and ceremonies you shall keep it.**" (ON THE 14TH!! ... That's when The Lord passed over)

4 So Moses told the children of Israel that **they should keep the Passover**.

5 **And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight**, in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

Numbers 9:9-12 (NKJV)

9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

10 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord's Passover.

11 **On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it.** **They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

12 They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover **they shall keep it.**

So to keep Passover ... you have to eat **the Passover ... which requires you to eat the lamb.**

Mark 14:12-16 (NKJV)

12 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed (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. (The Passover is more than just slaying a lamb)

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."

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.

There were two parts to the original Passover ... there are still two parts to keeping the Passover today. Two emblems ... The wine to represent the shed blood ... the bread to represent The Lamb's body.

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." (A memorial of the death of The Lord Jesus ... once per year!!)

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

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (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. (Dying prematurely when they shouldn't be! They are not taking the Passover properly)

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

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

What is the truth about eating the bread? I think there is a link in the next few verses.

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.

(After Israel was protected and delivered)

37 He also brought them out with silver and gold,

And there was none feeble among His tribes. (They were all now strong and vigorous! A miracle!! What had they done to bring that about? That is what eating The Passover Lamb is all about ... we can have the same outcome today when we take The Passover)

38 Egypt was glad when they departed,
For the fear of them had fallen upon them.

They had ALL EATEN THE PASSOVER LAMB.

Psalms 105:37 (GOOD NEWS BIBLE)

37 Then he led the Israelites out;
they carried silver and gold,
and all of them were healthy and strong. (Because they had eaten the Passover Lamb)

Psalms 105:37 (NLT)

37 The Lord brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; **and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled.**

Isaiah 52:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Behold, My Servant (Jesus in prophecy) shall deal prudently;
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 (just as many were horrified by the sight of you)
He was so disfigured he no longer looked like a man;
15 **His form was so marred he no longer looked human -**

Isaiah 53:1-4 (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. (Jesus physically looked like an ordinary guy)
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** (Choliy ... Appears 24 times and means "sickness and diseases")

And carried our sorrows; (Makob ... Means pain ... physical or mental and emotional pain)

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

Isaiah 53:4 (HCSB)

4 **Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,**
and He carried our pains;

but we in turn regarded Him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:4 (YOUNGS LITERAL TRANSLATION)

4 **Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains--he hath carried them,** And we--we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

If the Lord Jesus is going to bare our sicknesses ... then He must carry our sicknesses.

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."** (Quoting Isaiah 53:4 under
inspiration)

Isaiah 53:4 (NKJV)

**4 Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;**

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

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

**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. (by Jesus stripes ... we are
healed ... (NASB) "And by His scourging we are healed")

By Jesus stripes ... his scourging ... His wounds ... we WERE HEALED!!
Jesus purchased that healing for us.

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

**6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

1 Peter 1:17-19 (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.**

1 Peter 1:20-21 (NKJV)

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.

1 Peter 2:19-24 (NKJV)

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

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.** (This is Peter quoting Isaiah 53:5)

We are healed by THE STRIPES OF JESUS. That is a key part of the Passover message. Healing is a key part of the Gospel.

Healed appears in the NT ... 28 times. Example: The Centurion's Servant ... The woman with the issue of blood ... The 10 Lepers ... etc. We have our part to play ... sleep ... diet ... exercise. If we break

physical laws ... then healing is available. Healing isn't an incidental "add on". It's throughout the Bible.

Mark 16:15-20 (NKJV) (NB: These verses appear in approx 99% of translations)

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptised 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." (Laying on of hands and healing is part of the Gospel)

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.

Healing is good news. And yet ... most church people overlook it.

James 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save ("sozo" ... save or heal) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:15 (NLT)

15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

James 5:15 (Weymouth New Testament)

15 And the prayer of faith will restore the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up to health; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven.

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, (because of Jesus shed blood)

Who heals all your diseases, (because of Jesus broken body ...

both of these are part of The Passover)

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.

Exodus 15:26 (NKJV)

26 and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."

There has to be a warning at this point. All is not well in the Churches of God. There is an alternative view amongst The Churches of God. They do not teach that His body was beaten for our healing. They teach that the broken bread represents the broken scattered Church.

This is the traditional teaching ... HWA in The Plain Truth About Healing ... take the broken unleavened bread to accept Christ's beaten and broken body for our healing.

However ... after Mr Armstrong's death, Joe Tkach Senior and other ministers, brought in a new meaning ... a Protestant meaning ... that the bread does not represent the broken body of Christ but it now represents "The Scattered Division of The Brethren".

JOE TKACH SENIOR quotes:

"Now let's consider what **I Corinthians 11:29-30** means when it says that many were sick or had died because they failed to discern the Lord's Body. Paul was correcting the Corinthians, explaining that they were missing the point of The Lord's Supper. (It is not The Lord's Supper ... JAM)

They were divided (**verse 18**). They were despising the Church of God by shaming those who were poor (**verse 20**)."

... "The indication is that the Corinthians were guilty of neglecting the needs of fellow members of the Body of Christ. As a result of such neglect of the Body of Christ, God had withdrawn His blessing of healing from them to help them come to repentance" (I Cor11:30-32).

... "If they had understood, then they would have seen that by taking the bread they expressed love for the Church." (Joe Tkach)

Another minister in one of the "Churches of God" today states in one of his sermon's on "The Lord's Body":

"Let's not think about the Lord's dead body ... it's how we are getting along with our brothers ... the whole church. Think about the brethren, scattered, lonely ... " (paraphrased, not verbatim)

1 Corinthians 11:23-30 (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. (Dying prematurely)

We only have a few days to ponder ... to prepare. Let's be ready to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Let's make sure we do it right.

