

LESSONS FROM THE BREAD OF PASSOVER

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Passover is next Thursday!

We have already had a brief overview ... and last week we looked more clearly at the wine of Passover.

Hopefully we are aware there are 2 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 12:5-13 (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. (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. (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 a sign ... a matter of life and death. That's one part of the Passover ... but what about the Lamb's body? Just dispose of it? Is the Blood enough?

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!

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.” (Not just kill the lamb ... but keeping all the rites and all of the ceremonies ... which includes eating the Lamb)

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.

What about people who couldn't make the first month? Here's the answer:

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. (Eat it)

It was not enough to just kill the lamb and use its blood. Vital ... but not the complete Passover. The 2nd part is also vital ... EAT THE BODY. For most people ... that's the part that they are most involved in.

Most people seem to understand the first part about Jesus' shed blood plays ... but what about Jesus' body? What does that signify? Most people have no idea.

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?”**’ 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 14:22-24 (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."**

2 parts/emblems:

- Bread → Body → Eat!
- Wine → Blood → Drink!

2 separate (connected) lessons for us to learn as we keep the Passover.

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 for example in the NASB, NIV, NRSV. 95% of the Greek manuscripts contain the word "broken")

1 Corinthians 11:25-32 (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)**

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.

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

We must discern/examine ourselves (something we can do at anytime ... but before Passover seems to be a good time?)

So Wine → Blood = Death and forgiveness of sin.

But what does the Broken Bread = Body ... what does it teach us? What is the lesson of the Bread? What does it picture?

Is there a hint 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 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.

Psalm 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.**

How come? There were plenty of old people? (Moses was 80 and Aaron 83). Here's a nation of slaves about to leave on a long journey. Surely there would be those with arthritis ... bad knees ... bad backs ... all of the usual sicknesses in a sizeable population?

There would have been plenty of sick/ill people ... but now none? Now ... they were all strong and vigorous?

It is possible the link is that they all ate the Passover Lamb? That's my provisional view ... but we can check it out in other scriptures.

If the Lamb's body brought healing ... is it possible the Jesus' body brings healing.

So ... does the Broken Bread have a connection with healing?

Isaiah 52:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Behold, My Servant 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 ... **he was so disfigured he no longer looked like a man;**

15 **his form was so marred he no longer looked human**—

Most agree this is talking prophetically of Jesus ... but why this suffering?

Jesus died and shed His blood for our sins ... but death can be quick and painless (guillotine?). Why was Jesus beaten? Why suffering hours of pain and anguish and weakness?

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.
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.

Verse 4 is a poor translation. Let's look at a couple of other translations.

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;***

It could include emotional and mental well-being ... (holistic view of our 'bodies') ... but primarily focusing on physical healing ... infirmities and diseases of our body. We can see this verified in the New Testament.

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.”**

Okay ... Jesus “took” our sicknesses.

Just for those few that evening in Capernaum? Or maybe just for those He met during His brief ministry?

Is forgiveness for all? Is healing for all? Yes to both! But when did Jesus “take” disease/sickness upon Himself? While eating breakfast? Whilst walking on water? No! The answer becomes evident. At His crucifixion ... when He gave His body to be beaten ... scourged ... bruised.

HEALING IS PART OF JESUS’ PASSOVER SACRIFICE in His body.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV)

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.**

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.

Isaiah 53:5 (NET)

5 He endured punishment that made us well;

because of His wounds we have been healed.

Isaiah 53:5 (NASB)

5 And by His scourging we are healed.

There are 2 parts to Jesus’ Passover sacrifice on the cross:

1. He shed His Blood ... He died ... for our forgiveness and deliverance from the death penalty.
2. His body was scourged ... beaten ... ripped ... suffering intense pain ...
FOR OUR PHYSICAL HEALING.

We must not forget or overlook the 2 parts.

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.

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.**

Stripes = Molops = wounds (NIV, RSV, NASB etc translate it that way)

Healed = laomai = physical healing in all 28 New Testament occurrences (eg Centurion's servant and the woman with the issue of blood)

It seems that God wants us to be well ... and has made provision ... as part of the two-part Passover package?

We shouldn't treat this lightly or casually. IT IS PART OF THE PRICE THAT JESUS PAID.

We've got our part to play in our health and well-being ... such as a sensible diet ... exercise ... and avoiding stress.

But ... even so ... sickness and disease occur ... because of the environment ... accidents ... all part of this fallen-world. But ... then we can enjoy the benefits that Jesus purchased for us.

We could relegate healing as something of minor importance ... other than the fact that the evidence of scripture itself shows it to be MAJOR.

The Gospel accounts are full of stories of healing ... physical healing. Not incidental.

Healing was a key part of Jesus' ministry ... probably mentioned even more so than the forgiveness of sin. (Though you wouldn't pick that up from most Church sermons!! Rare to hear about the broken body and the healing ministry of Jesus)

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.

Part of the Gospel message even after Jesus goes back to heaven.

Most people know about sin ... forgiveness ... spiritual salvation ... “The Blood” ... but what about healing ... purchased by Jesus’ broken body?

Healing was part of the Church environment too.

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 (the Greek is “healed”) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.** And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:15 (NLT)

15 **And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well.**

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.

Eternal salvation undoubtedly more important than physical healing of our “temporary” bodies ... BUT ... WE DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM! WE GET BOTH! We can choose to have both benefits.

Most hear about sin and blood ... but few seem to understand about the BROKEN BODY AND PHYSICAL HEALING.

YET ... FAITH COMES BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.

God's desire for health and well-being of His people was announced early on.

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.”** (*Jehovah Rapha*) (“I am” ... not “was” ... *your Healer*)

Next week ... many will take the Passover emblems.

When we take the Bread ... it is good to ponder what it really means. JESUS' BODY BROKEN FOR OUR PHYSICAL HEALING.

It is good to reflect on what Jesus experienced in those hours leading up to His death ... whipping ... scourging ... beating ... hanging ... nailed to a cross for many hours ... pain as Jesus redeemed us from sickness and disease.

We should be very thankful. Make sure not to forget this benefit as Psalm 103 said.

However ... it comes with a warning. Because ... there is an alternative teaching ... including among some of the Churches of God.

The teaching is: The Bread does not picture Jesus' physical body ... it was not broken for our healing ... but rather that the Bread pictures The Church.

One minister in the Church of God instructed: “Don't think about Jesus' Body being beaten ... scourged and that by His stripes you are healed. Think instead about the scattered condition of the Church of God ... be sure you're not contributing to that scattered condition”.

Don't think about Jesus' scourging ... His wounds ... physical healing? Think instead about how the church is scattered?

Really?? I class that as disgraceful. In my opinion ... taking the Passover Bread with that mind would definitely be taking the Passover in an unworthy manner!

I would say that we would be completely failing to rightly discern the Lord's Body if we thought that the bread pictures the Church.

This teaching came into the Church of God shortly after the death of Mr HWA in 1986. Joe Tkach Snr is largely responsible for that.

Commenting on Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians Chapter 11 about taking the Passover in an unworthy manner ... Mr Tkach Snr said: ***"If they had understood then they would have seen that by taking the Bread they expressed love for The Church"***.

Another 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 ..."***

Well ... certainly there is nothing wrong ... generally ... week to week ... being concerned about the state of the Church ... it's powerlessness ... disunity ... finger-pointing ... name-calling. We don't want to be adding to it!

BUT THAT'S NOT THE PASSOVER MESSAGE!

The Passover message is about the Lamb and its shed blood and body. About Jesus ... the Lamb of God ... and His shed Blood and Body. It's not a message about The Church.

Don't confuse Jesus' actual literal body (flesh then ... spirit now) ... with the "Figure of Speech" Paul occasionally used about the Church being The Body of Christ.

The Body that was beaten ... scourged ... hung on a cross and died was an actual body ... not a "Figure of speech".

The Church clearly understood this meaning for decades. For example:

The Plain Truth About Healing Book by Mr HWA on 1 Corinthians Chapter 11 states: ***“This is important! Understand the meaning of what was written here! Taking the broken Unleavened Bread means we accept Christ’s Beaten and Broken Body ... that we may be healed”***.

So. Watch out for this false teaching ... even among Churches of God.

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. (are dead prematurely)**

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.**

It’s not long now. Remember ... we’re proclaiming the Lord’s Death till He comes. IT’S A VERY SERIOUS AND SOBER EVENING.

Don't be casual! Don't take it lightly!

Finally. I wish you a Blessed Passover and enjoyable Night To Be Much Remembered.