

LET'S REVIEW THE BREAD AND WINE OF PASSOVER

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13.4.23

Passover is just a few days away — Sunday evening — April 21 — just after sunset.

We did a quick refresher last week ... and we want to continue this week — in particular **looking at the two specific symbols of Passover.**

In the Old Testament ... Passover was symbolised by the body and blood of the lamb. **In the New Testament ... it's the bread and the wine.** Let's see what they represent to us?

Scripture tells us **the symbols are very important. They may even be a matter of life and death!**

The Passover proclaims the Lord's death. It is a very solemn evening. **It is not the Lord's Supper!**

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

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.** (*Once per year — a memorial of Jesus' death. N.B. Modern Jewish Matzos are not bread — they are dried crackers!!*)

27 **Therefore** (because you are picturing the death of the Lord) **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** (lacking discernment) **eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.** (Discerning — judging)

30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.** (Meaning: "are prematurely dead")

Jesus died for you — and He died for me! And do for us what we couldn't do for ourself.

Galatians 1:3-5

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 **who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,** according to the will of our God and Father,

5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus gave Himself for our sins — that He might deliver us.

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

2 And walk in love, **as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.**

Jesus loved us — gave Himself for us.

Jesus died for us. Shed His blood that we could be forgiven.

1 Peter 1:17-19

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 (delivered) 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.** (*Signified by the red wine*)

We have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ — as of an unblemished lamb.

Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were still without strength, **in due time Christ died for the ungodly.** (*“Ungodly” — you and me!*)

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**

10 **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

11 And not only that, but **we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

Even while sinners and enemies — Christ died for us. **We are justified (declared righteous) — forgiven — by His blood.**

We are now reconciled to God ... who did all of this out of His love for us — through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We could never reconcile ourselves to God by our own efforts. We are totally dependent on God The Father and Jesus Christ and what they have done for us.

We needed the shed blood and death of our Passover Lamb!

Colossians 1:13-14

13 **He (The Father) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**
14 **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.** (*“Redemption” = deliverance/rescued through the Blood of Jesus*)

Redemption — mainly the forgiveness of sins (and hence deliverance from death).

Most church-goers have a reasonable grasp of Jesus’ death and shed blood for the forgiveness of sins.

The wine we take at Passover is an emblem of Jesus’ blood — shed for the remission of our sins.

But there are two parts to Passover — the wine and the bread.

The purpose of the bread is not well understood at all!!

If you think back to the first Passover kept in Egypt ... the body of the lamb was the part most people were involved in. **One person per family would have slain the lamb and splashed the blood on the door** — but **everybody** — maybe 5–10 people or more per household — **would have eaten the lamb.** Almost the central part of the Passover.

The lamb’s blood was a sign — and God would pass over those homes.

But what part did the lamb’s body play? What was the significance of everyone eating the lamb?

I think we get a hint of what it was doing in:

Psalms 105:26-27

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.**

Psalms 105:36-38

36 **He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land,
The first of all their strength. (Plague number 10)**

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.

None feeble!!

Psalms 105:37 (GNB)

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

Psalms 105:37 (NLT)

37 ... **there were no sick or feeble among them**

Curious? There must have been lots of sickly and frail among the Israelites in Egypt? Yet — seemingly **they were now all healthy and strong** to make the journey to the Promised Land.

What transformed them? I'd suggest that the common factor is that **they were all healed — they had all eaten the BODY OF THE PASSOVER LAMB.**

The suggestion is: **just as the blood of the lamb delivered them from the death angel ... so the body of the lamb brought about their healing.**

Are there any scriptures to support this?

Isaiah 53:4-6

4 **Surely He (Jesus The Messiah) has borne our griefs
(sicknesses or diseases)**

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten by God, and afflicted. (*Jesus wasn't smitten by God — people thought He was*)

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. (*Stripes or wounds*)

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.

Verse 4: “griefs” and “sorrows” is not a very good translation. Most other places ... the Hebrew is translated “sickness ... 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;

Isaiah 53:4 (HCSB)

4 **Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,**

and He carried our pains;

Isaiah 53:5 (AMP)

5 **And by His stripes (wounds in Jesus' body) we are healed**

The Hebrew word is the usual word for physical healing — **Rapha** (as in **Jehovah-Rapha — God our Healer**).

These verses tell us that Jesus bore our sicknesses. That we are healed by His wounds.

And **the New Testament makes clear that these verses are referring to physical ... bodily healing.**

Matthew 8:14-17

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, (*on that Sabbath day*) 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."**

The context of this passage is physical healing. Matthew quotes the Isaiah passage as "infirmities and sicknesses".

When in Jesus' life did He "take" our sicknesses and diseases? At the same time as He took care of our sins. At the cross.

Jesus shed His blood and died for our forgiveness.

He gave His body to be scourged that by HIS STRIPES we can be HEALED.

There are 2 parts to Jesus' Passover sacrifice. The blood and the body of the Lord Jesus.

We should be careful to remember both aspects when we take the Passover.

Psalms 103:1-3

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,**

FORGET NOT!!

Physical healing has always been part of the Gospel — the Good News.

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.**

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.”

Chapter 10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power (authority) over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

Jesus had a 3-part ministry — Teaching ... Preaching ... and Healing (every sickness and disease). Jesus authorised His disciples to do the same.

Mark 16:15-20 THE GREAT COMMISSION

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

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.”**

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 Great Commission includes laying on of hands and healing the sick (and — no time limit — none of the Commission has ceased!)

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. They expected it!!

Acts 28:7-9

7 In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.

8 And it happened that **the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.**

9 So when this was done, **the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.**

For many years ... the Church of God taught that **the broken bread at Passover pictured Jesus' body — broken for our physical healing.**

When we would take the Passover emblems ... we would **reflect on Jesus' shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins ... and on Jesus' broken body for our healing.**

That's implied in 1 Corinthians Chapter 11 ... telling us to properly discern or distinguish the Lord's body — or we may be weak ... sick or even die (prematurely)!

In recent years ... more and more Churches of God have changed their teaching about the Bread of Passover. **Many now avoid any reference to physical healing. Instead ... a rather vague teaching has come in — that the bread pictures the state of the Church — with scattered and lonely brethren.**

NONSENSE!!!

I'd suggest we stick with the traditional teaching — the Biblical teaching.

CONCLUSION:

When we take the Passover we should remember we are proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes — and there are 2 key parts to reflect on:

The blood shed for the remission of our sins — and the body broken for our healing!