



Celebrating the New Covenant- Passover

Sunday Sermon – 4/13/2025

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1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? **7** Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, (The Passover) not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Matthew 26:26-28 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

The Passover is a celebration of the covenant we have in Christ Jesus.

As we examine these two different passages of scripture, I would like to highlight two key points from each.

First, in **1 Corinthians chapter 5**, notice that it states that Christ is our Passover. So, when we celebrate the Passover, we are celebrating Christ!

Additionally, it emphasizes that we should observe the Passover feast. **8 Therefore let us keep the feast, (The Passover)**

In the next passage, **Matthew 26:26-28** we see Jesus instituting a new way to celebrate Passover. The New Testament Passover represents Him, for He says eat of His body and drink of His Blood. In doing this, a new covenant is established through His finished work—His life, death, burial, and resurrection.

What many Christians do not know is that Jesus, who was a Jew, observed the Passover with His closest followers and instructed them, and us, to continue to keep it until His return.

This meal, known as the Last Supper, was actually the Passover meal that most Jews of the time observed every year. At this practical meal, Jesus brought a new revelation regarding its true significance.

Passover is primarily a reminder of God's covenant with His people—a covenant to save, deliver, set free, renew, and prosper those who belong to Him.

What is a covenant

A covenant is a formal, solemn, and binding agreement where two or more parties make promises and commitments to each other.

The only way to break a blood covenant is by death or total disavowal of the other party



The covenant we have with God encompasses both legal and relational dimensions. The legal aspects of this blood covenant are outlined in the Word of God, which specifies both God's responsibilities and our own within this covenant. The relational aspect involves becoming one with God in spirit; through the Holy Spirit, God unites with our spirit, creating a profound connection.

This concept is similar to marriage, which is also a legal and relational covenant. The legal side of marriage is evidenced by the marriage certificate, while the relational side is expressed through the consummation of the marriage after the ceremony.

The first covenant God made with humanity can be traced back to Adam and Eve, who fell from living in a perfect world due to their disobedience in eating from the Tree of Knowledge.

In response to their disobedience, God issued a judgment but also provided a promise of redemption through Jesus Christ.

He cursed Satan, the serpent that tempted Adam and Eve, stating in **Genesis 3:15, "I will put enmity between you and the woman..."**

Immediately after their sin, God provided the first blood sacrifice for this covenant by covering Adam and Eve's nakedness with the skins of slain animals, possibly a lamb. From this point, we can trace back through the Old Testament to see that God did nothing for His chosen people apart from the shedding of blood in a covenant.

God's Covenants with Noah and Abraham

Noah, after the flood, built an altar and offered burnt offerings to establish a blood covenant with God. **Genesis 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar...Genesis 9:11 Thus I (God) establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."**

Later, God chose Abraham, promising to make him a father of many nations through a covenant that involved the shedding of blood. **Genesis 13:14-18 And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are — northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." 18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the Lord.** By virtue of Abraham building an altar, it indicated that there was the shedding of blood in that place.

Later in chapter 15, we will see where God redefines the covenant that He made with Abraham.

When God delivered Moses the Ten Commandments, the leader of the children of Israel brought the people together and offered young bulls as a blood sacrifice:



Exodus 24:8 “And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words”.

Since the fall of mankind, God has always been able to fellowship with humanity through a covenant relationship initiated in blood.

To properly understand the new covenant that we have through the blood of Jesus Christ, we have to be knowledgeable of the first Passover when God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt.

How the Israelites Got into Slavery

Abraham's great-grandson. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and taken to Egypt. He endured great hardship but was eventually given a top position in the nation's government because God rewarded his faithfulness with favor.

As years passed, Joseph and his brothers died, and the children of Israel multiplied in the land of Egypt. They held important positions and played an important role in the political, cultural, and economic life of the country. Because of their increasing numbers and great positions they held, the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians under the rule of the Pharaoh Ramses II.

However, the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the children of Israel increased and multiplied.

When it seemed the children of Israel could no longer endure their terrible suffering and persecution, their cries for help pierced the heavens.

Exodus 2:24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

God established the Passover to remind the children of Israel of the covenant with Abraham. *Despite their shortcomings, God recognized this covenant, symbolized by the shedding of blood, rather than their actions.*

God is still willing to uphold His commitments related to any covenant made.

You see, God is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God.

The reason why God does what He does here on the earth is because He is keeping a covenant promise He made with someone here on the earth.

What God's mouth speaks, He is ready to perform it.

Even though the Israelites may have seemed unattractive and undesirable at that time to God, they were still His people.

This gives us hope even at our worst, God remembers we are His by our covenant through Jesus' blood.

God raised up Moses and instructed him to go to Pharaoh and demand the freedom of His people. Moses returned, and, with the help of his brother Aaron, issued repeated pleas to Pharaoh to “let my people go.”



Pharaoh haughtily refused, saying that he had never heard of the God of the Israelites. The pleas were ignored. Moses warned the pharaoh that God would send punishments on the people of Egypt, in increased severity, if the Israelites were not allowed to leave. Repeatedly, the Pharaoh ignored Moses's request for freedom. As a result, God unleashed a series of ten horrible plagues upon the nation of Egypt, and the last plague was the Death of the Firstborn.

This is where the first Passover is instituted.

The Institution of the First Passover

Exodus 12:3-14 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire — head, legs and inner parts. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn — both men and animals — and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord — a lasting ordinance.

The Old Testament institution of the Passover relates to the new institution of the Passover that Jesus Christ established.

The account of God liberating the Israelites from the harsh oppression of the Egyptian Pharaoh stands as a powerful illustration of His profound love and redemptive plan. This historic event serves as a vivid type and shadow of the greater salvation that God offers to humanity through Jesus Christ. Just as He freed His chosen people from bondage and led them toward a promised future, so too does He invite all of mankind today to experience the ultimate deliverance and hope found in faith.

Let's look at the typology



The Passover Lamb as a Type of Christ:

The Lamb was hand-picked: In its prime of life with no blemishes. Each household was to take a year-old lamb (or goat) and sacrifice it. *Remember, we were all chosen before the foundation of the world, as God chose His only begotten Son.*

Jesus was hand-picked: The Father hand-picked Jesus to live a life without blemish.

The Lamb was sacrificed in a way that its blood was poured out.

Jesus was Crucified: Jesus was crucified in a manner where He shed His blood from the courthouse, through the jail cell, to the whipping post, and all the way to the cross.

Roast the Lamb: The lamb was to be roasted over fire, with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

Jesus tried by Fire: Throughout His Life experiences, He was tested to His limits, but like gold in the fire, He emerged pure and resilient. From the time John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, Jesus faced trials and challenges. He was tempted in the wilderness by Satan, persecuted by the religious rulers of His time, and ultimately betrayed by one of His disciples. This journey included the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and the suffering on the cross. Jesus was tested, tried, and true.

The roasting of the lamb symbolizes its readiness to be eaten. This is why Jesus told his disciples, when he broke the bread, "**Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**" Jesus was sharing with His disciples that He is the Word made flesh. In order to live the abundant life, He came to provide; they would need to consume the Word of God. He is the Word of God that became flesh and dwelt among men.

They had to eat the lamb fully dressed, symbolizing their readiness to leave at a moment's notice. Though uncertain of when they would be delivered, being dressed indicated their anticipation of freedom at any time.

We must understand that God doesn't save us to leave us where we are; God saves us to take us to our own design promise land. It might be the same geological location, but once you're saved, it'll look totally different.

As we here read and study the Word of God, we should be filled with great expectation, anticipating that the manifestation of our needs and desires could happen at any moment. *While we may not know the exact timing, we should always remain in eager anticipation of what is to come.*

Blood on the Doorposts: They were instructed to take the blood of the lamb and apply it to the top and sides of their doorframes. This act served as a sign that they belonged to God and indicated to the death angel that a sacrifice had been made as a substitute for the firstborn.

Jesus's blood applied to our hearts: When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, His blood is applied to our hearts. This signifies to death that we belong to God and grants us the right to eternal life, as the perfect life of Jesus serves as a substitute for our sinful lives. For the Bible says, "**life is in the blood**"!

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When Jesus reinstated the Passover meal, He instructed us to drink the wine, which symbolizes that His blood is now applied not to our outer selves, but to the innermost parts of our spirit, heart, and soul.

Timing of Jesus' Crucifixion: Jesus was crucified during the Jewish Passover, specifically on the day the Passover lambs were sacrificed. This timing further emphasizes the connection between the Passover lamb and Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice.

The Apostle Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 5:7**, "**Therefore let us keep the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. For our Passover Lamb Christ, has been sacrificed**".

This verse directly connects Jesus to the Passover lamb and highlights the importance of living a life free from sin, just as the Israelites were to remove leaven from their homes during Passover.