
Lesson 13 – Church Ordinances – Lord’s Supper (Part 1 – The History of Lord’s Supper)

- I. Introduction:** To have a proper understanding and appreciation of the Lord’s Supper, we must know something of its origin and history.
- II. The institution and first celebration of the Passover** as recorded in the 12th Chapter of Exodus. To review what Passover is, read Exodus 12:11-13.

¹¹And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite 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. ¹³And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

- A. During their almost 400-year sojourn in Egypt, the Israelites had grown into a powerful nation.
1. The Pharaoh of Egypt feared the growing strength of the Israelites and set about to stop it.
 - a. The Israelites were reduced to a nation of slaves.
 - b. All male children were ordered slain at birth.
 2. Amidst this terrible persecution, Moses was born, and God called him to lead Israel out of Egypt to the land of Canaan.
- B. When the children of the Lord were brought out of the land of Egypt, the Lord commanded them to prepare for this departure by a solemn religious ordinance.
1. On the 10th day of the month Abib, the head of each family was to select from the flock either a lamb or kid, a male of the 1st year, without blemish.
 2. If the family was too small to eat the whole lamb, the father was permitted to invite the nearest to join them.
 3. On the 14th day of the month, the father was to kill the lamb while the sun was setting.
 - a. After killing the lamb he was to take the blood in a basin, and with a sprig of hyssop was to sprinkle the lamb’s blood on the door side posts and lintel of their house door.
 - b. The lamb was then roasted whole without breaking a bone.
 - c. The lamb was eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
 - d. Nothing was to be left. Anything left was to be burned with fire.
 4. God informed the people that judgement was to fall that night and that the first born of every family was to die. Only those where the blood had been applied escaped judgement.

III. Passover... a Jewish ordinance forever. Read Exodus 12:14

¹⁴And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

- A. The Jews were commanded to keep the Passover as an ordinance forever.
- B. The Jews were to observe the Passover once a year in remembrance of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

IV. The institution of the Lord’s Supper. Read:

- Matthew 26:23-30
- Mark 14:22-25
- Luke 22:17-20

- A. The Lord’s Supper was instituted by Christ on the night before His crucifixion.
 - 1. Jesus and His disciples were gathered in the upper room for the observance of Passover.
 - 2. After eating the meal Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper.
 - a. At this meal, two (2) symbols were used (bread and grape juice).
 - b. Christians are to observe the Lord’s Supper as a memorial of Christ.
- B. Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper at the time of the Passover, thus turning the shadow of the Old Testament into the substance of the New Testament.
- C. Jesus, by eating the Passover according to the law, and then instituting the Lord’s Supper, was teaching that one was to take the place of the other. The Lord’s Supper **was the fulfillment of the symbols of the Passover.**

Questions:

1. What was the occasion of the first Passover?
2. Where was the first Passover conducted?
3. What connection does the Lord’s Supper have with Passover?
4. Describe the institution of the Lord’s Supper?
5. What are elements of the Lord’s Supper and what are these elements symbolic of?

Discussions: Why should all Christians partake in the Lord’s Supper?

Scripture reading: Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-34

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- B. The Jews were to observe the Passover once a year in remembrance of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

IV. The institution of the Lord’s Supper. Read:

- Matthew 26:23-30 *²³And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. ²⁴The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. ²⁵Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. ²⁶And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom. ³⁰And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*
- Mark 14:22-25 *²²And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. ²³And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. ²⁵Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*
- Luke 22:17-20 *¹⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: ¹⁸for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. ¹⁹And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*

- A. The Lord’s Supper was instituted by Christ on the night before His crucifixion.
1. Jesus and His disciples were gathered in the upper room for the observance of Passover.
 2. After eating the meal Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper.
 - a. At this meal, two (2) symbols were used (bread and grape juice).
 - (i) As they partook of the bread, it was a symbol of the broken body of Christ.
 - (ii) As they partook of the grape juice, it was a symbol of the shed blood of Christ.
 - b. Christians are to observe the Lord’s Supper as a memorial of Christ.
- B. Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper at the time of the Passover, thus turning the shadow of the Old Testament into the substance of the New Testament.
- C. Jesus, by eating the Passover according to the law, and then instituting the Lord’s Supper, was teaching that one was to take the place of the other. The Lord’s Supper **was the fulfillment of the symbols of the Passover.**

Questions:

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Discussions: Why should all Christians partake in the Lord’s Supper?

Scripture reading: Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-34

1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

[About Christian Worship]

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. 3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. 5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered

dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. 6For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 7For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. 8For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 10For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 11Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 12For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. 13Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? 14Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? 15But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. 16But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

[The Lord's Supper]

17Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. 18For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. 19For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. 20When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. 21For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. 22What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. 23For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. 27Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 33Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. 34And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.