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Understanding Passover

Doctrinal Statement:

The Passover represents Christ's sacrifice for all—both the individual and the world—and pictures the initial step in salvation. Only through acceptance of this sacrifice can one repent and be forgiven.

The Church of God International

HOME BIBLE

Study Course

The bread and wine which Jesus instituted at His Last Supper and which are taken yearly by the church today are explained symbolically both by Jesus Himself and by the apostle Paul. The wine represents the shed blood of Jesus who gave Himself as an offering to pay for all the sins of mankind. That full and complete sacrifice makes it possible for one to have any and all sins forgiven upon repentance. The wine also represents the New Covenant made between God and the Christian by the blood of Christ.

The bread represents the body of Jesus which was torn and beaten for us all in Christ's ultimate sacrifice for mankind. Perhaps the fullest discussion of its meaning is found in John 6, in which it is shown that Jesus is the "Bread of Life." Consuming the bread and wine represents partaking of the eternal life that only God can give. The beaten body of Christ also represents the stripes He took on His back, enabling us to claim the gift of divine healing for our physical infirmities (Isaiah 53:40-45; 1 Peter 2:24).

Jesus Himself explained that the purpose of the foot-washing ceremony is to show true humility and the proper sense of service (John 13:12-17). No one can be greater than His Lord, who is Jesus Christ; yet Jesus was the greatest Servant of all and gave more than anyone else for mankind. This spirit of Christian love and service is expressed symbolically by washing another person's feet and then allowing that person to reciprocate.

Thus, the Passover represents Christ's sacrifice for all—both the individual and the world—and pictures the initial step in salvation. Only through acceptance of this sacrifice can one repent and be forgiven. Repentance is the first stage in individual conversion.

Passover has indeed been passed over by the many! The nation of Israel was given the greatest man-

date ever given in the history of all mankind. When God called Israel out of Egyptian slavery, God's plan was to reveal Himself through Israel as His agent, and make known to all nations His plan, His laws, and His blessings (Deuteronomy 4:5-9)!

It was not because the Israelites were strong or righteous that God chose them; on the contrary, they were the fewest—and in bondage—but God said He loved them, and He would fulfill the oath that He had made with their fathers (Deuteronomy 7:6-9).

Before the foundation of the world, God created a plan in which He is allowing seven thousand years for its completion. It is safe to say that God's number of perfection and completeness is seven. We find in the book of Revelation that there are Seven Churches, Seven Spirits, Seven Stars, Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Vials, Seven Personages, Seven Dooms, and Seven New Things.

In Leviticus 23:15-16, the number seven and the Sabbath, which was the seventh day, is connected with the word *complete*. The word *finished*, we will find, is also associated with the number seven. "[I]n the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished..." (Revelation 10:7).

Before Aaron and his sons were allowed to perform their priestly duties, they were required to be consecrated for seven days (Leviticus 8:31-36). This pictures a life completely or wholly consecrated or dedicated to the Lord for service.

On the holy Day of Atonement, the high priest sprinkled the blood upon the mercy seat and before the mercy seat seven times (Leviticus 16:14). This was looking ahead and pointing to the completed work of Christ, by which we receive redemption. "With His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption"

(Hebrews 9:12).

God has given to His people—those He has called out of this world—seven annual festivals to keep them in the knowledge of His plan. Each festival (holy day) pictures a vital step in that plan for all of mankind. These festivals are memorials of God’s plan. The ancient Israelites forgot them, and in so doing forgot the plan of God. Christians, in the beginning when Christ Jesus built the New Testament Church, knew about God’s holy day festivals and kept them. However, there are very few today, calling themselves Christians, who know about these festivals; therefore the plan of God is lost to them. Hence the great confusion that exists among the many so-called “Christian churches.” God’s plan is lost to the disobedient, and to those who do not keep His holy day festivals.

These festivals were given to God’s congregation in the wilderness, and begin with the commemoration of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, portraying the plan of God to liberate the world from sin!

The festivals are a sign between God and His people in the same way that the weekly Sabbath is a “sign” (Exodus 31:13). Never are these festivals called any thing other than the “feasts of the LORD” (Leviticus 23:2). Year after year, God’s people are required to reenact the plan of God by celebrating these festival days. By doing so, God’s people are continually reminded of God’s plan and the part they play in it.

Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Old Testament, selected the yearly agricultural harvests of Palestine as a type of God’s spiritual harvest of human beings. This keeps His people—those He is personally calling out of this world—in the understanding of His plan, the plan of salvation.

In Palestine there are two annual grain harvests. First, produced by the early rain, is the smaller spring harvest. Afterward is the larger main harvest, which is the much greater fall harvest.

The spring harvest pictures those He calls now to become His Spirit-begotten children, His church. These are the “firstfruits.” This is only the

beginning of His great spiritual harvest.

Jesus Christ is the one who spoke to Moses and gave him the summary of annual holy days and festivals we read about in Leviticus 23. The first three memorials, beginning with Passover, portray to the church the first part of God’s plan, showing only the first fruits of Christ’s work. The last four festivals look ahead to the future, showing how God will garner the latter great fall harvest of billions of souls.

Before God made the covenant with the Israelites at Sinai, He commanded that the Passover be kept forever. (Most believe it ended at the crucifixion of Christ.) It was a yearly memorial, instituted before Sinai, of the angel of death “passing over” Israel and sparing the firstborn by the blood of a slain lamb, whose blood was then put on the lintels and doorposts of their houses.

To the church, the Passover portrays the time when the true Passover Savior of the world came to shed His blood for the remission of the sins of all mankind.

The very first event or step in God’s plan for man’s spiritual creation is the death of Jesus Christ. Passover, being the first one of God’s annual festivals, depicts that incident. Jesus, in the New Testament, commanded that it be observed each year, with new symbols, as a memorial of His death, ensuring that we would not forget His sacrifice (Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–27).

Anciently, Christ gave His laws and holy days to Israel. The Scriptures tell us that the “oracles,” the Old Testament Scriptures, were committed to Israel. These “oracles” included the weekly Sabbath, the holy days, and the sacred calendar. All these were to be passed on from one generation to another (Acts 7:38; Ezekiel 20:12).

When the House of Israel went into captivity, beginning in 721 B.C., they lost the knowledge of God and their responsibility to preserve the “oracles,” and the responsibility was then passed on to the Jews. The House of Judah (Jews) went into captivity beginning in 604 B.C., after the death of Solomon, when they split away from the House of Israel. They were in captivity to Babylon for some 70 years

before being allowed to return to Jerusalem by Cyrus the Great. They did not lose their identity or the knowledge of their God. Knowing that God had punished them for Sabbath-breaking, they faithfully retained the true calendar, the knowledge of the Sabbath, and God’s holy days.

Some Final Words

Be sure and go to God, in Jesus Christ’s name, and ask for help in understanding this most important lesson about the Passover. Remember, this is *your* Bible study. We are only acting as a guide to help you discover on your own the great truths of the Bible that God wants you to know. As you continue your study you will become aware of a message that you will be unable to ignore. By asking God to help you in your study of His Word, you will develop a deeper relationship with your God and Savior. May God bless you in your continuing study of His Word.

Understanding Passover

There was only one original Passover. There will never be another like it. The Old Testament Passover typified the demanding need for a Savior.

This original Passover evidenced the Exodus of Moses and the children of Israel out of Egypt, the land of sin (Hebrews 11:23-29).

God commenced His work of freeing Israel by pouring out His plagues on the Egyptians, prevailing upon Pharaoh to release the Israelites so they could travel into the wilderness to worship Him. The account of this original Passover is found in Exodus 12.

Because Israel had been in Egyptian bondage for nearly 250 years, they lost track of time, had not been allowed to worship God as He had ordained, and did not even know when God’s calendar year began. Therefore God had to reveal to them that Abib was the first month in the spring, beginning God’s sacred calendar (Exodus 12:1–2).

On the tenth day of *Abib* each family was to select a lamb of the first year, without any flaws, defects, spots, or imperfections, from the sheep or the goats. They were then to keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month

(Exodus 12:3–5).

In the New Testament, when John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching him, he proclaimed, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

It is easy to understand that this perfect lamb of Exodus 12 looked forward prophetically to Christ the Savior, our “Lamb” who was sinless and without blemish or spot (1 Peter 1:19).

Toward the end of the fourteenth day of the month of Abib, the Israelites were to take the lamb and slay it. The blood was to be drained from the lamb and then applied to the lintel and each side-post of the door of the house they were staying in. (Exodus 12:7).

On that night, God brought His final devastating plague upon Egypt to compel Pharaoh to free Israel (Exodus 12:12,29). It was the blood of the lamb on their doorways that saved them from death (verse 13). In every house of the Egyptians, the firstborn of every family suffered death, even in Pharaoh’s household and even the firstborn who was in the dungeon and the firstborn of all cattle (Exodus 12:29–30).

It was the blood of the lamb that protected the Israelites from the passing over of the angel of death. And all those today who will not harden their hearts, but instead repent and come under the blood of the Lamb—Christ, who was sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7)—will be protected from the penalty of eternal death!

Review

1. *There was only one original Passover.*
2. *There was a great Exodus of the children of Israel, led by Moses, out of Egypt, the land of sin.*
3. *The calendar of God had to be revealed to the Israelites, for they had lost track of time.*
4. *On the tenth day of the month of Abib, each family was to select a lamb.*
5. *The lamb was to be without flaws or imperfections.*
6. *They were to keep the lamb until the fourteenth of the month of Abib and then slay it.*
7. *John the Baptist said that Jesus was the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.*

8. *The lamb of the Exodus looked forward prophetically to Christ our Savior Lamb, who was sinless and without blemish or spot.*

9. *The blood of the lamb was to be put on the lintel and side-post of the door of their dwelling.*

10. *It was the blood on the doorways of their houses that saved them.*

11. *It is the Blood of Christ, our Passover, that will save us from the penalty of eternal death.*

12. *Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb sacrificed for us.*

Scriptures to Read, Remember, and Recite

Hebrews 11:23–29; Exodus 12: 1,2–5; John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:19; Exodus 12:7; Exodus 12:12–13,29–30; 1 Corinthians 5:7

Jesus Observed the Passover

For a leader to be successful, he must be willing to do what he asks others to do. Jesus was that kind of leader from the time He was a child.

When Jesus was only 12 years old He went with His family to Jerusalem to keep the feast of the Passover, which they did every year according to their custom. Jesus knew that God the Father’s work was the most important business to be involved in. It was some three days later when His parents found Him sitting in the Temple at Jerusalem confounding the doctors with His grace and wisdom (Luke 2:40–49).

When He was of mature age He continued to observe the Passover with His disciples (John 2:13,23).

All through His life Jesus kept the annual festivals ordained by God for Israel, and also during His ministry. The seven annual festivals are memorials ordained to be kept forever, including Passover, and Jesus kept them all faithfully (Exodus 12:14).

It is evident that the Passover was to be observed once a year, as a memorial, and Jesus and His disciples obeyed God’s command (Exodus 13:10).

Therefore, baptized Christians today are held responsible by God to observe these festivals (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).

Recorded church history proves that God’s scattered people, for some two thousand years, remained in the faith once delivered to the saints.

God’s church today continues to uphold the early New Testament church’s tradition of observing all of the annual festivals established by Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Review

1. *Jesus, as a young boy, observed the Old Testament Passover.*
2. *To Jesus, His Father’s business was of most importance.*
3. *The Passover is to be observed as a memorial once a year.*
4. *Members of the church are held responsible by Christ to observe God’s festivals.*

Scriptures to Read, Remember, and Recite

Luke 2:40–49; John 2:13,23; Exodus 12:14; 13:10; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Christ Our Passover

If human beings are to be saved, they must have the death penalty removed from them. This death penalty is the result of sin. For our sins to be pardoned and washed away it was necessary for Jesus Christ to be more than just a flesh-and-blood human being!

Jesus Christ had to be God in the flesh. Jesus could not have had the singular nature of others. It was absolutely necessary that Christ be divine, God in the flesh! His life must be worth more than the sum total of all human life.

Jesus had to be God in the flesh, and He actually had to die by shedding His blood, or He is not our “Passover Savior.”

Notice how God’s Word tells us clearly that our Creator, the One who made all things, and was the Word and Spokesman, became a flesh-and-blood human being by being miraculously conceived of the Holy Spirit and then born of a human woman (John 1:14; Matthew 1:20–23; Luke 1:35; Titus 2:13–14). It is abundantly clear from these scriptures that Jesus Christ is our God and Savior.

The apostle John continues on to give us more information about Jesus Christ being our Creator. “In the beginning was the Word [*Logos*], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was

made that was made” (John 1:1–3).

There is no doubt that the great God Almighty of the Old Testament became flesh and blood so He could die and pay the death penalty we have incurred through sin, the breaking of God’s holy and righteous law (1 John 3:4).

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Philippians, tells us, “[W]ho, being in the form of God [prior to His human existence], did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation [or “emptied Himself”], taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 6:6–11).

Again, to the Corinthians, Paul writes, “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

If the original Old Testament lamb, given to the Israelites, had not been sacrificed, the Israelites’ firstborn would have been killed in Egypt and they could not have been delivered out of this land which was *typical of sin*. In like manner, if Jesus was not sacrificed, slain, and had His own blood shed, we, who are the firstfruits today, would not have a Savior!

Israel killed the Passover lamb by shedding its blood (Exodus 12:6,7).

In the book of Hebrews we find it was expedient that Jesus Christ die and shed His blood. “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).

God reveals in His plan that it is vitally necessary that blood be shed if there is to be remission of sins. And if Jesus did not shed His blood He could never have become our Passover Lamb, sacrificed for us.

Turn to Isaiah and see what the prophet foretold hundreds of years

ago. “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken” (Isaiah 53:7–8).

Again Isaiah prophesies about Christ. “He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (verse 12).

In Leviticus 17:11, we find that the soul, or life, of all living flesh resides in the blood.

Jesus Christ didn’t die of a broken heart, or any other such nonsense. Jesus poured out His blood unto death, willingly, for all of mankind. Jesus became our Passover Lamb by shedding His life blood for the sins of mankind.

Review

1. *Jesus had to be God in the flesh.*
2. *Jesus could not have had the sin nature of people.*
3. *To pay the penalty of sin that the law demands, God had to die.*
4. *Sin is the transgression of the law.*
5. *Jesus Christ, the “Word,” created all things.*
6. *Every knee shall bow to Jesus.*
7. *Jesus Christ had to die and shed His own blood if there was to be remission of sins.*
8. *Jesus was as a lamb brought to the slaughter.*
9. *Jesus poured out His blood unto death.*
10. *Jesus became our “Passover Lamb” by shedding His blood.*

Scriptures to Read, Remember, and Recite

John 1:14; Matthew 1:20–23; Luke 2:35; Titus 2:13–14; John 1:1–3; 1 John 3:4; Philippians 2:6–11; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Exodus 12:6–7; Hebrews 9:22; Isaiah 53:7,8,12; Leviticus 17:11

Christ’s Beaten Body—Why?

Before Jesus was led away to be cru-

cified on the stake, He was brutally beaten by those under the authority of Pilate (Matthew 27:26). He received such a prolonged and unrelenting, torturous beating that He was unrecognizable (Isaiah 52:14). We also suggest that you read the whole of Psalm 22, which prophetically and vividly describes the terrible suffering Jesus was to experience at the hands of His tormentors.

Jesus suffered this painful torture and breaking of His flesh (though His bones were not broken) for our benefit, so that we might receive the physical healing of our bodies through faith in Him. Be sure and read all of the following verses: Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 103:2–3).

Jesus went through this ripping and tearing of His flesh so we, through faith in His broken body, could have the forgiveness of our physical sins—the healing of our bodies when we are sick—as well as the forgiveness of our spiritual sins by His shed blood.

It is for this purpose that Jesus instituted the breaking of bread at His Last Supper with the disciples. It is a symbol of His broken body given to the tormentors for our healing and a reminder to us that it is “by His stripes we are healed.”

Review

1. *Jesus was brutally scourged by those under authority of Pilate.*
2. *The beating was so severe He was unrecognizable.*
3. *It is through the beaten body of Jesus that we can receive the physical healing of our bodies.*
4. *Breaking the unleavened bread reminds us that it is by His stripes we are healed.*

Scriptures to Read, Remember, and Recite

Matthew 27:26; Isaiah 52:14; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 103:2–3

A primary point to remember is not to confuse the Old Testament Passover with that which Jesus Christ initiated on the night He was betrayed! Remember, also, that in God’s method of time keeping, His days begin at sundown and end at sundown.

At the beginning of the fourteenth, the Church of God International observes the "Lord's Supper," or Communion, which takes into consideration that "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." These terms are used by the apostle Paul himself in giving instructions to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:20; 5:7).

God's people have called this "the Passover," and there is nothing wrong in doing this, which will probably be a continuing tradition. There is no doubt that Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7), but the ceremony of the commemoration of His death is kept very differently than the Old Testament Passover in that it uses the new symbols of foot washing (representing humility of service), unleavened bread (representing His broken body), and wine (representing His shed blood).

The original Old Testament Passover consisted of the Israelites slaying a lamb and placing its blood on the door posts of their dwellings. The Jews commemorate this event by having a dinner called a "Seder." Jesus Christ is our Passover, represented by the lamb slain by the ancient Israelites.

The Old Testament Passover is a "night to be much observed," which God's people do celebrate joyfully on the fifteenth in their homes or by dining out, also taking this opportunity to teach the young children its importance in both Old and New Testaments (1 Corinthians 10:11–17; 11:23–26).

The New Symbols

Foot washing ceremony: On the night Jesus was betrayed, He arose from supper, laid aside His garments, took a towel, and wrapped it around Himself. After that He poured water into a basin, and went from one disciple to another washing their feet. This was one of the lowliest jobs performed by slaves and servants for their masters in that period of time. This menial task was necessary because of the open-toed sandals worn, which allowed the feet to become dusty.

Notice that this ceremony of washing the disciples' feet was no part of the Old Testament observance of the Passover. This was something new, being initiated by Jesus for the first

time (John 13:4–10).

He went on to explain to His disciples that since they accepted Him as their Lord and Master, and that He, as their Lord and Master, washed their feet, they in turn should be humble enough to wash each other's feet (John 13:12–14,16). Jesus laid His life down willingly for the entire world (John 3:16). No man was able to take the life of Jesus. Jesus had the power to lay His life down, and to take it up. (John 10:17–18). He was making the point with His disciples that they were to do as He did. They were to lay down their life (and their time) for one another and the Church of God, of which He was the foundation. Jesus came to serve, not to be served! He expected no less of His disciples. The New Testament and secular history do show that many of the apostles and disciples gave their lives in service to the church as well as to all mankind.

This command from Jesus was for all people at all time. Jesus additionally admonished His disciples to teach all nations whatsoever He commanded them (John 13:14–15; Matthew 28:19–20).

Jesus went a step further by saying that all those who obeyed His words by entering into and taking part in this ceremony were promised a special blessing (John 13:17; 14:23)!

Review

1. *Jesus instituted the new ceremony of foot washing, representing humility of service for one another.*
2. *Jesus willingly laid His life down.*
3. *No man was able to take His life. God had to allow it to be taken.*
4. *As disciples of Christ, we are to lay our life down (and our time) for each other.*
5. *Jesus came to serve, not to be served.*
6. *Everything Jesus commands should be taught to all people.*
7. *If we participate in the foot-washing service, we are promised a "special blessing."*

Scriptures to Read, Remember, and Recite

John 13:4–10, 12–14, 16; 3:16; 10:17–18; 13:14–15; Matthew 28:19–20; John 13:17; 14:23

The New Symbols: Bread and Wine

About two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ initiated a totally new concept for New Testament Christians in regard to the Old Testament Passover, and in the remembrance of His death, which paid the death penalty we all have earned (Romans 6:23).

Now, Jesus Christ is our Passover sacrifice. Jesus had to clarify, and establish a new ceremony!

After Jesus washed His disciples' feet He instituted the new symbols of unleavened bread and wine (Luke 22:15–20; Matthew 26:26–29). Unleavened bread was always to be eaten at the Passover, which was commanded by God (Exodus 13:6). Also notice the instruction of Jesus in regards to the unleavened bread representing His broken body which is given for you, and this bread is to be partaken of "in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19).

The apostle Paul made the following statement: "The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread (1 Corinthians 10:16–17).

When we break the bread, is it not a means of communion (sharing) in the body of Christ? When we partake of this bread, we are saying we thoroughly discern the body of Christ!

In Matthew 26:28–29 we find that Jesus chose wine to represent symbolically His blood, which was shed for the forgiveness of past sins. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Jesus, when speaking to the Pharisees by means of a parable, said that unless we do symbolically partake of His body and blood we can have no life in us (John 6:48,51–54)!

While at first this command of Jesus may sound revolting, we must stop and realize Jesus was speaking symbolically. Jesus would never break His Father's commandments. Leviticus 17:14 tells us that drinking blood is forbidden.

What He was telling the Pharisees, and ultimately His church, is that they must make a covenant with Him, con-

sisting of eating unleavened bread (a symbol of His broken body) and drinking wine (a symbol for His blood). By doing so we become one with Him; we become blood brothers, and sisters, members of the God Family (Matthew 26:27–28; Ephesians 3:14–15). Be sure to read all these verses! This is one of the reasons many of the disciples stopped following Him at this time, because they knew He was telling them that they would have to make a covenant with Him, accepting Him as the Son of God, and as their Passover Savior!

Jesus also asked this forthright question: “Who is my mother and who are my brethers?” And then He gave this lucid answer. “For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother” (Matthew 12:48–50). By accepting Jesus as our Passover sacrifice, and annually partaking of the symbols established by Him, we become members of His Family.

In Jesus’ final prayer we find Him praying that we all may be one in Him and His Father (John 17:20–21).

After Jesus established the new symbols of bread and wine, He commanded His disciples to keep it in memory of His death (Luke 22:19–20).

The apostle Paul also continued to teach Christians the correct way to partake of the new symbols, the bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).

Many true Christians had to stand up and defend their faith and even give their lives (Revelation 2:9–10). One such person was Polycarp, a student of the apostle John.

“But Polycarp also was not only instructed by the apostles, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, but was also, by apostles in Asia, appointed Bishop of the Church of

Smyrna....He it was who, coming to Rome in the time of Anicetus, bishop of Rome around 154 A.D., caused many to turn away from the...heretics to the Church of God, proclaiming that he had received this one and sole truth from the apostles....

“For neither could Anicetus persuade Polycarp not to observe what he had always observed with John the disciple of our Lord, and the other apostles with whom he had associated...” (quoted from Eusebius’ *Ecclesiastical History*, Book V, chapter 24, in the *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, vol. I).

Another Christian named Polycrates, from Asia Minor, gave this witness to Victor of Rome: “As for us, then, we scrupulously observe the exact day, neither adding nor taking away. For in Asia great luminaries have gone to their rest, who shall rise again in the day of the coming of the Lord...I speak of Philip, one of the twelve apostles...John, moreover who reclined on the Lord’s bosom...Then there is Polycarp....These all kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in accordance with the Gospel, without ever deviating from it, but keeping to the rule of faith” (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 8, pp. 773,774).

Jesus did not do away with the Passover; He instituted new symbols representing His broken body and shed blood which are the tokens of the New Covenant, which we reaffirm each year. These things are commanded by Christ for New Testament (Covenant) Christians.

It is a memorial of Christ’s death, reaffirming, year by year “till He come,” the true Christian’s faith in the blood of “Christ our Passover” for the remission of sins. Jesus, commanded, “This do in remembrance of Me.”

Review

1. *Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.*
2. *Unleavened bread was always to be eaten at the Old Testament Passover.*
3. *Jesus instructed the use of unleavened bread to represent symbolically His broken body, broken for us.*
4. *The bread was to be partaken of “in remembrance of Me.”*
5. *For we (the church) being many are one bread and one body.*
6. *Jesus chose wine to represent His blood shed for the forgiveness of past sins.*
7. *If we do not partake symbolically of His body and blood, we can have no life in us.*
8. *By taking part in the new symbols, we become blood relatives of Jesus, and members of the God Family.*
9. *When we participate in the Lord’s Supper (Communion), Christ being our “Passover sacrificed for us,” we are reaffirming the New Testament (Covenant) we made with Jesus.*
10. *Jesus prayed that we would be “one” in Him, and His Father.*
11. *Jesus commanded us to take the new symbols yearly in memory of His death.*
12. *Paul continued to teach Christians the correct way to partake of the bread and wine.*

Scriptures to Read, Remember, and Recite

Romans 6:23; Luke 22:15–20; Matthew 26:26–29; Exodus 13:6; Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; Matthew 26:28–29; 1 Corinthians 10:16; John 6:48,51–54; Leviticus 17:14; Ephesians 3:14–15; Matthew 12:48–50; John 17:19–21; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Revelation 2:9–10.

Notes:

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Understanding Passover

Test Yourself

Write your answers to the questions on a separate sheet of paper. Check your answers with the answers found at the end of the test. Detach the return coupon at the bottom of the page and mail back to us. We will send the next lesson in the series to you.

HOME BIBLE Study Course E

True or False Questions

1. There was only one original Passover.
2. The children of Israel left Egypt immediately after the Passover.
3. God had to reveal when His calendar year began.
4. The Israelites selected their lamb on the fourteenth.
5. They selected a lamb with flaws and defects to protect the rest of the herd.
6. John the Baptist never said Jesus was the Lamb of God.
7. The lamb was slain at the end of the fourteenth in Egypt.
8. The angel of death passed over the Israelites because the angel knew where they lived.
9. The blood on the Israelites' doors meant they were not sinners.
10. The blood of the lamb is what protected the houses of the Israelites.
11. Jesus didn't want to be involved in His Father's business.
12. God holds His people responsible for keeping the festivals.
13. Jesus had to be God in the flesh.
14. Jesus had a sinful nature from birth.
15. Jesus did not have to shed His blood to be our Savior.
16. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Continued on next page

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The Church of God International

HOME BIBLE Study Course E

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- | | |
|--|---|
| 17. Jesus was in the form of God before His human birth. | 30. Jesus had no control over when He would give up His life. |
| 18. Every tongue must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. | 31. Jesus came to teach the apostles how to serve Him. |
| 19. Blood does not have to be shed for the remission of sins. | 32. Taking time out of your life to help others is expected by Christ. |
| 20. Jesus poured out His soul (life) unto death. | 33. There is a special blessing for taking part in the foot-washing ceremony. |
| 21. The life of the flesh does not reside in the blood. | 34. The death of Christ pays the death penalty we earned by sinning. |
| 22. Jesus was scourged by those under the authority of Pilate. | 35. We do not have to eat unleavened bread, because we won't forget Jesus. |
| 23. Jesus was easily recognized by all after His beating. | 36. We must symbolically eat of Jesus' flesh and blood. |
| 24. Jesus Christ died of a broken heart. | 37. The Church of God is one bread and one body. |
| 25. We receive physical healing by the broken heart of Jesus. | 38. By accepting Christ our Passover, we become a part of the Family of God. |
| 26. It is through faith in Jesus' broken body that we receive healing. | 39. Jesus prayed that we may all be "one" in Him and His Father. |
| 27. Unleavened bread represents Christ's sinless body. | 40. Paul never taught Christians to take the bread and wine of Communion. |
| 28. The book of Psalms says that it is by His stripes we are healed. | |
| 29. It is not necessary in this day and age to wash each other's feet. | |

Answers to True or False Questions: Score Yourself: Miss 0-3 = Excellent; Miss 4-6 = Good; Miss 7-9 = Fair

Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False; 6. False; 7. True; 8. False; 9. False; 10. True; 11. False; 12. True; 13. True; 14. False; 15. False; 16. True; 17. True; 18. True; 19. False; 20. True; 21. False; 22. True; 23. False; 24. False; 25. False; 26. True; 27. True; 28. True; 29. False; 30. False; 31. False; 32. True; 33. True; 34. True; 35. False; 36. True; 37. True; 38. True; 39. True; 40. False