

Passover And The Lord's Supper

A Communion Message

As we come to the Lord's Supper communion table today, my thoughts have run to that first passover supper. As we think of all that was going on at that time, we point out that it was a time of reverent happiness, fear, and sorrow, for Israel. How? Israel, as they were carrying out God's commandment, would have been eating and drinking, rejoicing in hope and believing in God's soon deliverance of them from the Egyptians. Having seen all the great wonders, which God had performed upon the Egyptians, they would have had a great reverent fear of God as they carried out God's command.

However, during their feasting, and joy, in anticipation of their soon salvation: suddenly, at the midnight hour, they would have heard the great wails of the sorrow of the Egyptians, who had lost their firstborn children. They would have heard the great wails of sorrow of the Egyptians, who feared the God of Israel would destroy them all. Israel saw the Egyptians fear of God manifested as they thrust Israel out of their midst.

The next time Israel partook of the Passover Supper was at Mt. Sinai, seen in: ***Nu 9:1-2; 1 ¶ "And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, 2 Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season."*** This time they would not have heard cries of the Egyptians. However, fresh on their minds would have been the remembrance of the voice of God they heard when God descended upon Mt. Sinai, which mountain trembled and was all afire with the glory of God. There would be fresh on their minds their great fear of the voice of God, and how the desired Moses to be a mediator between them and God. They would have fresh on their minds the giving of the Ten Commandments. They would have fresh on their minds their sin against God in making an idol, the golden calf, while Moses was on the mount with God receiving the Ten Commandments. They would have had fresh on their minds the great judicial punishment that God poured out on them for their idolatry. They would have in their remembrance that Moses, the man of God, was the mediator who stood between them and total annihilation by God for their sin.

The next time Israel kept the passover was when they entered the land of promise, seen in: ***Jos 5:10 ¶ "And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho."*** Israel would have fresh on their minds, the great wonder of God providing a path of dry ground through the river Jordan, for them to enter the land of promise. They would have in their hearts and minds the knowledge that God had fulfilled his promise to bring them to a land of promise. They would have on their minds the forty years of the wilderness experience, which they suffered because of disobedience to God. They would have on their minds that the land of promise was infested with enemies, which must be fought and driven out, so they could occupy the land of promise in peacefulness.

When Jesus kept the passover with his disciples, he changed the passover feast to the Lord's Supper, to be observed by those who have been saved by God's grace, seen in: ***1Co 11:23-26; 23 ¶ "For 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: 24 And 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. 25 After 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. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."***

As we assemble to commemorate the Lord's Supper today: let us reflect on what the Lord's Supper demonstrates to us, in comparison to Israel's passover experiences.

- We rejoice, that we are partakers of the Lord's Supper, because Jesus has chosen us to be his people, just as God chose Israel.
- We stand in awe of the fact that God chose us, and we are no longer under bondage of sin and Satan, as we remember the plagues that God performed upon the Egyptians and remember the death of the first born of Egypt, which wrought the salvation of Israel.
- We rejoice, because we have experienced the salvation of God in the new birth, which has delivered us from the bondage of sin and Satan, as Israel was released from bondage in Egypt.
- We have reverent fear of God, because of our experienced deliverance, and the remembrance that we were chosen to receive the honor of being God's chosen people.

- We reflect upon the scene of the giving of the Ten Commandments, which because of our inability to keep them, brings upon us the condemnation of judicial wrath of God and death for sin.
- We reflect upon the great suffering that Jesus bore on our behalf, remembering that when Jesus gave up the ghost on the cross there was a great earthquake, and we see God descending upon Mt Sinai which was altogether on fire and trembled as God gave commandment to his people of how to live their lives.
- We remember that we, though already chosen by God to bear his name on earth, have lived a life of sinfulness. We mourn that we often manifested our idolatry, after knowledge that we have been born again, by refusing to make our public profession of faith in Christ, being unwilling to take up our cross and follow Jesus in the way of truth and life. We mourn, over our often denials of Christ, when we do that which is right in our own eyes.
- We hear the thundering voice of God upon Sinai once we are brought to newness of life in Christ. We immediately become thankful that our intercessor, Jesus Christ, has already intervened for us.
- We remember that Jesus provided for us, a land of promise here in time, and has brought us out of the wilderness of sin, into the church of salvation by grace.
- We understand that we are commanded to observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, in remembrance of Jesus Christ and the things he suffered on our behalf as our mediator.
- We remember upon entering the church fellowship, we are surrounded by enemies, who must be defeated and driven out of our Christian lives, just as Israel had to fight to gain and retain their given possession.
- We realize that living in obedience to Christ, we can continue in the abundance of God's blessings, gleaning our sustenance of spiritual life from this garden of God. A place like the land of promise to Israel, which he has furnished with all we need to survive.

As we assemble around this table today:

- We assemble with reverent awe because, out of all the people in the world, God chose us.
- We remember the great wonder that Jesus sacrificed himself for the eternal remission of our sins, and to give us eternal life. Our hearts are saddened for his suffering and gladdened for our respite.
- We remember many of God's chosen people Israel, outrightly rejected that Jesus was the Messiah, and we mourn for those who still refuse to bow the knee to Jesus and serve the Lord in Spirit and Truth.
- We remember the false trials used to condemn Jesus to death on the cross of crucifixion.
- We remember the many terrible things he suffered before he was nailed to the cross.
- We rejoice, that even on the cross, Jesus was praying to God for the forgiveness of the people who were crucifying him.
- We remember, and rejoice, that Jesus finished the work that God the Father gave him to accomplish on the cross. We remember that he was buried in the tomb, resurrected from the dead on the third day, and forty days later he ascended back to his place on the eternal throne of God.
- We remember that Jesus sits on that throne, having already judged us to be worthy of fellowship with God, and one another.
- We remember that Jesus has given us the gift of eternal remission of sins and eternal life.

Israel, in every keeping of the passover, had always before them the expectation of life in a land of promise.

When we come to the table of the Lord's Supper: We always have before us the expectation of eternal life in an eternal land of promise.

We live our Christian lives with the expectation of the return of Christ, who will resurrect us from the dead, or change our vile bodies if we are alive, in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ. We live with the expectation that we will be carried to that place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

Great God of heaven and earth, we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, that you will never let us forget, or lose the desire to participate in, the Lord's Supper. Help us to remember all that Jesus Christ voluntarily suffered on our behalf. Help us to remember that the Lord's Supper is the gift of a privilege given to us, for which we should give thanks and praise to our Saviour and Lord. Hallelujah! Amen!