

THE PASSOVER EVENING (Mk. 14:17-26)

Mk. 14:17-26 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. ¹⁹ And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? ²⁰ And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. ²¹ The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born. ²² And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. ²³ And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. ²⁵ Verily 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. ²⁶ And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

This subject concerning the new Passover instituted by the Lord Jesus extends through every part of the salvation process which was established and is maintained by the covenant-keeping God (cf. ¹ Cor. 11:25 [This cup is the new testament in my blood](http://www.kirkcaldy-pathheadbaptist.co.uk/page113.html); also see <http://www.kirkcaldy-pathheadbaptist.co.uk/page113.html>).

The Passover was and still is the high-point in the Jewish religion. In the sequence of events set out in the Gospels, the Passover took place on the Thursday evening after dusk. ... Now, there was a difference between the calendar, depending on where you came from. It's a bit like how the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on 7th January, and we celebrate it on the 25th December. ... In the north, - in Galilee, - the Jews there marked the Passover day from sunrise to sunrise, which meant, - coming from the north (as the Gospel writers did), - the disciples celebrated Passover beginning at sunrise on the Thursday morning and concluding at sunrise on the Friday morning. Whereas down south, - in Judea, - the Judean Jews celebrated their Passover day from sunset on the Thursday evening to sunset on the Friday evening. ... This is explained in the writings of the Jewish Rabbinic *Mishnah*, and also in the writings of the famous Jewish historian Josephus.

It also clarifies how Jesus rose from the dead on *the third day*, Mk. 9:31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise *the third day*. ... 10:33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: ³⁴ And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and *the third day* he shall rise again. ... That is how the Galileans would have counted it ...

In the *Galilean Jewish calendar*, the *first day* would begin at sunrise on the Thursday morning and conclude at sunrise on the Friday morning, and that

would be the day when Jesus and His disciples would celebrate the Passover in the evening (i.e. the Thursday evening), and then Jesus would be arrested, and taken before the high priest, the chief priests, the elders and the scribes, and held overnight in the prison ...

The second day, - which would begin at sunrise on the Friday morning and conclude at sunrise on the Saturday morning would be when Jesus was taken from the prison and brought before the judgment courts of Herod and Pontius Pilate, sentenced to death, and taken out to Calvary to die on the cross, and laid in the tomb before sunset. ...

The third day, - as the Galileans would have calculated it ... would begin at sunrise on the Saturday morning and conclude at sunrise on the Sunday morning. That means Jesus was in the tomb from before sunset on the Friday, through Friday night, all day Saturday, and sometime before sunrise on the Sunday morning, He rose from the dead. ... *The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men [the first day], and they shall kill him [the second day]; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.*

Another very important point to make is that this particular Passover feast, - celebrated on the fourteenth of Nisan, in the year 30 AD, - was the transition from the Old to the New, as foretold in Jer. 31, ³¹ *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. ... And this Passover was the final Passover based upon the Old Testament principle, for from then on, the Old Testament order was abolished and was replaced by the New Testament order, that is, no more lambs needed to be sacrificed ... and no more sacrifices, - as in the old covenant order, - because Jesus Christ, - the Lamb of God, - would become the once and for all final Sacrifice ... as the writer to the Hebrews explained, Heb. 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. ... As far as God was concerned, Christ's sacrifice would end all previous requirements for sacrifice, as stipulated under the Law of Moses.*

... This, then, was the final Passover, ... the last supper Jesus celebrated with His disciples. The elements, - the unleavened bread, the wine, etc, - formerly constituted within the Passover meal were now redefined in relation to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. ... The ancient elements took on new meaning, centred around what Jesus would accomplish on the cross. ... Jesus would celebrate this Last Supper, - this Passover meal, - on the Thursday

evening, and He would be crucified on the Friday ... at the ninth hour, - the same time as the Passover lambs would begin to be slaughtered in the temple.

... God's timing was perfect throughout! His planning from eternity was fulfilled at precisely the right moments in Jerusalem. Nothing hindered or interfered with His plans. The conniving schemes of the enemy did not disrupt what He had set out in His eternal will. God's schedule was accomplished *exactly*. ... And that is the reason I emphasised the issue of the significance of the three days ... for nothing can interrupt what God has set in motion. There is nothing going on today that can change what He has decreed. No matter how difficult it is for our minds to understand what God is presently doing, He has proved over and over again ... *He keeps His word, and He is working to His plan!* ... We don't need to make it fit into our schemes ... We don't need to analyse it, or spiritualise it, or make it out as if it is something hidden and complicated ... Simply, take God at His word for His pattern is that He fulfils His Word *literally!* ... He says what He means, and He means what He says.

As we have seen, in the Jewish festivities, the custom was to choose the lamb on the Monday (10th) ... and that was the day God brought His Son into Jerusalem. On the 14th, *that* was the day the Passover lambs would be slain ... and that was the day it pleased the Father to offer His Son, - the Lamb of God, - as our Sacrifice.

And Passover was a simple annual memorial commemorating how the Lord had brought His people out of slavery in Egypt ... when the angel of death had passed over every home in the land, and only those doorposts which had been smeared with the blood of the lamb were spared the death of their firstborn son. God promised His people, **Ex. 12:13** *when I see the blood, I will pass over you* ... There was no other means of salvation, except through the blood applied.

In the upper room, the preparations had been made and everything was in place, - at the behest of the Lord Jesus, Peter and John had it all prepared. All thirteen of them were there, - Jesus and His twelve disciples. ... The meal began at sunset and lasted the evening hours until after midnight. It was very busy, with much going on, and even more to take in ... upfront, and behind the scenes. During those hours, Jesus was bombarding them with information ... He was telling them the Holy Spirit would come (Jn. 13-16), and how He would be betrayed by one of the disciples. He issued warnings, He washed

their feet ... *many things*. ... And a 'change-over' from the Old order to the New was taking place.

It wasn't a hurried meal. They sat at the table very relaxed ... They had previously brought their lamb to the temple to have it killed ceremonially by the priest, and offered on the altar ... just like every other Passover lamb. They would have brought much of it back to this upper room for the Passover meal ... There was no rush for this was a very special evening of memories.

... And everything was done with a very special significance. It began with a prayer of thanks, followed by the first cup of red wine, probably diluted with water. Then they ceremonially washed their hands, - to clean them, and also as a symbol of cleansing and the need for holiness. Then they ate the bitter herbs which were provided, followed by the flat bread which would be broken and distributed, and they would dip it into a paste of fruit and nuts. This was followed by singing the *Hallel* 'hallel', - 'praise' ... *hallelujah*], i.e. singing from a series of Psalms from Ps. 113-118. Traditionally, at this point, they would only sing Psalms 113 and 114 ... followed by the second cup of wine, and the main meal which would be centred upon the eating of the lamb. ... Then the third cup of wine would be brought, after which they would sing the remaining psalms of the *Hallel* (Pss. 115-118), and the celebration would end.

To repeat, this was the final Passover requiring the Old Testament specifications for the old system was being replaced by the new. The many lambs associated with the old covenant would be overshadowed by the Lamb of God Who would die on the altar, - the cross, - of Calvary, as Isaac Watts wrote,

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

... What did Jesus mean, though, when He said, **Mk. 14:25** I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. ... He was prophesying another Passover in Jerusalem, sometime in the future! ... It did not happen after His resurrection, and prior to His ascension ... so that means this prophecy has yet to be fulfilled! It is an event He will come back again to Jerusalem to inaugurate!

Meanwhile, in the intervening period, - *until then*, - God's redeemed people are instructed to come around a table of remembrance looking back to how Jesus died for them ... and also looking ahead to when He shall return, as Paul indicates, **I Cor. 11:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

He *is* coming back again to this earth to reign, **Zech. 14:4** his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives ... It is going to happen ... **9** And the LORD shall be king over all the earth. ... And Ezekiel tells us *specifically* about the great event relating to Jesus drinking the new wine in the Kingdom, **Ezek. 45:21** In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. **22** And upon that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock for a sin offering. **23** And seven days of the feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bullocks and seven rams without blemish daily the seven days; and a kid of the goats daily for a sin offering. **24** And he shall prepare a meat offering of an ephah for a bullock, and an ephah for a ram, and an hin of oil for an ephah. **25** In the seventh month, in the fifteenth day of the month, shall he do the like in the feast of the seven days, according to the sin offering, according to the burnt offering, and according to the meat offering, and according to the oil. ... Why will the sacrifices be offered? They will be offered to remind the people of Israel that Jesus Christ died for them. They will understand the sacrifice which was required to redeem them from their sins, and its shedding of blood, - they will understand the true meaning of sacrifice, and how it was fulfilled in the death of Jesus. They will realise that all the sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed ahead to Him.

During those times, - following Christ's return, ... that is when **Zech. 12:10** the spirit of grace and of supplications will have been poured upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem ... and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him ... **Zech. 13:1** In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. ... For as Paul describes it, **Rom. 11:28** as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

It is a beautiful picture, - Jesus looking towards Calvary and beyond ... already looking ahead to the *next* Passover when He would share with His disciples when He would return. ... In the midst of it all though, - in the immediate, - was the betrayer, **Mk. 14:18** And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. ... And Jesus knew exactly who it was. He knew all about Judas' conniving and scheming, - nobody else knew but Jesus, **Ps. 41:9** Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. ... As far as the disciples were concerned, it could have been any of them, - it shows how uncertain they were of their own condition, **Mk. 14:19** And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? ... They knew what they were like. Yes, it was one of them, **20** And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. **21** The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born. ... One of the twelve who had followed Him more than three years would be a traitor.

They were all eating, - I can't understand how they kept eating because surely if anything would put you off your appetite it would be hearing you might be the one to betray the Saviour. Nevertheless, they were eating, - they must have been very hungry, - ... but it was at the part of the meal where they dipped their bread into the bowl, Jesus handed His piece over to Judas Iscariot ... It must have been so inconspicuous the other disciples did not even notice, **Jn. 13:26** Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. **27** And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. ... Ah but, - say some, - it wasn't fair because Judas was *made* to betray Jesus. He had no choice! No, that is not true ... Judas *chose* to willingly betray Jesus, - he was not forced to, he decided to. It is man's *natural* behaviour to abandon God for our sin *naturally* makes us work against Him. ... Judas Iscariot sin got him up onto his feet and ran away off to find the evil men with whom he would do business against the Saviour. ... It was his decision, - no excuses ... He was greedy and he desired to profit from Jesus.

Then, when Judas had left, Jesus continued, **Mk. 14:22** And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. **23** And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. **24** And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. ... It was only right Judas was not there and taking from

the table because if he had been, he would have been eating and drinking unworthily ... eating and drinking damnation, - God's judgment (I Cor. 11:29).

The bread is not the actual body of the Lord Jesus, and neither is the cup His actual blood, - they do not become the *real* body and blood of Christ ... That is what the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation sadly teaches. It is a blasphemy, - a blasphemy is something that relates sacrilegiously to God, something which is a profanity and an insult to Him ... The doctrine of transubstantiation is a blasphemy because it contradicts the Word of God that Jesus Christ died once for our sins ... Transubstantiation teaches He dies again and again every time the Mass is celebrated, - every time the wafer/bread is broken, and the blood from the chalice is poured out. It teaches His death on Calvary was insufficient, and that is why the Mass continues to be celebrated. ... It is a terrible doctrine that leads countless souls to a lost eternity.

... The truth is, - as the Bible tells us, - Jesus only died once, **Heb. 7:27** *for this he did once, when he offered up himself* ... The perfect Sacrifice, - God's Son. ... His precious blood was shed once, and once only, to wash away our sins ... And such is the power of His cleansing blood, there is no stain too stubborn He cannot remove for He, - the all-Victorious One, - died the sinner's death on Calvary, and when the sinner believes in Him as Saviour, all their sin has been removed forever. ... Washed in the blood of the Lamb! ... That is the theme of Heaven, **Rev. 5:12** *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain* ... and it will be repeated forever in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

The old covenant, - with its old Passover, - has finished, and we are now under the new covenant ... And the remaining eleven disciples and Jesus finished with the singing of a hymn, and it would have been Ps. 136 which begins with ... **1** *O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever* ... and concludes, **26** *O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever* ... and in between it is all about God's salvation, - how He saved and kept His people ... and it is only by the same grace of God we are also being kept ... kept in the new covenant ... "For all the Lord has done for me, I never will cease to praise Him; And for His grace so rich and free, I never will cease to love Him". Amen.