

# The New Covenant Communion Meal

Study Notes by Franklin

**Luke 22:1** Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the **Passover**, was approaching.

The **Passover Meal** was an annual celebration for **Israel** to REMEMBER the **Blood Covenant** the LORD made with them when HE delivered them out of Egypt.

**Vs.15** And He said to them, "**I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer** (to fervently set the heart on)

- Why? Why did Jesus Earnestly Desire to eat the Passover Meal with His Disciples?
- What is it about the Passover Meal that was so important to Him?

**FIRST of all** – Jesus knew that HE WAS THE PASSOVER LAMB  
And the day had come on which the **Passover lamb had to be sacrificed**.  
Luke 22:7

The O.T. **Passover** is a **teaching type and example** of THE TRUE LAMB OF GOD JESUS CHRIST.

- **Propheesied by Abraham:** Genesis 22: Abraham said, "**God will provide for Himself the lamb** for the burnt offering, my son."
- **Propheesied by Isaiah:** (53:7) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a **LAMB** that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.
- **Introduced by John the Baptist** (John 1:29) Behold, THE **LAMB of God** who takes away the sin of the world!
- **Expounded by Peter:** 1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with **precious blood**, as of a **LAMB UNBLEMISHED and SPOTLESS, the blood of Christ**.

- **Seen in Glory** by John: Revelation 5:5-14: Behold, the **Lion** that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals. (6) And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a **LAMB** standing, as if slain, . . . (7) And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (8) When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before THE **LAMB**, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the **prayers** of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for **You were slain**, and **purchased for God** with **Your blood** men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (10) You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth. (11) Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, (12) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is THE **LAMB** that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." (13) And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to THE **LAMB**, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." (14) And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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Let us look back at a few important points when the Passover was initiated.

**Exodus 12:1-2** Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, (2) "This month shall be the **beginning of months for you**; it is to be the first month of the year to you."

- This is how important it was! Everything began at this point.
- Your Passover – when you first Received THE LAMB OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST – was the **beginning of months** for you also. It was the first time you were made **ALIVE!** Until that time you were **dead**.

Ephesians 2:1-5 And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins, . . . (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) . . . made us **alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

**Exodus 12:3** "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, . . . **each one is to take a lamb** for themselves, according to their **fathers'** households, **a lamb for each household**."

- “**Each one** is to take the Lamb.” Just because our parents have “taken the Lamb” is not sufficient for salvation.
- **a lamb for each household** - Our Heavenly FATHER gave THE LAMB for **His household**

**Exodus 12:13** The **blood** shall be a **sign** for you on the **houses** where you live

- When we BELIEVE and RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST, the LAMB of GOD, WE are also RECEIVING and APPLYING the BLOOD OF THE LAMB

and **when I see the blood I will pass over you**, and no plague will befall you to destroy you **when** I strike the land of Egypt.

- The LORD is looking for the BLOOD. The LORD is looking for those who knowing their need for forgiveness and salvation have RECEIVED the sacrificial LAMB and HIS BLOOD poured out for them.
- **when I see the blood I will pass over you** (literally: hover over) and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.
- Have YOU Received the LAMB of GOD, JESUS CHRIST? And HIS BLOOD applied on YOU? Does HE Hover Over YOU?

**Psalms 91:1-4** He who **dwells** in the shelter of the Most High will **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty. (2) I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!" (3) For it is **He** who **delivers** you from the snare of the trapper and from the **deadly pestilence**. (4) **He** will **cover you** with His feathers, and **under His wings** you may seek refuge; HIS **faithfulness** is a shield and protection.

- For this kind of protection you **MUST**  *dwell, abide, under His wings.*
- To disobey is to walk out from under His covering!

Continuing with **Luke 22:16** I say to you, I shall **never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God**. (17) And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, Take this and share it among yourselves; (18) for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on **until the Kingdom of God comes**.

- The LORD JESUS is now **earnestly** looking forward to the day when This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations (ethnic groups), and **then** the end will come

(Mt.24:14).

- **HE is waiting on us** to finish our work, our commission, and then **we will recline at the table with HIM, and share this Covenant Meal together, in the Kingdom of God.**

And that supper will be called: **THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**  
 Revelation 19:7-9 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the **Lamb** has come and His bride **has made herself ready**. It (responsibility) was given to her to **clothe herself** in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints**. Then he said to me, Write, Blessed are **those** who are **invited** to the **marriage supper of the Lamb**. And He said to me, "These are true words of God."

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**Luke 22:19** And when He had taken some **bread and given thanks**, He **broke it** and gave it to them, saying, **This is My body** which is given for you; do **this in remembrance** of Me.

- Jesus, broke the Bread – He gave His body to be broken (Phil.2:6-8).
- When we brake or take a piece of bread we are declaring and confessing: "It was I, my sin broke His body."
- Jesus said of the bread: **this is My body**: many who touched HIM were healed. The bread we take will touch every cell in our body bringing STRENGTH and LIFE.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, **I am the bread of life**; he who **comes to Me** will not hunger, and he who **believes** in Me will never thirst.

➤ This is the Covenant Promise

John 6:51 **I am the living bread** that came down out of heaven; **if anyone** eats of this bread, he **will live forever**; and **the bread** which I will give for the life of the world **is My flesh**.

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**Luke 22:20** And in the same way **He took the cup** after they had eaten, saying, This cup which is poured out for you is the **new COVENANT in My blood**.

For Believers, Jesus REPLACED the Passover Meal of the Old Covenant with the New Covenant Communion meal.

(Latin - common-union: mutual participation, mutual sharing)

- **the NEW covenant REPLACED the OLD.**  
(2 Cor 5:17 . . . the old things have passed away; the new has come.)

(19) Do this in **REMEMBRANCE of Me** The **COVENANT MEAL** is focused on **remembering the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and the Blood Covenant we have entered into with HIM.**

- The Old Passover Meal – deliverance from slavery in Egypt.
- The New Covenant Meal – deliverance from **slavery to sin & death.**

The Communion meal is a COVENANT MEAL:

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reason that Jesus **earnestly desired to eat this Passover with His Disciples before He suffered.** And why He earnestly desires to eat it with us in His Kingdom.

In numerous instances in Biblical history & secular, when parties entered into an agreement, they then **shared a meal** together.

This COVENANT MEAL **sealed** their peaceful relationship with responsibilities to one another.

- In Genesis 31:54 Jacob & Laban provide us with an example of a covenant meal which brings **peace** between two opposing parties.
- ❖ For these reasons the people of the Middle East understand far better than we do the binding covenant of “breaking bread” together.

**I was in a shop** in the Old City of Jerusalem visiting with the Muslim owner and telling him how much I liked their bread. He sent his son to purchase bread and gave to me. I was very grateful and offered bread to him which he adamantly refused. I later learned that in no way would he break bread and establish a covenant of peace with one he considered to be an infidel.

**Derek Prince** tells of a true event that happened in the year **1948** when the nation of Israel came into being and the war broke out between the Muslims surrounding Israel and the Jewish people.

(This true account can be found in the book “*O, Jerusalem*” Chapter 29.)

A Jewish kibbutz was attacked by the military force of **Jordan**, and was overwhelmed and virtually destroyed. Just a handful of Jewish persons were taken prisoner. One of them was a young Jewish woman named Eliza. The Muslim soldiers set about to rape her. They were just beginning to tear her clothes off when an amazing thing happened. An Arab officer walked up, shot the two soldiers dead, then pulled a piece of bread out of his pocket, gave it to this Jewish woman and said, "Eat this." When she'd eaten the bread, he said, "*Now you're under my protection. No one will touch you.*"

**WHY?** She had eaten his bread which established a visible covenant relationship with her. And even in the passions of war and lust, those Muslim soldiers respected that covenant relationship between their officer and this young Jewish woman.

Once **bread had been broken** between the officer and the woman, they were all obligated by that sacred covenant:

- They **understood** what it meant.
  - NOT to HARM or ABUSE her
  - But to PROTECT her and RESPECT the relationship established by the breaking of bread.
  - **We must also understand** and be **LOYAL** to THE LAMB, JESUS CHRIST, and to One Another.
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What does the covenant meal mean in terms of OUR relationship to one another?

- UNITY or ONENESS – [treat others as you would treat yourself](#). (Mt.7:12)
- COMMITMENT – to one another's success & prosperity
- LOYALTY – regardless of circumstance or feelings, issues or hurts
- PROTECTION, or to DEFEND – from any kind of attack
- To DO NO HARM to one another, physically or verbal
- PROVIDE for One Another

All because of the Blood Covenant // Remembered and Confirmed by the Meal Covenant // Breaking of Bread & Drinking of the Cup // Communion

**Romans 5:10** For if while [we were enemies](#) we were [reconciled to God through the death of His Son](#),

- the separating issue (sin) was forgiven & removed and we were brought into a **ONENESS relationship** with JESUS CHRIST because of **The Blood**.

The verse continues: **much more, having been reconciled, we SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE.** Because of the Covenant!

Being reconciled to God, we participate in the communion, **a covenant meal** celebrating **our inclusion** in this wonderful relationship WITH The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, and with ONE ANOTHER.

- Being ONE with HIM, in Covenant with HIM - to strike one of HIS is to strike HIM !  
As was said to Saul: Acts 9:4 **he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"**
- In Covenant YOU PROTECT HIM and HE PROTECTS YOU
- HEIR – what is HIS is yours if necessary

All because of the Blood Covenant // Remembered and Confirmed by the Meal Covenant // Breaking of Bread & Drinking of the Cup // Communion // Being reconciled to God, we participate in the communion, a covenant meal celebrating **our inclusion** in this wonderful relationship WITH The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, and with ONE ANOTHER.

Before coming to partake of the Bread (that represents His body) & Fruit of the vine (that represents HIS BLOOD) . . . give thought to . . . meditate on it's meaning . . . HIS Commitment to You . . . and Your Commitments of Loyalty to HIM.

If we are NOT at PEACE or UNITY with the LORD or with ONE ANOTHER (our wife), **we have offended our covenant.**

❖ We allow and bring PROBLEMS into our life (allow the enemy in)

❖ And possibly with SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES!!

This is brought out by PAUL in his writing to a carnal (worldly or fleshly) Corinthian church:

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 **Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly** - mere infants in Christ. (2) I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. (3) You are still **worldly**. For since there is **jealousy** and **quarreling** among you, are you not **worldly**? They were striking out at one another. Not in unity, oneness.

In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul **compares** the results of Israel's experience after the PASSOVER BLOOD COVENANT - WHICH THEY DISHONORED - with our NEW COVENANT, **warning us of its consequences.**

1 Corinthians 10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all **ate** the same spiritual food; (4) and all **drank** the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. (5) Nevertheless, with most of them God **was not well-pleased**; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

(6) **Now these things happened as EXAMPLES FOR US**, so that we would not **crave evil things** as they also craved.

(Numbers 11 Complaining about the manna and crying for the food they had in Egypt)

(7) Do not be **idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play" (Exodus 32:4, 6)

(8) Nor let us act **immorally**, as some of them did, and **twenty-three thousand fell** in one day. (an example for us - God was not well pleased)

(9) Nor let us **try** the Lord, as some of them did, and were **destroyed** by the serpents. (Numbers 21) (an example for us - God was not well pleased)

(10) Nor **grumble**, as some of them did, and were **destroyed** by the destroyer (Num. 16:41;17:5,10)

an example for us - God was not well pleased

- These sins were "*unto death*," a PHYSICAL DEATH, **NOT** ETERNAL DEATH as they were in the Blood Covenant of the LAMB.
- They were **not hated**, only "*not well pleasing*" to the LORD.

(11) Now these things happened to them as an **example**, and they were written for **our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

(16) Is not the **cup of blessing** which we bless a **sharing in the blood** of Christ? Is not the **bread** which we break a **sharing in the body of Christ**?

(17) Since there is **one bread**, we who are many are **one body**; for we all partake of the one bread. (18) Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?

- Through eating this bread we share in the altar / the sacrifice / the death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST.

Paul continues with this subject in the next chapter.

1 Corinthians 11:23–30 New Living Translation

For this is what the Lord himself said, and I pass it on to you just as I received it. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took a loaf of **bread**, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, **This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.** (25) In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, **This cup is the new covenant between God and you, sealed by the shedding of My blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.** (26) For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

Next Paul brings out the consequences and seriousness of the Covenant:

(27) So **if anyone** eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord **unworthily**, that person is guilty of sinning against **the body** (we are HIS body) and the **blood of the Lord** (the covenant). (28) **That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking from the cup.** (29) For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily (without oneness & unity), **not honoring the body** of Christ, you are eating and drinking judgment upon yourself. (30) That is why many are **weak** and **sick** and some have even **died**.

- Other translations say "*a number sleep*," meaning a number have died untimely deaths. A very solemn picture of what this covenant meal is.

(for sleep meaning dead see: John 11:11-14; 1 Corinthians 15:51)

- There are several reasons for weakness, sickness and death but this is a very important one, and can be avoided.

Those Muslim soldiers had, in many ways, a more clear understanding of what it means to "break bread" than many professing Christians today.

- It is a **memorial** of the covenant that Jesus initiated.
- It is a **reminder** of our covenant obligations to Him but also to one another.
- And Paul reminds us that we should judge or discern the body rightly. Meaning we are to discern that our brothers and sisters are members of the same body, we are one - unity. We ARE in Covenant TOGETHER

- That means from the moment we enter into this relationship and renew it by the partaking of this covenant meal, we are **committed to be loyal to one another**.
- Just like those soldiers, in spite of their own personal feelings, they had to respect the Jewish woman because their officer had broken bread with her, so regardless of our personal **attitudes** or **emotions** or **feelings**, WHEN WE BREAK BREAD - WHEN WE TAKE THE COVENANT MEAL - WE ARE OBLIGATED BY THAT VERY ACT TO BE LOYAL TO ONE ANOTHER. Also in the marriage covenant.

Psalm 41:9 **Even my close friend in whom I trusted** (was at peace with), **who ate my bread** (covenant of peace), **has lifted up his heel against me.**

In many Asian cultures, pointing the bottom of your foot toward another is to reject that person as to be walked on.

- We must not eat bread with one another and then lift up our heel against another by criticism / slander / put-down / lying / gossip / or by any unkind or unloving act.
- Paul says there are just two alternatives when we take that covenant meal.
  - (1) If we take it in right relationships it will bring us blessing and health. Please see Psalm 133
  - (2) **But** if our **relationships are wrong** it will bring us difficulties, possibly sickness, and in some extreme cases, death.

That is a very solemn thought. But then, covenant relationships are a very solemn and serious business.

May the LORD help us to **NOT** take our covenant relationships lightly:

- Our covenant with the LORD
- our covenant with one another
- our marriage covenant

(31) **But if we examine ourselves, we will not be examined by God and judged in this way.**

- 1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(32) But **when we are judged and disciplined** by the Lord, **WE WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED WITH THE WORLD.**

- That is, we **WILL NOT** lose the ETERNAL SALVATION given to us freely by the LORD. We may offend our side of the covenant but HE IS FAITHFUL.  
DISCIPLINE, YES. REJECTION, NO!

But there are serious consequences when we disobey the LORD and DO NOT HONOR the body.

Consider the following:

- Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has **something against you**, leave your offering there before the altar and go; **first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.** Matthew 5:23-25
- James 5:9 **Do not complain**, brethren, against **one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged**; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
- James 4:11 **Do not speak against one another. . . or judge your brother,** (12) There is only one Lawgiver and Judge . . . who are you who judge your neighbor?
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour.** (written to believers)
- Ephesians 4:26-27 do not let the sun go down on your **anger**, and **do not give the devil an opportunity.**
- Matthew 18:34-35 And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the **tormentors** until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not **forgive his brother from your heart."**

Let us EXAMINE ourselves – allow OUR CONSCIENCE, allow the HOLY SPIRIT to bring to mind anyone we need to forgive, or anyone we have offended.

- If HE does bring someone to mind that you have anger or resentment toward – make a decision right now to forgive them regardless of the **hurt**, regardless of our personal **attitudes** or **emotions** or **feelings**.
- Pray and tell the LORD you forgive them, and ask the HOLY SPIRIT to make it real in your heart and mind.
- If no one, or nothing comes to mind – be at peace

God has made a covenant with us, an agreement of peace, a covenant based on his goodness, not on our worthiness.

As we eat the bread, depicting oneness in Christ and drink the cup, portraying the forgiving grace of God, let us praise God joyfully for reconciling us all to Himself in Christ.