

LORD'S SUPPER (OUTLINE)

INTRODUCTION

(Exodus 12:21-28; Matt. 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; 1 Cor. 11:23-34)

1. WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND (ROOTS) OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus was celebrating the Passover meal when He instituted His supper.

The Passover meal celebrated an event in history when Israel was held captive by the Egyptians.

(Gen. 41:53-57) Because of a famine, Israelites came to Egypt to buy food, and stayed. Egypt had been storing food for 7 years.

(Gen. 47:1; 50:22-26) Because of Joseph's position in Egypt, they stayed.

(Exodus 1:7-10, 14) The new king in Egypt saw Israelites becoming mighty in the land, thought they might turn against Egypt; therefore, he enslaved them (bondage).

(Ex. 3:2-6, 10) God raises up Moses and sends him to Pharaoh to request that the people be freed, let go, to return to their homeland.

(Ex. 5:1-2) Pharaoh says, "... I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go."

God sends plagues to persuade Pharaoh to release Israel:

1. (Ex. 7:17) waters turned into blood
2. (Ex. 8:5) frogs come upon the land
3. (Ex. 8:16) lice throughout all the land
4. (Ex. 8:24) there came a grievous swarm of flies
5. (Ex. 9:3) there shall be a very grievous murrain upon the animals
6. (Ex. 9:9) a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast
7. (Ex. 9:18) cause it to rain a very grievous hail
8. (Ex. 10:4-5) bring locusts
9. (Ex. 10:22) a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days
10. (Ex. 11:4-5) and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die

This 10th plague gives us the origin of the "Passover"

(Ex. 12:12-14) "... and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you ... this day shall be unto you for a memorial ... "

God provided a means of deliverance for Israel: put a lamb's blood on the doorposts and lintel.

(Ex. 12:1-28) God instructed a meal to be eaten before this 10th plague took place.

The meal consisted of a roasted lamb (v5), and unleavened bread with bitter herbs (v8), and it included a beverage ("fruit of the vine").

Jesus is observing this Passover meal with His disciples when he institutes His supper, and Jesus takes two items from the Passover table to place in His supper: unleavened bread and fruit of the vine.

2. WHAT ARE THE 2 ITEMS IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- 1) (Exodus 12:8) "unleavened bread" in the Passover meal.
(Mark 14:22) "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and ... "
- 2) The cup: (Mark 14:23-25) "And he took the cup ... I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine ... "

3. WHAT ARE BIBLE NAMES FOR THIS EVENT?

- 1) (1 Cor. 10:16) "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ ... ?
- 2) (v21) "... ye cannot be partakers of the **Lord's table**, and the table of devils."
- 3) (1 Cor. 11:20-21) "... the **Lord's supper** ... "
- 4) (Acts 2:42; 20:7) "... the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to **break bread** ... "

The Bible never calls it the "Christian's Passover."

(1 Cor. 5:7) "... for even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."
Jesus is the sacrificial lamb of God, sacrificed for us, once for all time, for our remission of sins;
so, He is the Passover and not the observance of communion.

The Bible never calls it a "Sacrament." - that's a man-made tradition.

The Bible never places the word "holy" to precede the word "communion."

4. UPON WHICH DAY SHALL WE PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The Bible describes the Christians gathering for worship: (Acts 20:7) "upon **the first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul preached unto them ... "

(1 Cor. 16:1-2) "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him ... "

Every week has a first-day, and that is when we gather for worship: it includes breaking bread.

There is **no Biblical support** for observing the Lord's supper once a year, quarterly, monthly, twice a year; **nor** on any other day of the week; **nor** to be included in other events (marriages, funerals, etc.).

5. DOES PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER FORGIVE ME OF MY SINS?

No! Neither does the singing, giving, listening to the preaching in the worship assembly:
(Acts 2:38) "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ... "

Paul, quoting the words of Jesus, said, (1 Cor. 11:24-25) "... this do in remembrance of me ... "

6. WHO MAY PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The emblems are for disciples, Christians.

(Matt. 26:29) "... when I drink it new with **you in my Father's kingdom.**"

(1 Cor. 1:2) "Unto **the church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called to be **saints**, with **them** that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ ... "

(1 Cor. 11:18) "For first of all, when **ye** come together in the church ... "

Paul writes to Christians, the church, to give instructions about correct observance of the Lord's supper.

7. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- 1) It is a memorial: (1 Cor. 11:24-25) "this do in remembrance of me"
- 2) It is a proclamation of our faith: (v26) "... ye do show forth the Lord's death till He come."
- 3) It is a communion: we are in fellowship with Jesus and one another. (1 Cor. 10:16-17)

8. WHAT IS THE MANNER IN WHICH I WHOULD PARTAKE?

(1 Corinthians 11)

- 1) (v27) speaks of an "unworthily" manner.

The definition of the word speaks to the actual manner at the time of partaking of the emblems;
not to our "worthiness" (none are righteous, worthy) nor manner of living in previous weeks.

When not living correctly, "repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

- 2) An "unworthily" manner is described by Paul: (v29) "If he discern not the Lord's body."

When partaking of the Lord's supper, think and thank God for the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

- 3) So the exhortation is given: (v28) "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat ... drink ... "

9. WHAT IF I PARTAKE "UNWORTHILY"?

Three consequences are listed: (v27) "guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (v29) "judgment to himself" (v30) "for this cause many among you are weak, sickly, and many sleep"

Paul speaks to those who habitually abuse the partaking of the Lord's supper; who give it no respect; who simply go through the motions; the hypocritical; who are not thinking spiritually; who do not have their heart in the action; who really don't care about Jesus' sacrifice.

This action causes many to wander farther and farther away from God.