

# REMEMBERING PASSOVER PROMISES



S56A 0703 22C

God established the Passover as a celebration. A time when Israel should stop and think about the times of slavery and hard-working conditions they had down in the land of Egypt and how God brought them out by a Divine miracle. A miracle that could only have been done after a blood sacrifice was made, and the blood sprinkled on the door posts and upper lintels of every Israelite home.

Our Communion service is also a time for us to remember the same benefits we have as we are under the Blood Sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God slain on Calvary's Cross

Exodus 12:1-3, *"And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:*

(Vs. 5-6) *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.*

The Lord's instructions to Moses and Aaron are the order of events when Jesus came into Jerusalem on the tenth day of the month, as the spotless Lamb to offer Himself as a Blood sacrifice for everyone. Then on the fourteenth day of the month, Jesus was sacrificed. He died a horrible death, nailed to a Cross, as the perfect sacrifice for all, suffering great pain and agony, with His Blood flowing freely at the foot of the Cross.

The Communion service today is a celebration of the many blessings we have through that great

Atoning Sacrifice. This is a reminder of our deliverance from all oppressions and disturbances that Jesus provided for us on that Cross.

God wants us to remember the great things He did for His people then; and the Atonement promises He gives to us now, and our responsibility to trust Him today.

Exodus 12:13-14, *"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever."*

Remembering Atonement is important—NKJV Jeremiah 18:15 *"Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, From the ancient paths."* God wants His people to remember their deliverance from Egypt; His protection from harm; His promise to heal, and our duty to trust Him in faith.

Sin is the issue; NKJV Isaiah 59:2 *"Your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."* Because of sin, Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross. The Passover then is linked to our Atonement for sin now. AV 1 Corinthians 15:3 *"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures."*

Passover instructions included which animal to select; when to sacrifice it; how to roast it; why it was celebrated quickly; and what the blood signified. The lamb had to be unblemished—the slightest flaw made it unacceptable. Only a perfect lamb would represent a perfect sacrifice.

The sacrifice was a substitute for the person who would have died in the plague. From that moment, the Israelites were to understand that for them to be forgiven, restored, and redeemed, blood had to be shed, and a life sacrificed. The lamb of the family represented the Lamb of God who gave His life to make possible the conversion of our heart from rebellion to submission. NKJV John 1:29 *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

As we partake today, they prepared the Passover then—AV Exodus 12:8 *"They shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it."* (Vs.11) *"And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S Passover"*. Roasting the meat symbolized separation from pagan festivals that served uncooked meat.

Moses recorded what God instructed NLT Exodus 23:14-15 *"Each year you must celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast, just as I commanded you before. This festival will be an annual event at the appointed time in early spring, for that is the anniversary of your exodus from Egypt. Everyone must bring me a sacrifice at that time."*

This Passover will always be linked to freedom from slavery and worldly ways—freedom by the power of God. The celebration is a lasting ordinance—lest they forget who He is and what He did for them. Putting blood on the doors for protection from harm was to be etched in their minds and written on their hearts.

First century believers sacrificed the lamb around 3:00 P.M. to symbolize the time Jesus gave His life on the cross. NKJV Luke 23:44-46 *"Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last."*

The apostle spoke of this freedom from rebellion—NKJV 1 Corinthians 3:16 *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* Isn't that some blessing, to actually have God's Spirit dwelling within our hearts? But, it is our choice, we need to accept that gift and reject Satan's thoughts and suggestions. Then he added AV 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 *"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice*

and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Everyone is responsible for the thoughts they entertain; the words they use; and the attitudes they retain. We can be free from anger, resentment, and insincerity because Jesus died on the cross. The old yeast is the old life of rebellion; and the new covenant is the new faith of obedience—a life of trust on God, through the Atonement Blood of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now that Jesus has paid for our sins on the cross, by His sacrifice of Atonement for sin, we can partake of Communion with all sin and guilt gone. It is our responsibility to get rid of any attitude of malice or rebellion and accept the gift of God’s Spirit in our heart—that is how we partake of the Bread and Cup worthily.

God said NKJV Exodus 12:12-13 “Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you.” The promise was fulfilled because God would be faithful.

Communion is forever linked to freedom from former ways. It is celebrated on a regular basis because the connection between this deliverance by divine power then, and God’s promise to deliver us today is never to be forgotten. NIV Exodus 12:14 “For the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.” The love, mercy, and power of God shown then—is the same love, mercy and power manifested in the lives of believers today.

They followed God’s instructions. AV Exodus 12:21 “Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.” He explained about placing the blood on the doors, so that the promise of protection would be fulfilled. Satan would not be able to enter their door—their homes would be passed over.

Exodus 12:24-27 NIV “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants forever. When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And

when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped.”

God’s Passover promise was that they would enter the land of promise He gave them. Israel would not just think of the exodus as leaving Egypt, but as an exodus of, or leaving the old life of, slavery to sin. They would enter a new life of forgiveness, submission, and obedience. Now they could really serve God 1 Corinthians 3:16 with sincerity and truth.

NLT 1 Corinthians 7:23, “God purchased you at a high price. Don’t be enslaved by the world.” Or don’t follow the ways of the world. And Romans 8:12 tells us, “Dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.”

The Passover promise made to Abraham then, is for every true believer today. Genesis 17:7 “I will continue this everlasting covenant between us, generation after generation. It will continue between me and your offspring forever. And I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.” The God who promised to protect, provide, heal, and deliver them that day, would be the God who protects, provides, heals, and delivers us this day. AV Malachi 3:6, “For I am the LORD, I change not.”

God’s love enables the Promise—as we partake of Communion, to commemorate Passover, we have this opportunity and the privilege to re-consecrate our life to God. AV Romans 5:1, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” The Lamb of God gave His life on the cross, so we could have this new life of faith in Him.

The choice is—put our trust in the Atonement Blood of Christ for every part of our life today and yielding a harvest of eternal life later. It is the most important choice we will ever make. This forgiveness that Christ has given, is a gift from God but received only through faith in His Atonement Blood.

Romans 5:2 It is Jesus “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand,

and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” It is the living hope of living forever with Jesus—just by keeping our eyes on the cross; our faith in the Blood; and our trust on the living God. NIV Romans 5:5, “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

If we ever doubt God’s love for us, His promise of forgiveness, healing, provisions, and protection through His Atonement Blood sacrifice, should erase any doubt. Romans 5:7-8 NIV “Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

As we partake of the Elements that symbolize the body and Blood of Jesus—let us follow the instructions to receive them in a proper manner. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 NIV “Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.”

God’s plan for discarding the old yeast, or our old ways, and partaking of a new attitude of forgiveness, is AV 1 Corinthians 15:3 “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.” Every month, our Communion Service is a remembrance of our deliverance from sin, worldly influences, unscriptural attitudes, wrong desires, addictive habits, spiteful ways, and resentful feelings.

A perfect lamb would represent a perfect sacrifice for our sins. The Passover promise for Abraham then, is made to every believer now. The old yeast is the old life of rebellion; we now sign the new covenant for a new life of faith, trust, and obedience to God, through the Atonement Blood of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.



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