

Communion October 4, 2008 - Skip MacMillan

**The Old Testament explains the New Testament
Luke 22:7-20, Exodus 12:1-13, John 6**

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 6

Jesus is celebrating the last Passover before He fulfills and completes the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5: 7-8).

My blood is spilt for you, My body is broken for you, My sacrifice protects and makes atonement for the sins of all who believe.

The Passover, Exodus 12:1-13

First Month of the year

March – April, Abib to Nisan (post-exile), Spring, nature erupts into life.

“Marks a new historic epoch in the life of Israel”, “the new year will bring you a change of destiny” -Cassuto.

10th day prepare, 14th offer up the lamb/goat.

As we believe in Jesus Christ, so we start anew, new life springs up, a change in destiny occurs.

Household

“Father’s house” - one family: a man, his wife, daughters and sons, and grandchildren.

Each household had to believe God at His word and sacrifice a lamb/goat.

The entire household was protected because of the parent’s belief in the LORD.

Lamb

A year old, without defect, male, killed at twilight.

The meat was to be eaten, pointing to communion with God and as a family.

The lamb was a substitute for the lives of Israel, no wrath, no judgment; a substitute was made; a sacrifice offered, blood has been spilt.

Without the lamb’s blood, there was no protection, there was nothing between them and God’s judgment.

Without Christ, you are standing before judgment without protection; you remain in your sins before God.

The Blood

The blood was put on the sides and top of the door of their home, private dwelling.

This was THE sign that marked the home, people.

Identified the family as part of God’s community.

The blood was the only line of separation between the household and the world; safety and wrath.

The blood marked the household as His, death would pass over and life would be given.

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” (Exodus 12: 13).

Without the blood the wrath of God would come, death and destruction.

Explaining why Jesus had to die.

Make yourselves ready, v. 11

Israel was to be ready for the release, ready to move into freedom, a new way of life.
The church is called to be ready for the return of Christ.
Recognize you are strangers and aliens in this world, awaiting your Savior.

Bread without yeast, v. 8

Must eat the bread along with the meat of the lamb.

Passover means

"Pesah", and the English is "paschal".
From the Hebrew stem PSH we get "to have compassion", "to protect", "to skip over".
The Lord offered Israel "compassion," "protection," and to let judgment "pass over" them through the Passover sacrifice.

"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves" (Hebrews 10:1).

The Lord offers you "compassion", "protection", and to let judgment "pass over" you through Jesus Christ's sacrifice.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover, John 6

I am the Bread of Life

"For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:33).

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35, 48, 51).

The Lamb and Blood

Israel had to sacrifice the lamb, put the blood over the doorway, and eat the Lamb.
Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:54).

They ate the Passover lamb and bread; we eat the bread representing his body given for us.
They put the blood over the doorways; we drink the wine representing his blood.
Believing the blood was enough.
Believe God is coming.
Believe "no destructive force or destroying angel will have the power to harm you" (Exodus 12:13).

Two options:

1. Be offended and leave.
2. Believe and follow.

Jesus: "Does this offend you?"

Why does this offend us?
Taught not to offend people in our culture, we have developed political-speak.
Intellectually offensive because Jesus is claiming to be the singular way to the Father.
Improper, offensive because it mentions blood and flesh.
Gets at our heart, strips away the facades, confronts us with a harsh reality: you need Christ.

This does not make the top 10 list of how to grow a church. You don't run people off.

He is pressing people
Why are you following me? John 6:26 - "you ate the loaves and had your fill."
Who do you think I am?
What do you think this is about? Religion, philosophy, military takeover?

You are My creation, I gave you life in the Garden and I bring eternal life today.
There is no method, program; this is truth, the substance of this life.
Life is found in the Creator God, your soul belongs with God, believe in Me.

"From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him" (John 6:66).

Jesus: "You do not want to leave too, do you?" (John 6:67).

Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

What are your options?

Where else is there to go? Materialism, work, trendy religion, etc.

When the Father enables you, illuminates you as to who Jesus Christ is, you realize, "where else can I go?"

If Jesus is God, if He alone gives eternal life, if He alone forgives sins, if He alone is the Bread for your soul, where else can you go?

To what would you be turning?

Jesus: "Have I not chosen you, the twelve."

". . . no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him" (John 6:65, 37, 44).

The Father must awaken, illuminate your heart and mind.

The Father must draw you and enable you to come to Jesus.

General

The Passover was a one-time event and from then was to be remembered and celebrated.

The Cross was a one time event and from then is to be remembered: "do this in remembrance of Me."

The Passover was God releasing Israel from slavery.

The Cross is God releasing us from slavery to sin and death.

The Passover was built on a sacrifice of the innocent, the perfect lamb.

The Cross was built on a sacrifice of the innocent, the perfect Lamb.

The Passover was not based on the people's good nature (see the rest of Exodus and Old Testament) but because of God's mercy, compassion, and grace.

Jesus came to redeem you not because you were good but because of His love for you.

From the Passover forward, Israel would never be the same: slavery to freedom, from the hands of one earthly king into the arms of the King eternal, a whole new way of life was before them.

From the point of salvation, you are never the same: slavery to freedom, without hope and without God to being with God eternally, a whole new way of life.

Israel had to believe in God, believe his spoken word, trust and have faith the blood would be enough; they put their faith into action.

John 6:28-29 - "What must we do to do the works of God requires?" "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Today we must believe in Christ, believe his spoken word, trust and have faith in the sufficiency of His blood; we put our faith into action.

“do this in remembrance of Me”

Remember:

Who I am: the Great I Am, one with the Father, giver of life, having the Father’s seal of approval.

Why I went to the Cross: I love you, “it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life” (Leviticus 17:11).

How I lived life, spoke, acted, attitude; remember the things I did and did not do.

I am the giver of life, John 5:21.

The day you first believed, the day Christ set you free; the day of your coming redemption when your King returns.

The final Passover was 2,000 years ago on Calvary but we remember God’s Passover again and again through communion.