

PASSOVER - NEW TESTAMENT

- Say - Welcome to Sabbath School. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we study today.
- Say - Around the world, once a year, many of God's people will gather at various places to observe the memorial of the death of Jesus Christ. This observance is called the New Testament Passover. In our study today, we will take a closer look at some of the verses we will read on that night and try to gain a deeper spiritual understanding of what Christ was saying as He introduced the New Testament Passover.
- Say - On the night of His last meal with His disciples, Christ told His disciples and all His faithful followers down through the ages, "Unless you eat the flesh... and drink the blood, you have no life in you" John 6:53. Have you read or heard this verse before, if not, you will hear it read at The New Testament Passover.
- Say - What does, "Eat the flesh and drink the blood" mean? The disciples who were with Christ when He spoke these words asked the same question. They said, "This is a hard saying; who can hear it, (meaning this is difficult to understand)" John 6:60. What do you mean, they reasoned, if we don't eat it, we're not alive? They knew it was against the law to eat (human) flesh, Leviticus 17:10, 11.
- Say - In our study today, not only will we find out why the disciples could not understand what Christ was saying but we will find out what Christ meant by those words as He taught the disciples His last night on earth.
- Say - Have you ever heard the saying, "Boy, she sure eats up everything they tell her", or "Boy, he swallowed that hook, line and sinker"? These sayings mean the listener believed everything they were being told. They took it to be the entire truth. So let's apply this principle to what Christ is saying in these verses as we gain understanding in our lesson today.
- Say - First we need some background information on these verses. Remember the first Passover when God had brought His people out of Egypt, symbolic of the land of sin, and after a three-day journey they were camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai? God made an agreement or covenant with them; it was a marriage covenant. Always remember whenever we see or hear the word "covenant", it means "agreement".

Say - In the covenant or agreement Christ said, "If you obey my laws and ordinances I will make you a holy people, a holy nation, a nation of kings and priests" Exodus 19:1-6. He said I will be your God, (your husband), and you shall be my people, (My bride). The next day they ratified or made legal the agreement/covenant and had a feast in celebration. This was the first wedding supper. Later in our study we will find out there will be a second wedding supper which we will all want to be a part of.

Say - The Bible describes their wedding feast this way, "... the children of Israel ... offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant (the legal agreement), and read in the audience of the people: and they said, all that the LORD hath said will we do, and (we will) be obedient"!

Say - And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people (Note: the sprinkling of the blood sealed or ratified the agreement or made it a law) and said, behold the blood of the covenant/agreement, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words. ..., and they did eat and drink", (thus the first wedding feast or supper), Exodus 24:7-11. This sprinkling of blood was to teach God's people that the covenant was made only through the sprinkling of blood from an atoning sacrifice which was from the blood of the animals they had sacrificed.

Say - We know, however, the Bible tells us they did not keep their side of the agreement and eventually went their own way and followed false gods. But God did not give up on them or He will never forsake them; notice what He said.

Say - Christ said, "Behold, the days come, ... that I will make a new covenant, (a new agreement) with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant/agreement that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was an husband unto them: But this shall be the covenant/agreement that I will make ...; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law (same laws) in their (our) write it in inward parts, and their (our) hearts (by the power of the holy spirit); and I will be their God (their husband), and they shall be my people" (My bride), Jeremiah 31:31-33.

Say - You see, writing the covenant/agreement on our hearts, on our conscience, means God changed the covenant/agreement to, not only a physical covenant but raised it to a spiritual covenant/agreement as well. Now God's people must act AND think on the agreement made possible upon repentance and receiving Christ's spirit for the very first time!!! A good example of this is found in the following verse, "Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and you know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" John 3:15. You see the law stayed the same, "Thou shall not kill" Exodus 20:13 but in the new covenant/agreement, if we hate someone or THINK it in our mind, we are guilty of murder!

Say - At the New Testament Passover, what did the new covenant or spiritual agreement say? "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread (night before the Exodus Passover, the beginning of the 14th): and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is (represents) my body, which is broken for you (given to you, Luke 22:19): this do in remembrance of me".

Say - "After the same manner also he took the cup, (and) when he had supped, saying, this cup is (represents) the new testament in my blood (the new covenant, a new administration of the same agreement which was made with His people at Mt. Sinai, only ratified by HIS blood, not the blood of goats and calves as was at Mt. Sinai, Hebrews 9:12): this do ye ... in remembrance of me, ...ye do show (publicly profess Christ has died for me) the Lord's death till He comes" I Corinthians 11:23-25.

Say - It is important to understand just as the Israelites had put the blood upon the doorposts of their homes, at the New Testament Passover we are "spiritually" saying we have put the shed blood of Jesus Christ upon the "doorposts of our heart or mind" and the "death angel" will "passover" us and give us eternal life at His return, referring to the second death ultimately.

Say - From our background information now we know why the disciples could not understand what Christ was saying because they thought in physical terms only. In other words they were spiritually blind as many people are today; if you can't see, you can't see, it's that simple. But Christ was teaching we must think spiritually because He said, "The words that I speak to you are spirit and life" John 6:63. Christ was using physical food to teach about Spiritual food. Christ wants us to ingest His personality, His character found by studying His Laws, His Instructions, His

ordinances and everything He says because this is the ONLY thing which will lead us to eternal life!!!

- Say - And this brings us back to the verses in our lesson today that we are trying to understand. "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you" John 6:63. Now with our new understanding, "Eat my flesh" means to "swallow, hook, line and sinker" EVERYTHING Christ teaches! The Bible tells us, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" John 6:51.
- Say - Always remember Christ's "words" are "spirit", they are "life" John 6:63. We must take in EVERYTHING He says and DO it; we must learn His spiritual words, His teachings, His instructions and laws until they become a part of OUR nature and they become the passion of our mind!
- Say - Just as Christ's passion was to do the will of His Father, so ours must be likewise as a follower of Christ. We must meditate on His teachings day and night to become like Him just as David did. We must "Live by every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God", Matthew 4:4. It is part of the plan of salvation, a life-long process.
- Say - "Drink my blood" is symbolic of Christ's spirit. The Bible tells us the LORD "Is the fountain of living waters" Jeremiah 17:13. In another place we are told, "...If any many thirst, let him come unto me and drink (drink in of my teachings it is free). He that believeth on me (walks in my Instruction not against them), as the scripture hath said, out of his belly (heart or mind) shall flow rivers of living water (spiritually speaking, will have an outpouring of good works, flood of life, empathy, joy, peace)" John 7:37, 38.
- Say - Now when we gather annually as God's people to take the New Testament Passover and take the bread and wine, we are RENEWING the covenant/agreement with God which we made at baptism when God called us out of sin (out of our Egypt). We are doing just what God's people did when God "called" and "delivered" His people out of Egypt (symbolizing sin) and brought them through the Red Sea (symbolizing baptism) and at the foot of Mt. Sinai they ratified or made legal the covenant or agreement with Him.
- Say - Taking the "unleavened bread" at the New Testament Passover is symbolic of ingesting the "Unleavened Bread of Life" the "words" and "teachings" of Jesus. Taking His "cup"(wine) symbolic of

"drinking His blood", is symbolic of accepting His sacrifice, His shed blood, as we renew the covenant/agreement we made at baptism. We are publicly proclaiming we live by His words of life, that we feed on Him ONLY, we swallow everything He says, "hook, line and sinker" and that He is our ONLY source of life. It was ratified or made legal by the shedding of Christ's blood, not the blood of animals as when God's people were in the wilderness, but by the blood of the perfect PASSOVER Lamb of God, Jesus Christ!

Say - Renewing the covenant at the New Testament Passover is the part that we must do to have the ratifying or seal of the covenant or marriage agreement which bring us eternal life and to the marriage supper of the Lamb, the second "Wedding Supper" spoken of in Revelation 19:9. This is what the Spring Holy Days picture when we will "drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom" Matthew 26:29.

NOTE - This process is called reconciled or reconciliation and means an intimate relationship as between a husband and wife of dwelling together can now happen. Please read and understand the following verses, II Corinthians 5:18-20, Ephesians 2:16. "This change comes about by repentance of our sins, baptism and receiving God's spirit united with our spirit, Romans 5:11, II Corinthians 5:17, 18; Ephesians 2:5, and this takes a lifetime of living obediently to God (not disobediently) as we hunger and thirst after Him and seek His will.

Say - Read II Corinthians 5:17-18, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation ("begotten" or "firstfruits" not "born again" as God begins to re-create us in His image, the very reason He created mankind in the first place, Genesis 1:26)! Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation (ultimately speaking). The Bible tells us, "Even when we were dead in sins (before baptism), (He) hath quickened us (made us alive) together with Christ and "By His grace (forgiveness) you are saved", Ephesians 1:7, 2:5, 2:8; Romans 3:24.

Say - The Bible tells us, "Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh" (we will be joyous for our reward is great which is eternal life in the Kingdom of God), Luke 6:21. Hunger means to crave, starving daily for spiritual food through Christ, (Strong's, Gk. 3983, 3993). Why, because it is ETERNAL LIFE!! Listen to His promise, "Blessed are

they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (filled with the promise of eternal life), Matthew 5:6, John 4:14.

Say - Christ tells us in the next verse, "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwells (Strong's 3306, Gk. to remain as one,) in me, and I in him. Again, I repeat, this is the only way, it is by being "called of God" and through repentance, baptism and receiving God's spirit which makes this all possible. This is exactly what the New Testament Passover means for us taught to us through God's Spring Holy Days.

Say - Now we can re-read John 6:53-58 with understanding and to the best of our individual ability, I would suggest one study and practice explaining what it means to someone else until we know it by heart. I have printed the scripture below for your convenience.

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life (My spirit) in you. Whoso eateth my flesh (be able to explain what His "flesh" is spiritually speaking, hint, "I am the Bread of Life"), and drinketh my blood (be able to explain what "Living Waters" is spiritually speaking), hath eternal life (in the future); and I will raise him up at the last day (at the resurrection when I return is when you will have eternal life). For my flesh is meat indeed (I am the Bread of Life), and my blood is drink indeed (we are what we eat and dwell on). He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me (feeds on My spiritual words not Catachism, etc.), even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven (Jesus Christ was spiritual manna): not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead (that was physical): he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever (will die the first death physically but will live again spiritually forever), John 6:53-58.

Say - As we annually renew the covenant, taking the physical bread and wine at the New Testament Passover, may we all understand spiritually Jesus Christ is the "Bread of Life" and take in His spiritual food, His Laws, Instructions and everything He says and live them as He forms the "New Creation in Christ" within us, 2 Corinthians 5:17.

MEMORY VERSE

WHOSOEVER EATETH MY FLESH AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, HATH
ETERNAL LIFE. JOHN 6:54

Below is the Sabbath School Lesson for Tots

THE NEW TESTAMENT PASSOVER

FROM MT. SINAI, CHRIST TOLD HIS PEOPLE, "IF YOU OBEY MY LAWS A HOLY PEOPLE YOU SHALL BE UNTO ME; I WILL MAKE YOU KINGS AND PRIESTS AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND MANY BLESSINGS WILL COME TO THEE".

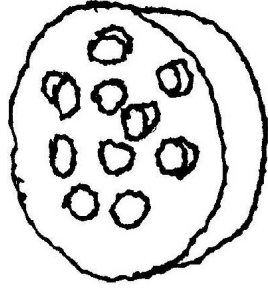
"ALL YOU SAY WE WILL DO", AGREED HIS PEOPLE THAT DAY;
AND GOOD WERE THEIR INTENTIONS BUT SADLY TEMPTATIONS CAME ALONG AND THEY WERE LED ASTRAY.

BUT WITH GOD'S GREAT LOVE, HIS PEOPLE, HIS BRIDE, A NEW AGREEMENT HE MADE AND WILL PLACE IT UPON THEIR HEART'S;
IN THE FUTURE, I WILL HAVE THEM EAT AND DRINK OF MY WAYS AND WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO PART.

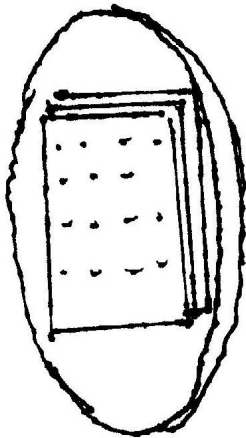
NOW EACH YEAR WE GATHER FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT PASSOVER, IN MEMORY OF THE DEATH OF OUR SAVIOR, OUR "PASSOVER LAMB", JESUS CHRIST, OUR KING;
FOR THROUGH HIS GREAT SACRIFICE WE CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE AND A HAPPY SONG NOW OUR HEARTS SING.

FOR HE IS THE "BREAD OF LIFE" AND I WILL FEED ON HIS TEACHINGS EACH DAY;
HE IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; THROUGH JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY!

By B. Burnham.



AND DRINKETH
MY BLOOD



WHOSOEVER EATETH
MY FLESH

HATH ETERNAL LIFE
JOHN 6:54