

Episode 66

After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people - an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you."

- Luke 22.20

The Supper that Jesus instituted on the night he was betrayed was a new Passover meal. Or we might say that the Passover was the Old Testament Lord's Supper.

The reason the Lord instituted the Passover was so that the people of Israel would always remember and proclaim their redemption from Egypt: This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. (Exodus 12.14) And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.' (Exodus 12.25-27)

The Lord's Supper was instituted for the same reason:

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people - an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you. (Luke 22.19-20)

And then, Paul adds, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11.23-26)

In the Old Testament, God's people looked back to the Exodus through the Passover meal. In the New Testament, we look back to the cross and resurrection of Jesus through the Lord's Supper. This is why communion is often referred to as the whole bible in one meal.

As often as we eat this new Passover meal we remember a greater exodus: "for he has delivered us from the domain of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin."

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