

TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES

- 1. REVIVAL**
- 2. HARVEST**

Instituted by Jesus on Thursday night of His final week on earth, the Last Supper received its roots into a 1500-year Hebrew tradition and now has become the most recognized practice of the Christian Church outside of baptism.

The facts about the Last Supper from a Jewish perspective began in Egypt. On the tenth day of the month, God called Abib (Exodus 13:4), He ordered each household to select a perfect year-old male lamb from flock or herd; small households would join larger ones. The lamb would be slain at twilight on the fourteenth day and its blood splashed on the sides and top of their door frames. Wherever the blood was applied, God's angel would PASS OVER when He passed through Egypt at midnight with death in His eyes and blood on His sword.

With sandals on, staff in hand, fully dressed and ready to move, the Israelites ate the meal hurriedly (Exodus 12:11). The lamb, roasted whole, with no broken bones (Exodus 12:46), was to be completely consumed, with bitter herbs and unleavened bread as side dishes. Any leftovers were to be incinerated (Exodus 12:10).

The facts about the last supper from a Jewish perspective continued with Joshua's renewal of the Passover when Israel occupied Canaan. At God's command, Joshua circumcised the males, who had gone uncircumcised throughout the 40-year wandering (Joshua 5:2). Then, on the 14th day of the month, Israel celebrated the Passover (Joshua 5:10). A day later, they ate produce from the land. They put God first by circumcising all their males, then celebrating the Passover, both occurring in enemy territory. In turn, God protected and provided for them.

The facts about the Last Supper from a Jewish perspective was renewed in Israel under righteous Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 30:1-27) and Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:1-19) after notorious apostasy under previous kings. Both kings extended invitations to all Israelites, north and south, to congregate in Jerusalem. Whenever observed, the Passover celebrated deliverance from Egypt. That inspirational certainty cheered and animated every generation of Jews and became as consistent with national identity as kings, prophets, priests, and temple.

The facts about the Last Supper from a Jewish perspective was finalized in Christ's institution of His communion table. Born of a Jewish mother, into Jewish culture, a spiritual child of Moses and heir of Old Covenant prophecies, Jesus necessarily began with familiar articles in the Upper Room, then filtered them through Himself. This is clear from the symbolism forecast in Egypt and completed in Christ. First, the original Passover represented God's judgment on Egypt's pantheon as it brought Israel deliverance from political bondage; Christ's Table signed Satan's death warrant as it celebrated believers' deliverance from spiritual bondage.

Second, that no bone of the lamb was broken was realized in Christ at the cross. After breaking the thieves' legs, the soldier thrust a spear into the corpse of Jesus (John 19:34). Third, leaving nothing of the lamb till the next morning symbolized Christ's resurrection from the dead. As Peter said in Acts 2:24, Jesus defied corruption because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.

All of this was forecast by Jesus when He emphasized both the cup and loaf. Had He wanted to merely reinforce the original Passover, He would have used only the cup as His blood. But Jesus never merely augmented anything in Moses. He re-constituted everything, including the Passover, in reflection of His own life and purpose. Indeed, Christ's cup and loaf had meaning Moses could never have known. The cup predicted the immediate as the loaf the ultimate result of Christ's sacrifice. As the cup forecasts forgiveness of sin for all who believed in Him, the loaf promised His bodily resurrection, then glorified body; and our resurrected life, then glorified body.

1 Corinthians 5:7 NIV

7 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.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Ephesians 1:18-23 NLT

18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

QUOTE:

“We are not human beings who have occasional spiritual experiences - but we are spiritual beings who have an occasional human experience.”

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

- To **SEE** with His **EYES**.
- To **HEAR** with His **EARS**.
- To **UNDERSTAND** with His **HEART**.

Isaiah 6:3 NKJV

3 And one cried to another and said:

**“ Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!”**

Colossians 1:16-17 The Message

15-18 We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

Colossians 2:8-10 The Message

8-10 Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NLT

14 Either way, Christ's love controls us.[a] Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.[b] 15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

Exodus 12:3, 6-8 NLT

3 Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. 6 "Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. 7 They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. 8 That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast.

John 6:53 NKJV

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

1 Corinthians 10:16 NKJV

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

COMMUNION

Comes from two words – "Common" and "Union"

Meaning – THE USING OF A THING IN COMMON

The word "communion" is defined as the *act of sharing, or holding in common; participation*. What is communion in a biblical sense? The word "communion" as translated in the King James Version is the Greek word "koinonia" and it means a partnership, participation or social intercourse, fellowship, communion, communication, distribution, contribution or to communicate. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:16).

What is communion? It is a fellowship of believers by which they gather together to remember the sacrifice of the LORD Jesus Christ. On the night that Christ was betrayed, He instituted this "remembrance." "And He took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20). (Also see, Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25.)

What is communion? It is a remembrance of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave His life a ransom for whoever believes. The elements in themselves are not the issue, it is the fact that believers assemble together to fellowship, to remember Christ's sacrifice and to examine their own hearts as to whether they have any unconfessed sin. This is something that we are privileged to do. We gain nothing by taking the juice and bread (i.e. forgiveness). We do gain the remembrance in thanksgiving for what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for all who trust in Him as their personal Savior.

1 Corinthians 11:23-30 NLT

23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread 24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you.[a] Do this to remember me." 25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again. 27 So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against[b] the body and blood of the Lord. 28 That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. 29 For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ,[c] you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

The Last Supper: Communion

The Last Supper is one of several major events in the earthly life of Jesus Christ that are recorded in the Bible. The Last Supper is a description of the last meal Jesus Christ had with His disciples prior to His arrest and crucifixion on a roman cross about 2,000 years ago. The Last Supper contains many significant principles, and continues to be an important part of Christian lives throughout the world.

The Last Supper is described in three of the four New Testament Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Here are some of the life-changing highlights, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. First, Jesus predicts He will suffer soon after this meal and it will be His last meal prior to finishing His work on behalf of the kingdom of God (Luke 22:15-16). Second, Jesus gives His followers symbols of remembrance for His body and His blood sacrificed on behalf of all mankind. "*And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me'*" (Luke 22:19).

Third, Jesus provides a very important principle for living a Christian life: the greatest are those who serve others, not those who expect to be served (Luke 22:26). Finally, Jesus provides hope to his followers: "*and I*

confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:29-30).

For the last two thousand years, the Last Supper has inspired people to live by faith in Jesus Christ, by serving others instead of following the worldly influences of expecting to be served.

The Last Supper was held on the evening of preparation for the Jewish Passover, a very holy time for the Jewish nation in remembrance of when God spared the Jews from the plague of death on every firstborn child in Egypt. Jesus arranged the dinner purposely by instructing His disciples where to host it. His twelve disciples were with Him during and after the meal. It is here that Jesus makes the prediction that Peter will deny knowing Him three times before the rooster crows that morning, which became true. Jesus also predicts that one disciple, Judas Iscariot, will betray Him, which also became true. The Last Supper was a gathering for Christ to fellowship with His disciples one last time prior to His arrest and crucifixion.

After the Last Supper, Jesus Christ willfully and obediently allowed himself to be brutally sacrificed on a wooden cross. He did this to reconcile each of us to God by paying the debt of our sins, which we could never do on our own power. In return, Jesus makes a simple request, remember this act of love He performed on our behalf. Jesus Christ did not have to die for us. He did, however, because He values every life on earth and wants to see each of us sitting at His dining table someday in heaven. Throughout the Bible, and throughout history, the truth of Christ's message has been established - that we can join Jesus in heaven by acknowledging His sacrifice and accepting Him into our life. In addition, we can apply the lessons Jesus taught at the Last Supper to live a faithful life while here on earth by serving others in love. The bread is a symbol of the body of Jesus, never to be forgotten as it was given to us. The cup represents the blood of Jesus, never to be forgotten as he poured out His life for us. Jesus Christ has offered everybody the gift of His life, death and resurrection. The Last Supper reminds us of Christ's sacrifice, and that by faith in Him, we can dine with Christ for all eternity.

We have to be careful about substituting RITUAL for REALITY.

Shortly before Jesus was crucified, He ate one final Passover dinner with His disciples which we refer to as the Last Supper. Jesus said, "And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God'" (Luke 22:15). Jesus had often tried to talk to them about His death and the manner in which He would die. But now the time had come and this was their last feast together.

The Bible says that He took bread and gave each of them some and then said, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19b). And He took wine and shared with them. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20). He told them several things in these short statements. He wanted them to know that He was going to die a sacrificial death for sin, that it was going to be His blood that paid the blood sacrifice, that He was to establish a new covenant and to replace the Old Covenant that the Jews had lived under for so long, and He wanted them to remember this celebration feast and commemorate it in the future to remind followers of His sacrificial death for them.

Luke's gospel records a dispute that took place at this dinner among a few of His disciples as to which of them was the greatest. Jesus had anticipated the biggest event ever was about to take place in history and His disciple had still not grasped the significance of His words. He had just told them that he was having a last

meal with them before His death and they are arguing about who is going to be the greatest in His kingdom! So Jesus taught them a lesson on serving, "For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:27-30). Again with His words, He gave more than one major message: His kingdom was not going to be of this world and in order to be great in His kingdom, they needed to learn how to serve.

The last hours had come prior to Jesus death and still His disciples had not understood His message about His death or resurrection. But just a few days later they finally fully understood what Jesus had been trying to tell them. When Jesus was resurrected from the dead and appeared before them, it suddenly all made sense. Jews well understood the Old Covenant, the pure and spotless sacrificial lamb, and the blood shed necessary to pay the ransom for sin. Now they understood what Jesus had been trying to explain to them all of this time, He was that lamb. They could clearly see the evidence of His resurrected body. Finally this, too could be grasped. And as they watched Him ascend into Heaven, they realized what He meant in His statements about His kingdom. Then they remembered His words also about The Last Supper and His Kingdom in Heaven.

Commemoration of the Last Supper did not end with the death of the twelve disciples however. When Jesus said that He wanted them to do it to remember Him, it was a message to us also. Jesus desired that His followers continue to have a commemoration of the Lord's Supper to remind us of Christ's sacrificial death for our sins. It was given as a time to give thanks to God for sending Christ to die in our place. In Matthew 26:29 we read Jesus' words to us where He clearly included us in this remembrance command and He gave us a powerful promise for our future. "I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Jesus promised that we can see Him in Heaven with God if we accepted His gift of forgiveness for our sins.

1 John 1:7 NIV

1 John 4:20-21 NIV

Matthew 16:25 NLT

Ephesians 4:15-16 NLT

Matthew 7:22-23 NIV

1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV

Ephesians 1:3 NLT

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Do you have any unconfessed sin that would hinder your worship in the Lord's Supper?**
- 2. Do you have an offense against another person/believer that would hinder your worship in the Lord's Supper?**
- 3. Has Communion/Lord's Supper become a ritual for you? Or is it a reality that brings life?**
- 4. Do you see the Lord's Supper as something for personal worship, group worship or both? What are the benefits of each?**
- 5. Do you see yourself as a spiritual being or a human being? Why?**
- 6. What keeps you from seeing yourself as a spiritual being that will live forever?**
- 7. Just as the Israelites applied the blood of Christ to their doorposts at the Passover, what areas of your life need the blood of Christ applied?**