

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: "The Passover Lamb" Luke 22

Scripture of Lesson: Luke's Gospel 22: 7-30

### 1. *The Passover event in Exodus*

- a. In Exodus 11 and 12 we read about the well-known Passover event, through which God delivered the people of Israel from the deaths that God declared on all first-born of both people and animals in Egypt [Exodus 11: 5]. The people of Israel were commanded by God through Moses to prepare a sacrificial lamb, one for each family, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the first month [Exodus 12:3], keep it until the 14<sup>th</sup> day, kill it in the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> day [12:6] and eat it as roasted, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs [12:8].
- b. At the same time, the blood of the lamb had to be sprinkled on the door posts and transom of each house [12:7] so that the death angel would "pass over" such houses of Israel but not the houses without the lamb's blood [12:13]. Thus, the people of Israel were saved from the curse of the deaths in the land and were freed from the bondage of slavery. And they were commanded to memorialize the Passover as an ordinance "forever" [12:17].

### 2. *Jesus Christ and the Passover*

- a. After the Passover event, God instituted the tabernacle worship system for the people of Israel during their wilderness journey, which consisted of the following components:
  - i. The tabernacle, which was a holy tent that symbolized God's presence
  - ii. The priesthood that served God and officiated the worship rituals for the people
  - iii. The altar and associated facilities for making animal sacrifices by the priests for the people
  - iv. The Mosaic laws that stipulated the worship system and the behavioral rules for the people
- b. At the core of this Mosaic worship system was the 'animal sacrifice' that was required for the people's sins to be cleansed and forgiven by God. When an Israelite offered an animal for his sin, he had place his hand on the head of the animal, thus he had to be acutely aware that the animal was dying and shedding blood so that his sins could be forgiven through God's grace. Thus, the animal sacrifice system represented Jesus Christ, who had to die as "the Lamb of God" once for sins of all repenting humanity. Prophet Isaiah foretold of God's plan to make His own Son as an offering for the sins of many seven centuries before Lord Jesus came to the world:

*Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;  
He has put Him to grief.  
When You make His soul an offering for sin,  
He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,  
And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.* [Isaiah 53:10]

- c. Each year's Passover was an ordinance from God so that the people of Israel would remember and meditate how God saved them from death and freed them from the slavery because a lamb died for them. Now this Lamb of God, as identified publicly by John the Baptist twice [John 1: 29, 36], came to their midst. And yet the religious leaders of Israel failed to recognize Him as the Lamb who would die for their own sins. Nor did the disciples understand the mission of their Lord fully until after He was resurrected and ascended to heaven.

### 3. *Lord Jesus instituted 'the Lord's Supper'*

- a. Lord Jesus planned and ate the last supper before His suffering and death and instituted the Lord's Supper, sometimes called the Sacraments, in the presence of His disciples to teach them the significance of His sacrifice in God's plan for human salvation and its relation to the OT Passover. This event has been recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke. It is also recorded by apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthian church:

*Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and*

broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. [Luke 22: 16-20]

*For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**" [1 Cor. 11: 23-25]*

- b. Christians over the centuries have kept the Lord's Supper when they met to worship God because it is an ordinance from Lord Jesus and as a memorial to remember His shed blood and broken body as the sacrifice for our salvation. There are different interpretations as to what the bread and the cup represent. Regardless of the doctrinal differences, however, the Bible verses make clear that the Lord Jesus meant them to be "*memorials of His blood and body to be taken in remembrance of Him.*"
- c. Apostle Paul wrote on the significance of this great work of Lord Jesus in God's grand plan of saving the humanity from death and corruption as follows:

*But, God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. [Rom. 5: 8-11]*

This is the '**New Covenant,**' which Lord Jesus spoke about to His disciples during the last supper. His sacrificial death effectively replaced the OT Passover and the animal sacrifice system *once for all*. The New Testament is now given from God based on the Son's sacrifice, through which we are saved by God's grace and are also reconciled as His children through His death and life without having to give animal sacrifices or any other sacrifices, for nothing can be a substitute of the cross of Jesus Christ.

*Discussion topics:*

1. *What is meaning of the Lord's Supper to your salvation?*
2. *Let's discuss why the Jewish people have so much difficulty in believing Jesus as the Lamb of God who was slain according to the Scriptures?*