

Good Friday 2007 – Passover Symbolism – Lk 22:7-20

On the night before he was betrayed, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples
A meal commanded by God in the OT, to make sure his people never forgot their miraculous release from the slavery of Egypt
That time when God passed over and protected those who had sacrificed a perfect lamb, and had applied its *blood* to the doorposts of their home . . .
Sparing them from the death of their firstborn, including their animals
Blood for blood; life for life
A plague/punishment of last resort to get Pharaoh to release his people

It was the meal to remember all that to which Luke refers in **Lk 22:7-20**

It was this meal that Jesus used to illustrate a new truth; Gave a new meaning
The Passover meal for the Jews was the Last Supper for Christ, and became the Lord's Supper for us

7 – *the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed*

Feast of Unleavened Bread was a 7 day festival
Passover was a one day festival right before it
By Jesus time, they were referred to as one feast – 8 days of Passover; or the Feast of Unleavened Bread which was understood to include Passover
So the *day of Unleavened Bread* (7) refers to the day of the Passover – the day that a lamb was sacrificed on the altar in the temple

8-13 – *they prepared the Passover*

Refers to the Passover meal – the seder (Heb word meaning “order”)
A memorial meal, prescribed/commanded by God in Ex 12, to remember what he had done in releasing his people from the slavery of Egypt

Most likely by that time (gets a little dicey), they were celebrating the Passover *meal*, in anticipation of the Passover sacrifices, the next afternoon . . .
About the same time Jesus was sacrificed on the cross

16-18 – *I will not eat it [or drink] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God*

Implication from v16 is that he wouldn't eat with them like this *again*, until the meaning of the meal is fulfilled
Most likely referring to the marriage supper of the Lamb at the end of time when the church (bride of Christ) is finally together in heaven with Christ himself in Rev 19
But what did he mean – *until it is fulfilled in the K of G?*

By that time, the Passover meal was not only a meal of remembrance, but a meal of anticipation as well
Anticipating the coming of the Messiah and the realization of God's kingdom
That's why they left a place for Elijah at the table per the prophecy in Mal 4

When put the anticipation of a Messiah, together w/ the reference to Christ's blood (20)
He was hinting at the fact that he was going to fulfill the Messianic anticipation, by becoming the Passover Lamb that was slain

That's why Paul says 1 Cor 5:7 – *Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed*

19-20 – When Jesus broke the Passover bread, saying . . .

This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. (19)

He gave it a new meaning – now symbolized his broken body on the cross, for *our* sake
Instead of lamb that was slain for their sake

The cup, which up to that point was used to remember/celebrate the redemption/rescue of God's people . . .

Was now intended to symbolize the blood-promise of Christ to save us

When he said – (20b)

This cup represents my blood, which guarantees a new promise of salvation
A new way of relating to God, and God to us

- Just as the blood of the lamb applied to the doorposts protected them from the angel of death as it passed over their home . . .
So too, the blood of Christ applied to our lives, protects us from the certainty of death due to our sin

Just as the blood of the lamb was their ticket to freedom from the slavery of Egypt

The blood of Christ is our means to freedom from the bondage of sin

Just as the blood of a lamb ensured their protection and freedom

The blood of Christ guarantees ours – our salvation to life everlasting

That's something to remember/anticipate – in true Passover fashion