

Communion at the Foot of the Cross

The communion was originally a Jewish Passover meal. Jesus chose two elements of that meal to pass on a remembrance of His death. Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus, explains the significance of the two elements of this meal:

First is the unleavened bread or *matzo*. Leaven is almost always used in Scripture as a symbol of sin. Two or three loaves of unleavened bread were part of the meal. One was broken, dipped in sop, and passed around for each participant to eat. One was an unbroken loaf called the *aphikomen* or “after dish.” This is the bread that Jesus broke.

Paul tells us that Jesus passed around both the bread and the cup *after* supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-25). Moishe Rosen explains, “He used the *aphikomen* (after dish) for the first time to represent not only the Paschal lamb, but His own body!” The unleavened or sinless Lamb of God would be broken for us on the cross!

The second element is the cup. Four were taken in Passover. Of the four, the third carries the greatest significance. Once again, Moishe Rosen explains: “The third cup had two names: the ‘cup of blessing,’ because it came after the blessing or grace after meals, and the ‘cup of redemption,’ because it represented the blood of the Paschal lamb. It was of this third cup that Jesus said, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.’ (Matthew 26:28).” Further, the wine in this cup was warmed to increase the impact of its symbolic connection with the blood of the Passover Lamb. To Jesus, the Passover was a symbol of His death on the cross.

Paul says in **1 Corinthians 10:16** “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?”

The elements have been provided for you – unleavened bread representing the sinless body of Jesus, and the third cup of redemption symbolizing Christ’s atoning blood. Please eat, drink, and rejoice in what the crucifixion of Jesus did for you!