

INTRODUCTION

- * He is Risen!... He is Risen Indeed! HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!
- * As most of you know, the elders decided some time ago that we should celebrate Jesus's resurrection today, the first Sunday after Passover, rather than on the traditional day known as Easter Sunday (March 31). And while there were several factors that went into this decision, the primary one was to keep us in better alignment with the timing of Jesus's actual resurrection, since we know that Jesus died on Passover, and was raised 3 days later! However, we did make one compromise by keeping this celebration on a Sunday (the first day of the week), since we technically should have held it this past Friday morning, had we wanted to be even better aligned with the timing of how the events played out nearly 2000 years ago.
- * Our teaching time this morning will be split into two parts, with our foundation being the symbolism behind one aspect of the Passover Seder meal that Jesus celebrated with His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion, namely the 3rd and 4th cups of wine. Jesus drank that 3rd cup with His disciples then, but refrained from drinking the 4th cup, promising to do it in the future with all who have followed Him through the ages as Savior and Redeemer.

INSTRUCTION**I. Some Additional Background on the timing of Passover vs. Easter:**

- a. How the dates of Passover and Easter are determined.
- b. Historical background and implications.

II. The Original Passover (Exodus 12)

- a. Some of the key ways that Jesus fulfilled what that feast pointed to, as the final Lamb of God:
 - i. The lambs were selected on the 10th of Nisan (see John 12:12-13).
 - ii. The lambs were to be males without defect (see 1 Peter 1:18-19).
 - iii. The lambs would have been examined over 4 days to make sure they were without defect. Jesus was thoroughly examined by the Jewish religious authorities during the 4 days prior to His crucifixion. Even Pilate found no fault in Him. (Mt. 22:15-46 and Jn. 19:4, 6)
 - iv. The lambs were to be killed at twilight on the 14th of Nisan, just as Jesus was!
 - v. Exodus 12:46 specifies that none of the bones of the Passover lamb were to be broken (see John 19:33-36).
 - vi. Just as the lamb's blood protected the Israelites from God's judgment on that first Passover, the blood of Christ eternally protects those who place their faith in Him from God's future wrath and judgment.
 - vii. John the baptizer used a special title for Jesus at the beginning of Jesus's public ministry... "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
- b. **The Passover Seder Meal** and the 4 Cups of Wine (Exodus 6:6-7)
 - i. The Cup of Sanctification (I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians)
 - ii. The Cup of Praise (I will rescue you from their bondage)
 - iii. The Cup of Redemption (I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments)
 - iv. The Cup of Acceptance (I will take you as My people, and I will be your God)
- c. **The Third Cup... The Cup of Redemption** (see Mt. 26:27-29)
 - i. The purpose for Jesus's first advent was to redeem mankind from their sin by atoning for it with His blood.
 - ii. God instituted the practice of substitutionary sacrifice for the atonement of sin (Lev. 17:11, Heb. 9:22).
 - iii. It is solely by the blood of Jesus that atonement is made for our sins, as He did for us what we could not do for ourselves when He offered Himself with outstretched arms on a cross, as the perfect and final sacrificial Lamb!

INTRODUCTION

- * As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ (the Messiah), we recognize that His death, burial and resurrection fulfill multiple prophecies recorded in God's Word.
- * Today, we are considering the fulfillment of the Feasts of Passover and First Fruits. And yet, there is in Christ's fulfillment of the Passover celebration a statement by Jesus regarding another phase of the fulfillment of the four cups of blessing (Matthew 26 and Mark 14). As Jesus is blessing the third cup - the cup of redemption - and declaring that its fulfillment was in His blood that would be shed to sanctify the New Covenant, He declared that He would no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until He drank it with them in the Kingdom of God. The Passover Seder of Christ is yet to be completed - there is still the fourth cup of blessing: The Cup of Acceptance. According to **Exodus 6:6-7** ⁶ Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; **I will bring you out** from under the burdens of the Egyptians, **I will rescue you** from their bondage, and **I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ **I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.** Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
 - The Cup of Sanctification
 - The Cup of Deliverance
 - The Cup of Redemption
 - The Cup of Praise/Expectation ... Acceptance
- * It is the fulfillment of that fourth cup that I would like us to quickly consider ... the Cup of Praise & Expectation - the Cup of YHWH's Acceptance
- * The fulfillment of this cup brings together THREE Prophetic Imageries of our Redemption:
 - The Sacrifice for Sin
 - The Payment of the New Covenant
 - The Dowry of the Bride

INSTRUCTION

I. THE PERFECTION OF THE SIN SACRIFICE

- * cf. 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 10:11-14; Ephesians 1:3-6

II. THE CONSECRATION OF THE NEW COVENANT

- * cf. Matt 26:28; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 9:15-18

III. THE SATISFACTION OF THE BRIDE-PRICE

- * cf. Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14; Ephesians 5:25-27

A. The Arrangement

1. THE PRINCIPALS (cf. John 3:29; Matthew 9:14-15)
2. THE PAYMENT (cf. Ephesians 5:25-27)

B. The Anticipation

1. THE PREPARATION OF THE GROOM (John 14:1-3)
2. THE PREPARATION OF THE BRIDE (Eph 5:25-32)
 - a. The Object of Sanctification (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:2)
 - b. The Means of Sanctification (cf. John 17:17; 14:26; 16:13)

C. The Celebration

1. THE FETCHING! (John 14:1-3; Matthew 25:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
2. THE FEASTING! (Revelation 19:7-9)

INTROSPECTION

- * Have you personally drunk from the cup of redemption that Jesus freely offers to you?
 - * How will you seek to demonstrate thankfulness to Jesus for being your "lamb of God" that has redeemed you from your sin?
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- * Will you be part of this joyous celebration?
 - * Have you "believed in your heart" that Christ has died for your sins?
 - * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore change the way you act?