

From Passover to Holy Communion

Abraham is welcomed back home from the battle victorious :-

So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. (Gen 14:16-20)

Additional information I've discovered :-

Bera king of Sodom,	Bera means 'in evil'.
Birsha king of Gomorrah,	Birsha means 'in wickedness'.
Melchizedek king of Salem,	Melchizedek means 'in righteousness'.

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" and he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. (Gen 22:6-9)

Abraham was about to kill Isaac with the knife, when the Angel of the Lord called and stopped him. God had provided a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns, for the sacrifice instead of Abraham's son Isaac.

"By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, "because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son - blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Gen 22:16-18)

The Lord said to Moses :-

"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' ' (Exo 4:22-23)

Moses says to Pharaoh :-

Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that

you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.' "
(Exo 11:4-7)

The Lord speaks to Moses and the Passover is instituted.

"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.' " (Exo 12:3)

'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.' And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in the fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. (Exo 12:5-8)

For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgement: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. (Exo 12:12-13)

Declaration of the day of Passover as a memorial :-

'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.'
(Exo 12:14)

Jacob's vow at Bethel :-

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You." (Gen 28:20-22)

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1Pe 2:4-5)

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years."
(Deu 8:3-4)

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them," says the Lord. "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those

days," says the Lord: "I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," says the Lord. "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more". (Jer 31:31-34)

And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body". Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom". (Mat 26:26-29)

Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 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." (Luk 22:15-20)

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. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides with Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven - not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." (Joh 6:53-58)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1Co 11:26)

As Solomon said : 'There's nothing new under the sun'.

The standards of faith set by Abraham, Jacob and Moses under the old covenant introduce the New Testament standards. Remembering the Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God's Word. I don't think John 6 is as scary as it first seems. Firstly to consume 'The Word', is just reading and studying the Bible. I think, 'For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed', hints at the Passover Supper which introduces the new celebration of 'The Lord's death'. The 'flesh' is the unleavened bread and the blood is the new wine i.e. grape juice. So they are indeed food, but this food is very serious, as it is a personal declaration of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. This one new celebration replaces all the other old testament celebrations. As Jesus is the final sacrifice for sin, the animal sacrifices have been replaced by personal sacrifices of mercy, generosity to widows and orphans, gifts and compassion for the sick etc. Good works are truly a testament to one's healthy status of faith in God.

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