



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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THE POWER OF THE PASSOVER

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We want to take our Scripture text today from **Exodus 12:1-6**, "**And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house: And if that household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.**"

Without a doubt, communion is the greatest sacrament that Jehovah has ever offered mankind through His son Jesus Christ. Up to this point in time Jehovah had been administering plagues and striking Pharaoh and the Egyptians vehemently! The purpose behind those plagues was to simply harden the heart of Pharaoh because Pharaoh had attacked Jehovah's firstborn Israel. In the end Jehovah would strike the firstborn male in every Egyptian home and even every Israeli home, if the blood of the lamb had not been applied to their doorpost and door lintel. This is the sacred blessing in having a divine relationship with Jehovah knowing

how to prepare for what is coming. As children of the Most High God, it is imperative that we walk with our Savior so that we might know what is going to take place and transpire in the coming days. The death Angel was about to proceed throughout all of Egypt: therefore Jehovah was telling His people how to prepare for this devastating event that would soon take place because death was certain. Some would say Passover or communion is a mere tradition. The truth is if we ever forget God, then our offspring will forget him because we have not taught them our principles of faith. By adhering to the disciplines of the tradition of Passover or communion, we can remind our children of the things they may not have personally experienced, but still must be honored concerning salvation and redemption. It is imperative however, one must be born again to participate in this sacred sacrament: therefore we are to examine ourselves whether we have the proper faith or not. We all have a responsibility to teach our children the principles of our faith. This visitation of the death Angel would be the last plague that Jehovah would administer against Pharaoh and the land of Egypt. Jehovah was giving Israel, through Moses and Aaron, the protocol concerning this holy sacrament which represents none other than Jesus Christ our Lord. Israel's Exodus from Egypt would be in the spring of the year somewhere between March and April and this would be the beginning of months for Israel. It would be on the tenth day

of this month that they were to take a lamb and put it up according to God's plan. The reason this had to be done on the tenth day is because the number ten represents law and responsibility. The Ten Commandments are a representation of Jehovah's demands upon his people and how they were responsible in keeping them. This lamb was a type of Jesus Christ. This lamb had to be a male and had to be without a blemish, because it was a representation of our Lord's Christ. John the Baptist understood this revelation concerning Passover found here in **John 1:29**, "**The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**" Jesus Christ would ultimately become the Paschal or Passover lamb for all mankind. This is the reason Passover is such a holy sacrament because it represents Jesus Christ and His efficacious and vicarious work that He wrought on the cross at Calvary. The word efficacious simply means the desired effect that Jehovah willed to accomplish in behalf of mankind. I want to remind you that Jesus Christ attended every Passover as a child and as a man while here upon the earth. At the last supper when Jesus Christ was celebrating His last Passover with His disciples He shared the intimacy of His heart concerning that Passover in which He would not only partake of but He would ultimately fulfillment through His death. Notice the words of Christ found here in **Luke 22:14-15**, "**And when the hour was come,**

he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." What Christ was simply telling the disciples was: I have wholeheartedly desired this Passover because from its initiation in the Exodus I am now literally going to fulfill what my heavenly Father demanded concerning your salvation, redemption and deliverance as in the day of the Exodus. Jesus knew for certain this would be a time of great personal suffering and for that reason He described the fruit of the vine as His precious blood and the unleavened bread as His broken body. The shedding of His red, royal, crimson blood would be ushering in a New Testament or a new covenant which would do away with the Old Testament dispensation or old covenant. It is imperative that we understand His blood was shed and not spilled. I hear many people in sermons and in the lyrics of songs say the blood of Jesus Christ was spilled: but that is absolutely erroneous and full of error. When something is spilled that is an accident; when something is shed that is intentional and purposeful. Therefore we read in **Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (or forgiveness)."** The precious blood of Jesus Christ made an atonement for our sins. Whereby we understand **Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."** Looking back at our Scripture text we also see that during this Passover the lamb must be killed on the fourteenth day of the same

month. The reason the lamb must be killed on the fourteenth day is because the number fourteen represents salvation and deliverance. Jesus Christ is certainly our salvation and deliverance through His vicarious death on the cross. Remember the blood had to be applied to the doorpost and door lintel of every home. This will help us in understanding **Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and opened the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."** The Savior of the world stands at the door of every man's heart and seeks to enter in but His blood must be applied to our hearts before He can enter in and protect us, as well as preserve us from the impending judgment that will soon come to America. It is my heart's desire to serve communion and break bread with you this month of April. We are admonished by the apostle Paul before we ever receive communion to do an introspection of our hearts and lives found here in **1st Corinthians 11:27-29, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."** To eat this unleavened bread and drink this grape juice which typifies His shed blood unworthily simply means, we are guilty of not searching our hearts to see if there are any known sins within us. If a man does not discern his own heart, then he condemns his own soul and spirit which in the end will bring damnation and destruction from the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, communion which represents the

Lord's Passover is something to never be taken lightly but to be received reverently, discreetly, and with the utmost fear of God. What a blessed sacrament that Jehovah has bestowed upon the redeemed because every time we receive communion we are literally in the presence of the Lord through the power of the Holy Ghost. Let me encourage you to get some unleavened bread and grape juice so you can participate with me in communion in the coming days. As a Minister of the Gospel, I receive this solemn obligation with the greatest of fear and reverence knowing the unleavened bread typifies His body and the grape juice typifies His most holy and innocent blood that was shed for all mankind. I never fail to be profusely humbled not only when I administer communion but when I partake myself of his body and blood just as you do. Let us always be mindful of the unfathomable sacrifice that Jesus Christ made when His body was marred, mutilated, and wounded for all of our sins. We read in **Isaiah 53:5, "But he was wounded (tormented) for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes (black and blue marks) we are healed."** What a mighty, loving, and compassionate Lord and Savior we do serve. May our faith grow daily as we exercise our faith in reading His Word and serving him with a pure heart and clean hands? I trust the time of communion and holy fellowship with our Savior will edified and strengthen your heart exceedingly so as to run the race and finish the course with joy. As always, thank you so very much for your love and support for the ministry here at The V.O.E. Int'l. Ministries.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford