

(22) Institution of the Lord's Supper (Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:17-20)

1. Bread and wine were features of the Jewish Passover, but Jesus gave His disciples a new insight, applicable to the Dispensation of the Church and commanded for Church observance (Lk. 22:19; 1st Cor. 11:23-26).
 - a. The bread is the Body of Christ (Mt. 26:26; Mk. 14:22; Lk. 22:19).
 - b. The cup (wine) is the Blood of Christ (Mt. 26:28; Mk. 14:24; Lk. 22:20).
 - c. Eating and drinking are metaphors for faith (Jn. 6:26-58) and believing in Christ is the only means by which the work of Christ is applied to us.
2. Arnold Fruchtenbaum's Passover Haggadah is helpful in appreciating the Jewish background and practices for the passover meal. ISBN: 0-914863-04-05.
3. The New Covenant is not with the Church, but with Israel—repentant and accepting Christ, regathered from the four corners of the Earth (Jer. 31:31-37; 32:37-40; Ezek. 20:37; 34:25-31; 36:22-32; 37:26-28).
 - a. Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24).
 - b. Members of the Church are Ministers of the New Covenant (2nd Cor. 3:6; Heb. 10:19-25).
4. The blood of the covenant establishes the contrast between Mosaic Law and the New Covenant (Heb. 7:11,22; 8:6).
 - a. The Mosaic parallel featured sprinkled blood when the covenant was accepted by those party to His conditional promises (Ex. 24:8).
 - b. The New Covenant will feature sprinkled blood when the covenant will be accepted by those party to His unconditional promises (Mt. 23:39 cf. Ps. 118:22-29).
 - c. Although not party to the New Covenant, the Church is sprinkled by the blood of Christ and enjoys spiritual, heavenly components similar to the spiritual, heavenly components Israel will enjoy in their coming Kingdom (Heb. 10:22,29; 1st Pet. 1:2).
5. Communion is a proclamation of the Lord's death until He comes in recognition of how the shed blood remains unapplied to the nation of Israel (Mt. 26:29; Mk. 14:25; Lk. 22:18; 1st Cor. 11:26).