

This rite is called by several names in Scripture

1. the Lord's Supper

- the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples the day before His crucifixion

2. the breaking of bread

- used of a family or large group meal
- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper at the end of a Passover meal
- this kind of meal cultivates a sense of belonging and unity

(Ac 2:42; 1 Co 10:16; Lk 22:13-16)

3. communion (sharing, participation)

- the Greek word = *koinonia*
- the "communion of the blood of Christ"
- the "communion of the body of Christ"

(1 Cor 10:16 NKJ)

4. the table of the Lord

- contrasted with the pagan sacrificial practices of the day → excessive drunkenness and depravity
- the opposite of what is appropriate at the Lord's Supper

(1 Cor 10:21; 11:20-21)

5. the Eucharist

#2169 *εὐχαριστία* *eucharistia*

= thankfulness, thanksgiving

- Jesus gave thanks before giving them the bread and wine

(1 Cor 11:23-24)

* The last meal Jesus had with His disciples in the upper room was a Passover meal

(Mk 14:12-16; Lk 22:14-20)

1. the "Passover Seder"

- a) God had commanded its perpetual observance
- b) it was a memorial of Israel's rescue from death and slavery in Egypt
- c) the elements:

→ the blood of the perfect lamb

→ unleavened bread

→ the AFIKOMAN – a tradition since the destruction of the temple in 70 AD

(Ex 12 (:14); Lev 23; Ex 34:25)

2. Jesus revealed, perhaps for the first time, that the Passover was actually a foreshadowing of Him and what He had come to accomplish

a) Jesus is the true Passover Lamb

→ He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

→ He is the Lamb without defect

→ His life was completely free from sin

→ He was crucified during the time Passover was observed

(Jn 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7; Ex 12:5;

1 Pet 1:19; Heb 4:15; Rev 5:6; Mk 14:12)

b) because of Jesus' blood believers have escaped eternal death

→ it caused God's judgment to pass over sinners and freely give eternal life

→ Jesus' death set the believers free from their slavery to sin

(Heb 9:12, 14; Ro 6:23; Ro 8:2)

c) the bread of the Lord's Supper is unleavened (leaven = sin) because Jesus died to take away sins

(1 Co 5:6-8; Gal 5:9)

3. Jesus instructed His disciples to continue the observance of this communion because it is meaningful as

a) an act of worship

→ for all that God accomplished for us through Jesus Christ

b) a testimony and reminder

→ that we have been saved through Jesus' death and resurrection

→ that we are awaiting His return

c) an encouragement

→ to evaluate our lives

→ to forgive past grievances

→ to restore broken relationships

→ to repent of offenses against others