

# The Remembrance Feast

## Key Verses

● “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.’” Luke 22:15-20

See also Matt.26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26; John 13:21-30; 1 Cor.11:23-29.

## The need to remember

● “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb.10:24-25

Forgetfulness of things spiritual can be a problem, particularly if we have busy working lives. This is why God set aside the Sabbath day for Israel, so that they could regularly remember how God brought them out of Egypt. He gave them a law which provided them with a better physical and spiritual lifestyle than other nations, and in particular, a law that **pointed forward to their Saviour** in the future. Once the Saviour had arrived, and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice, this heralded the arrival of the **New Covenant**, and the need to introduce a **new Feast of Remembrance**, seeing that the Old Covenant was abolished when Jesus died on the cross (Col.2:14; Heb.8:13, 10:1).

## The first century feast

● “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42

● “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” Acts 20:7

● “And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.” Acts 13:44

It appears that the Sabbath day was used by the first century church as an opportunity to preach the Gospel message (Acts 17:2). The Remembrance Feast was then celebrated in private homes in the evening following the Sabbath, which was the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), seeing that the Jewish day **starts at sunset** (6pm). It is commonly accepted that the first century remembrance feast was more of a meal than our feast today, although not primarily for the purpose of gratifying hunger, which was what the Corinthian believers were castigated for at a later date (1 Cor.11:33-34).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.

## How important?

● “...as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” 1 Cor.11:26

It is vitally important that we set aside some time on a regular basis for the purpose of remembrance, so that it becomes a very important part of our life, for our salvation depends on it. Where possible we should do this with other faithful members of God’s household (Heb.10:25).

## Self examination

● “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” 1 Cor.11:28

A very important part of the Lord’s Supper is the fact that we must examine ourselves in terms of **our spiritual well being**. We have to be constantly vigilant about our own personal standing in God’s sight, and a regular observance of the Remembrance Feast is a good time for this.

## Bread

### The Heavenly symbol

#### Life given in obedience and self sacrifice

● “...If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” John 6:51

The natural bread we eat at the remembrance feast **represents** Jesus’ body which was not only given in sacrifice on the cross, but was also a **living example of personal sacrifice** throughout His life. This is why Jesus styles Himself, “the bread which came down from heaven”, because **bread is used as a “heavenly symbol” of the Word of God**. **Jesus was the Word of God in action** which gives us holy sustenance for our spiritual lives. We are “eating this bread” in the spiritual sense in our daily lives by **following the examples** Jesus has shown us in His life.

## Wine

### The earthly symbol

#### The New Covenant in Jesus’ blood

● “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood which is shed for you.” Luke 22:20

The wine we drink **represents** the blood of our Lord and the suffering He endured when His blood was shed; firstly by cruel scourging and later on the cross. **Wine is the “earthly symbol” of our mortal nature that needs blood for survival**. God has always required the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins (Heb.9:22). The shedding of Jesus’ blood “**confirmed**” the **New Covenant** and His authority as our future Mediator. Jesus’ sacrifice was effective for the forgiveness of sins because it involved the shedding of blood (giving of life) by the only sinless man that has ever lived, even though He was made of the same flesh and blood and tempted in all points that we are (Heb.2:17, ch4:15).