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THE LORD'S TABLE – COMMUNION

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

“For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” John 6:33

“Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly I tell 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 them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.’” John 6:53-58

Christ said, “I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:48-51

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:26-28

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,’ he said to them. ‘Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’” Mark 14:22-25

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’” Luke 22:19-20

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.” Luke 24:30

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” I Corinthians 11:23-26

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."* 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight." Acts 20:7

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts," Acts 2:42-46

The Apostle Paul warned believers that taking Communion without discerning the body of Christ could result in illness or even death!

*"But enjoining this, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better, but for the worse. Indeed, first, I hear divisions to be among you when you come together in the assembly. And I believe it in some part. For also heresies need to be among you, so that the approved ones may become revealed among you. Then you coming together into one place, it is not to eat the Lord's supper. For each one takes his own supper first in the eating; and one is hungry, and another drunken. For do you not have houses in which to eat and to drink? Or do you despise the assembly of God, and shame those who have not? What do I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? I do not praise. For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and giving thanks, He broke and said, Take, eat; this is My body which is broken on behalf of you; this do in remembrance of Me. In the same way the cup also, after supping, saying, This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; as often as you drink, do this in remembrance of Me. (See Luke 22:19, 20) For as often as you may eat this bread, and drink this cup, you solemnly proclaim the death of the Lord, until He shall come. **So that whoever should eat this bread, or drink the cup of the Lord, unworthily, that one will be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and let him drink of the cup; for he eating and drinking unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the Lord. For this reason many among you are weak and feeble, and many sleep.** For if we discerned ourselves, we would not be judged. But being judged, we are corrected by the Lord, that we not be condemned with the world. So that, my brothers, coming together to eat, wait for one another. But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, that you may not come together for judgment. And the other things I will set in order whenever I come."* 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 ESV

Judas was possessed of the devil when he ate the Lord's supper in a state of rebellion.

*"Saying these things, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified and said, 'Indeed I tell you truly that one of you will betray Me.' Then the disciples looked upon one another, doubting of whom He spoke. But there was one of His disciples reclining at the bosom of Jesus, whom Jesus loved. Then Simon Peter nods to him to ask whom it might be of whom He spoke. And leaning on the breast of Jesus, he said to Him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is he to whom I, having dipped the morsel, shall give it.' **And dipping the morsel, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. And after the morsel, then Satan entered into that one.** Then Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.'" John 13:21-27*

THE EIGHT TIMES JESUS BLED FOR US

0 - (Not part of the Passion of Christ) Christ first bled at His circumcision at eight days of age (Luke 2:21-39). *“He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,” Romans 4:11 ESV*

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.” Romans 2:28, 29 ESV

(Under guardianship of his step-father Joseph and authority of the Temple Priest) **Jesus cut the covenant after the pattern of Abraham that sealed His righteousness by faith as our righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21) and gave us an inheritance of possession, provision and protection in the Promised Land (Ephesians 1:11-23), fulfilling the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17-20) and gives us a circumcision made without hands (Colossians 2:11) by circumcising our heart by the Holy Spirit which brings us praise from God.**

1 – (First part of the Passion of Christ) When Christ prayed in the garden of Gethsemane He sweat drops of blood. This broke the curse of painful toiling for a living that was laid by God on Adam, Eve and all their descendants. **This restored God as our source and supply (Genesis 2:16) and restored our dominion over creation so it must now serve us and provide as God commands and presumably as we command it within the will of the Lord (Genesis 1:26). This also broke the curse on Eve and her daughters that childbirth must be painful and debilitating (Genesis 3:16). This blesses motherhood with pleasant ease and uncompromised health.**

2 – Christ bled in the governor’s palace when he was struck in his face and on his head by the Roman soldiers under Pontius Pilate (Matthew 26:67). **This restored our glory and broke the power of slander and lies over us. Christ also restored our countenance (Genesis 4:5, Genesis 31:2, Daniel 1:13) which had fallen (in Cain’s case due to jealousy towards his brother Abel) and failed to protect us from demonization due to sin. It restores our countenance and gives us a natural protection against demonization and demonic possession.**

3 – Christ bled when the Romans soldiers pulled out portions of His beard (Isaiah 50:6). **This restored our honor with favor and broke the power of shame, confusion, insult, obscurity and rejection.**

4 – Christ bled when he was scourged by the Roman soldiers (Isaiah 53:1-12, Matthew 27:26, Mark 15:15, and John 19:1). **This restored divine, supernatural health and broke the power of disease, trauma, aging and death. It makes possible regeneration, rejuvenation and even resurrection! (Romans 8:10, 11)**

5 – Christ bled when the crown of thorns was forced onto his head (Matthew 27:29, Mark 15:17 John 19:2, 19:5). **This gave us authority with power and broke the power of slavery, powerlessness, defenselessness, and exile. This restored temporal power, protection and dominion. This also restores sanity, mental health.**

6 – Christ bled when he was nailed to the cross by his hands and feet (Matthew 27:31-44, Luke 23:26-43). **This did two things. Piercing His hands restored productive, fruitful labor and a good destiny. It broke the power of poverty, theft, loss, vandalism, and bondage to the land. Piercing His feet restored**

our right with authority and power to travel under any circumstances wherever and whenever we want to without hindrance or delay.

7. The final time Christ bled was when he was pierced in his side. As Eve was birthed from the side of Adam (Genesis 2:22), Christ birthed His bride, the church from His side (Isaiah 54:5). **This gave us the right with power and authority to evangelize anyone, at any time under any circumstances for the church and the capability to restore broken hearts, even our own!**