**R801 Rumination for June 7, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The Passover Passed Over.**berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *When the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,
he* [Pilate] *gave the body to Joseph…and he…laid Him in a sepulchre…* Mk. 15:42, 45

The **T**hots:

1. **The Jews’ Preparation for the Passover. Mk. 14:42**

*…it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath*

1. The **P**reparation for the **P**assover. Exo. 12
2. The **E**lection of the Lamb on the *tenth day:* 12:3

*In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb…a lamb for an house:*

1. The **E**xamination of the Lamb on the tenth to the fourteenth day: Exo. 12:6

*And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month:* 12:6a

*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year…from the sheep…goats:* 12:5

1. The **E**xecution of the Lamb on the Fourteenth day: 12:6b

*The whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.*

1. The **P**rerequisites of the **P**assover. Exo. 12-7-13
2. The Lamb’s Blood **S**plashed *on the two* ***S****ide posts and on the upper door post of the houses.* 12:7
3. Its **F**lesh to be **C**ompletely **C**onsumed; the remnant to be burnt with **F**ire. 12:8, 10

*They shall eat the flesh in that night…that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.*

1. The Lord’s **P**assover with the **P**ass-Over!
2. *It is the LORD'S Passover.* Exo. 12:11c, 12

*For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn…I am the LORD.*

1. It was the Lord’s Pass-over:12:13b

*When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you…*

1. **Jesus and the Passing Over of the Passover.**
2. The **P**reparation for the Passover – *and they made ready the Passover.* Lk. 22:13b
3. The **P**rediction: The **P**assover **P**assed Over – 22:15, 16 *He* [Jesus] *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.*

1. Jesus was soon to be the **P**ascal Lamb. Jn. 1:29

*John seeth Jesus coming…saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

1. Jesus later became the **P**assover Lamb – *For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.* I Cor. 5:7
2. **Joseph of Arimathaea and the Passover. Mk. 15:42, 45**

The **P**eriod of the **P**assover – *when the even was come* Mk. 15:42

1. The **J**ewish day **S**tarted at **S**unset; this would be **S**hortly before Christ died. Mt. 27:45
2. It was **J**ust about the time the Passover was eaten - *They shall eat the flesh in that night* Exo. 12:8
3. **J**oseph of Arimathaea had to act **S**wiftly, the **S**abbath was drawing near – *the day before the sabbath*
4. His request: *Joseph…went in boldly unto Pilate, and* ***C****raved the body of Jesus.* Mk. 15:43
5. Pilate **C**onfirmed from the **C**enturion that **C**hrist was dead. Mk. 15:44-45

*when he knew it…he gave the body to Joseph.*

1. **Jesus Passed Over the Passover to the Lord’s Supper** Lk. 22:17-20
2. The **C**onclusion of the Passover – *He also took the cup after supper* 22:20, NKLV
3. The **C**ommencement of the Lord’s Supper - 22:17 cf. I Cor. 11:23-26
4. *And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:*
5. *And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying,*

*This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.* 22:19

1. The **C**up *is the new* ***C****ovenant in My blood, which is shed for you.* 22:20, NKJV
2. **Joseph’s Position and Participation in Christ**
3. He was **D**isqualified to **P**articipate in the **P**assover: He handled a dead body! Mk. 15:46 see #2 below

*He bought fine linen, and took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen, and laid Him in a sepulchre…*

1. He was **D**efiled – Num. 9:6, 7

*And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day…and those men said unto him* [Moses], *We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season…?*

1. However being a **D**isciple of the Lord Jesus now he qualified to participate at the Lord’s Supper!
2. As the **D**uo, Joseph and Nicodemus who would now have been Born Again. Jn. 19:39-40

*And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night…* (cf. Jn. 3:1-3ff)

*then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices…to bury.*

* As **D**isciples of Jesus, we are to **R**emember His **D**eath, **B**urial, **R**esurrection and soon **R**eturn for us.
* Until that **D**ay **D**awns, let us be faithful in observing the Lord’s Supper *until He come*! I Cor. 11:26

*Until He come—for sure the Master cometh— Until He come my heart shall watch and yearn*

*With eager love for Him my soul so loveth My Lord and king, who said, I will return.*

 Ernest G. W. Wesley

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 801**

1. In Malaysia, because of the Covid\_19 pandemic, the Movements Control Order (MCO) was imposed on the nation to control the spread of the virus among its population. Later it was even enhanced to a Controlled MCO with stricter restrictions of the people’s movements in targeted areas. As a consequence of this Lockdown all mass gatherings in confined places are prohibited – and that means all church buildings (and other religious centres) have to be shuttered and their followers barred from gathering together for worship, etc.

Many church groups which observe the Lord’s Supper weekly then resorted to observe it virtually via the Zoom, Skype or other virtual platforms.

However, there are others who stay away from such means because they are not comfortable with such or not sure whether it is right scripturally. At that time, they had the hope that this was just a very short and temporary setback and soon things would return to normal. And Christians can again gather together in fellowship to worship the Lord in the remembrance of His death, burial and resurrection as He commanded.

However as time drags on, and as we can observe, this hope of things returning to being normal again has become a distant hope and people are now resigned to a New Normal even after the MCO is lifted. Therefore, will **all** the church members be able to return physically to gather in close fellowship and worship as they did before?

There certainly is a very big doubt on this issue.

Have you been remembering the Lord at the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s Day as your normal practice was before this New Normal “Lifestyle” crept in? Or have you been “passing it over” all this time, and are you going to continue to do so in the weeks ahead if this New Normal creeps in to be the Norm for some reason or other?

What is or are your reasons for staying away? **REFLECT**.

1. Looking back at the Passover Feast which was must be observed on the 14th day of the first month of the new Jewish religious calendar (Exo. 12:1-6) every year, (*thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.* Exo. 13:10), we find that Israel might not have done so as instructed.

The next occasion we find it recorded that they did was on the first anniversary of their coming out of Egypt. Num. 9:1-5: *The LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt …Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season…according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel*.

However, there is no record of Israel observing it during their many years of wandering in the wilderness except that they "*kept the passover*" again while waiting to cross the Jordan to conquer Canaan - *And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.* Josh. 5:10

Significantly the Lord’s Supper was also an important feast in His remembrance to the early church so that *they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers* (Acts 2:42). Also, Paul himself though in a hurry to go to Jerusalem stayed back in Troas seven days to meet with the disciples *upon the first day of the week, when [they] came together to break bread.* (Acts 20:7)

In the light of these two incidents above, where Israel might not have observed the Passover when they wandered in the wilderness and Paul staying back in Troas just to observe the Lord’s Supper, what would you do now that you are forbidden to gather physically to break bread? Would you in spirit join your fellow-brethren virtually to do so, or prefer not to do so as Israel did not observe the Passover when they were in the wilderness because of some reason or other? **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** *To Break Bread Now or To Pass Over until MCO is Over?*