



The first communion.

Matt. 26:26 – 30; Mark 14:22 – 26; Luke 22:17 - 23

This particular area is a bit sketchy with regard to when it happened during the evening. It appears that Judas Iscariot is present for this. As usual, if the Bible has not clearly indicated it, neither will I. However, I will mention that there are dire consequences for partaking in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. If, in fact, Judas Iscariot was still in the room and joined in this sacrament, he just drove himself deeper into judgment. Let me quote the Apostle Paul, from **1 Corinthians 11:26 – 31**:

“²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. ²⁷Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”

In understanding the first communion accurately, we must look at the doctrine of first occurrences/first things. In this instance, this will take us back to **Genesis 14:18**, where Melchizedek, the king of Salem, welcomed Abram back from saving Lot and all of his possessions, bringing out bread and wine. This passage also tells us that Melchizedek was also the priest of God Most High. The name 'Melchizedek' means 'king of righteousness.' Another source defines his name as 'my King is Righteous or Legitimate.' The following is taken from the Full Life Study Bible notes on **Genesis 14:18**. Page 29

“Melchizedek (meaning “king of righteousness”) was both “king of Salem” (possibly ancient Jerusalem) and “priest of God Most High.” He served the one true God, as did Abram. Melchizedek is a type or figure of the royalty and eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ.”

So, how does this really help us to understand communion. Here Melchizedek blesses Abram and credits God Most High as the One who delivered the enemies into Abram's hands and provided the spoils of war. As a proper response for the goodness and blessing received from Yehovah, Abram gave one tenth of all the spoil that was accumulated to the priest. This is the first recorded instance of someone giving a tithe.

Here also is the first time we see or hear of a priest using bread and wine outside of the tabernacle as a celebration in recognizing what Yehovah has done for us.

The presentation of the bread and wine was more than just a celebration of the victories of those particular battles. It was a celebration of who Yehovah was, is, and will forever be. This, as we now see, was a type or foreshadow of what was to come in the Upper Room, with Jesus serving as the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This is confirmed in Psalm **110:4** as a prophecy and then fulfilled according to **Hebrews 5 – 7**. The message is that Jesus is fulfilling in the New Testament that which had begun in the Old Testament. This is confirmed in **John 8:56**, where Jesus is talking with the Pharisees and makes the following statement:

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” NKJV

So, what did Abraham (Abram) see in Melchizedek? There was celebration as a result of Abraham responding to a problem, for there were souls at stake. Abraham rejoiced, for through Melchizedek, he saw the Deliverer/Messiah/Christ. Abraham recognized, through the bread and the wine, there was a redemptive plan in place. As a result, touched by what he saw, Abraham gave to Melchizedek out of a grateful heart.

The first communion was introduced on this evening so that Jesus can, once again and for the final time, confirm His identity as Messiah to His disciples.

- **Matthew 26:26 – 28 CJB** “While they were eating, Yeshua took a piece of *matzah* (unleavened bread), made the *b'rakhah* (blessing), broke it, gave it to the *talmidim* (disciples) and said, “Take! Eat! This is my body!” ²⁷Also he took a cup of wine, made the *b'rakhah*, and give it to them, saying, “All of you, drink from it! ²⁸For this is my blood, which ratifies the New Covenant, my blood shed on behalf of many, so that they may have their sins forgiven.” (emphasis mine)

While it would make sense that Jesus, being Jewish, would take part in a Jewish feast (Passover Seder), this just doesn't follow with the pattern Jesus had already established when dealing with other rabbinical rules and laws of the day. Jesus was all about following the written Word of God (Tanakh/Old Testament). He had no regard for the additional rabbinical laws of the Talmud (oral traditions/oral Torah). If we believe that Jesus is the Word (**John 1:1**), we must also believe that He would never contradict or act contrary to the Word (Himself). For **Hebrews 13:8** states: “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.**” If He was the Word in the beginning, He is still the Word, unchanging and steadfast. This meal with His disciples was more than likely patterned after the way it is spelled out in **Exodus 12**.

- **Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV** “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
- **Deuteronomy 12:32 NKJV** “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”
- **Luke 2:49 NKJV** “And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?’”

Prophecy & Fulfillment

The Messiah would be king and priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Prophecy

Psalm 110:4 KJV "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Fulfillment

Hebrews 5:5 – 6 NKJV "So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." 6As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.""

Hebrews 5:10 KJV "Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 6:20 KJV "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 8:1 NKJV "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,""

Hebrews 10:2 "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."