

The Passover, the Sacrament, and Christ: A Sacred Fulfillment

Introduction: The Passover's Role in God's Plan

The Passover was one of the most sacred observances in ancient Israel. Instituted by God as a commemoration of Israel's deliverance from Egypt, it was also a **foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God**. When Christ gathered His disciples for the Last Supper, He transformed the Passover meal into something new: **a sacred ordinance that would forever symbolize His atoning sacrifice and resurrection—the Sacrament**.

In this lesson, we will explore how Passover pointed to Christ, how Jesus fulfilled its symbols, and how the Sacrament carries forward the meaning of Passover for Latter-day Saints today.

1. The Passover Lamb and Jesus as the Lamb of God

From the first Passover in Egypt, God instructed the Israelites to take a lamb **“without blemish”** and sacrifice it for their protection.

📖 **Exodus 12:3-6** – The Israelites were commanded to set apart a perfect lamb for sacrifice.

📖 **John 1:29** – John the Baptist declared, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

◆ *Just as the Passover lamb had to be without defect, Christ was sinless and became our perfect sacrifice.*

2. The Blood of the Lamb and Christ's Atoning Blood

The Israelites were commanded to apply the blood of the lamb to their doorposts, and in doing so, they were spared from the final plague of death.

📖 **Exodus 12:7, 13** – *“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”* 📖 **Matthew 26:28** – *“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

◆ *Just as the blood of the lamb saved Israel from physical death, Christ's blood saves us from spiritual death.*

3. The Unleavened Bread and Christ, the Bread of Life

Leaven (yeast) was often used in scripture as a symbol of sin and corruption. During Passover, the Israelites ate unleavened bread to signify purity and haste in leaving Egypt.

📖 **Exodus 12:15-20** – The Israelites were commanded to eat unleavened bread. 📖 **John 6:35** – *“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger.”*

- ◆ *Leaven often symbolizes sin; Christ, like unleavened bread, was pure and without sin.*
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4. The Hidden Afikomen and Christ’s Resurrection

One of the most powerful symbols in the Passover meal is the **Afikomen**, a piece of unleavened bread that is broken, wrapped, hidden, and later brought back to be eaten as the last part of the meal.

The Afikomen parallels Christ in several ways:

- It is **broken**, just as Christ’s body was broken for us.
- It is **wrapped in linen and hidden**, just as Christ was wrapped and laid in the tomb.
- It is **brought back** and shared, just as Christ was resurrected and appeared to His disciples.

📖 **Luke 22:19** – *“This is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”* 📖 **Luke 24:30-31** – *After His resurrection, Jesus broke bread with two disciples, and they recognized Him.*

- ◆ *The Afikomen serves as a clear symbol of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.*
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5. The Sacramental Prayers: A Covenant Echoing Passover

At the Last Supper, Christ replaced the old covenant of Passover with the new covenant of the Sacrament.

📖 **Matthew 26:26-28** – *Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them, and gave them new meaning.* 📖 **1 Corinthians 5:7-8** – *“For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast.”*

The **Sacramental prayers** in Latter-day Saint worship today reflect the same sacred themes found in Passover:

Passover Meaning

Remembering the **deliverance from Egypt**

Partaking of the **lamb and unleavened bread** as a sacred sign

Entering a **covenant relationship** with God

Sacrament Connection

Remembering the **Atonement and Resurrection of Christ**

Partaking of **Christ's body and blood** in sacred remembrance

Renewing our **covenant to follow Christ**

📖 **D&C 20:77, 79** – The Sacramental prayers emphasize remembering Christ and keeping His commandments.

♦ *Just as Israel was commanded to remember their deliverance, we are commanded to remember our Redeemer.*

6. Why the Sacrament Replaces Passover

The establishment of the Sacrament signaled that Passover had been **fulfilled** in Christ.

✓ Instead of remembering **Egypt**, we remember **Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the Empty Tomb**. ✓ Instead of a **sacrificed lamb**, we partake in the emblems of the **true Lamb of God**. ✓ Instead of being **saved from slavery**, we are **redeemed from sin and death**.

By **partaking of the Sacrament each week**, we are renewing the very covenant Christ instituted at the Last Supper.

📖 **“This do in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)**


✅ **Easter is not just a yearly event—it is a sacred truth we live every week.**

Conclusion: Living in the Light of the Lamb

When we **partake of the Sacrament each Sunday**, we are not just performing a ritual—we are engaging in a deeply **symbolic and sacred ordinance that fulfills the ancient Passover meal**.

✓ **We remember Christ, the Lamb of God.** ✓ **We renew our covenants in His name.** ✓ **We rejoice in His resurrection.**

The message of Easter is the message of the Sacrament: **Because He lives, we will live also.**

 **Matthew 28:6** – *“He is not here: for he is risen.”*

 **How can we make the Sacrament more meaningful in our own lives?**

- Approach the Sacrament each week as a **renewal of our personal Easter**.
- Reflect on the **connections between Passover and Christ** as you partake.
- Use it as a time to **commit anew to follow the Savior**.

 **Share this message with others seeking to deepen their understanding of Christ's fulfillment of the Passover!**