

## **REGAINING OUR FIRST LOVE**

### **Rev. 2:4-5**

<sup>1</sup> "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: <sup>2</sup> "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your **first love**. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the **first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Lampstand represents anointing. What is the first love? First works?

### **First Love – "Protos Agapeo"**

**Protos – supreme, highest, 1<sup>st</sup> in order**  
**Agapeo – translated love or "love feast"**

What was the love feast? Simply put it was communion.

But to understand completely we must go back to the Old Testament and find the history behind this practice.

### **Exodus 25:23-30**

<sup>23</sup> "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. <sup>24</sup> And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. <sup>25</sup> You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. <sup>26</sup> And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that *are* at its four legs. <sup>27</sup> The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. <sup>28</sup> And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. <sup>29</sup> You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. <sup>30</sup> And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

### **Leviticus 24:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> "And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of *an ephah* shall be in each cake. <sup>6</sup> You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure *gold* table before the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And you shall put pure

frankincense on *each* row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD. <sup>8</sup> Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, *being taken* from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. <sup>9</sup> And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it *is* most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute.”

**Both of the passages speak of a piece of furniture in the tabernacle or temple called the Table of Shewbread. This table had bread and wine on it. It was for the priests – specifically Aaron and his sons - to eat weekly.**

**Bread and wine always speak of establishing a covenant. This is throughout scripture.**

**In a Jewish home every Friday night as they prepared for the Sabbath there was a time when the family came together and the mother would light a candle, and the father would pronounce the Kiddush, a prayer of sanctification over the wine. Then they would share bread and wine. There was a special loaf they would make. The loaf was called “hallah” bread. It was a braided loaf with special significance. Two braids representing the two tablets of stone with the 10 commandments, modern day Jewish believers understand it also represented the connection of the OT and NT through Messiah Jesus.**

**So the point is that bread and wine played an important role in the worship in the lives of the Jewish people.**

**Here’s some other places we see the significance of bread and wine in the OT**

### **Genesis 14:18**

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High.

### **Exodus 29:38-42**

<sup>38</sup> “Now this *is* what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. <sup>39</sup> One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. <sup>40</sup> With the one lamb shall be one-tenth *of an ephah* of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil, and one-fourth of a hin of wine *as a drink offering*. <sup>41</sup> And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to

the LORD. <sup>42</sup> *This shall be* a continual burnt offering throughout your generations *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you.

**Exodus 25:30**

And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

**So now the ultimate celebration in the OT with bread and wine was the Passover. The time in history when God delivered the children of Israel out of slavery to the Egyptians.**

**Exodus 12:43**

And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This *is* the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it.

**They were to sacrifice a lamb, a year old, without spot or blemish. Take the blood and smear it on the doorposts of their home, put the lamb on a wooden stake and roast the lamb. They were to make special bread, matzah, or unleavened bread and eat this.**

**After that event God made Passover a yearly memorial for the people. He said it was to be a continual remembrance for the people.**

**The Jews have kept Passover now for over 3500 years! WOW!!!**

**Luke 22:15**

<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, "With *ferve*nt desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

**So at Passover Jesus does something. He establishes communion.**

**Acts 2:42**

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Acts 20:7**

On the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread...

**Now in Rev 2 the angel warned them to repent and return to their first love or first works.**

**Protos Agapeo – first love or first love feast**

**The very first act Jesus established for the church was a cup and bread He gave to His disciples when He made a covenant with them, and then ratified the covenant with His blood!!**

**Acts 2:42**

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**"Fellowship: the breaking of bread...is it possible Jesus was warning the church not to lose the significance of communion, and the need to take it often? Why was communion so significant?"**

**1 Cor. 5:7a**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore purge out the old leaven...

**At Passover the jews would go through their homes and businesses, everything and remove any leaven. Leaven causes bread to "rise." All through scripture it is a picture of "sin" which causes us to become puffed up with pride!**

**Joel 1:9,13**

<sup>9</sup> The grain offering and the drink offering have been cut off from the house of the LORD; The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.

**See communion or Koinonia is about fellowship. However, that word for us doesn't carry the whole picture. A better word is intimacy.**

**1 Cor. 10:16**

<sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

**1 Cor. 1:9**

God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Matt 7:21-23**

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to

Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

**Joseph never "knew" Mary until after Jesus born. Scripture interprets scripture. So, Jesus said I never knew you. I never was intimate with you...you never had any part of me.**

### **Luke 24:13, 30-35**

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem.

<sup>30</sup> Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that **He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.** <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup> And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how **He was known to them in the breaking of bread.**

### **1 Cor. 11:27, 29**

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood<sup>[a]</sup> of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner<sup>[b]</sup> eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's<sup>[c]</sup> body.

### **1 Cor. 5:7-9**

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

### **John 6:35; 48-55**

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread which came down from heaven. 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.”

<sup>52</sup> The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>

Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is food indeed,<sup>[a]</sup> and My blood is drink indeed.

### **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a **new** and **living** way which He consecrated for us, through the **veil**, that is, His **flesh**,

### **Luke 22:20**

Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

### **John 6:51**

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. 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.”

### **1 Samuel 21:6**

So the priest gave him holy *bread*; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread *in its place* on the day when it was taken away.

### **Bread – Lechem Beth-Lechem or Bethlehem “House of Bread”**

#### **Here though it’s Lechaim – from the root to battle**

#### **Bread for the Battle – an army travels on it’s stomach**

#### **Communion is bread for the battle!!**

### **Matt. 15:22-26**

<sup>22</sup> And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

<sup>23</sup> But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries

out after us.”

<sup>24</sup> But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup> Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

<sup>26</sup> But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the **children’s bread** and throw *it* to the little dogs.”

## **Jesus equates deliverance with bread!! WHY?**

### **1 Cor. 11:27-30**

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood<sup>[a]</sup> of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks in an **unworthy** manner<sup>[b]</sup> eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s<sup>[c]</sup> **body**. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

**“Lord’s body” – greek “soma” from the root “sozo” – save, protect, deliver and make whole**

**...not discerning the Lord’s body or the Lord’s power to protect, heal, deliver and make whole**

### **Psalm 105:36-37**

He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land, the first of all their strength. <sup>37</sup> He also brought them out with silver and gold, and *there was* none feeble among His tribes.

**The reason the church is weak is because we have forgotten how to war!! It’s not by our power, but by the Lord’s power! By His Spirit!**

**When we understand the Lord’s table we will understand what healing and health is. When you’re sick you can’t pray or worship like you want.**

**\*\*\*Explain the youngest finding the hidden loaves and the middle one is taken out. AFIKOMEN – only greek word that has made it into the Jewish Passover.**

**After the temple was destroyed in 70 AD the Jews could no longer have a Passover with lamb. There could be no sacrifices without the temple. So, what did they do? For the Jewish Christians they understood Jesus was the ultimate Lamb. So, they replaced this part**

**of the Passover with the word "afikomen." Which literally in Greek means "I Came." Who came? Jesus!!!!**

**The people called it the dessert bread because it was after supper. However, this was the bread Jesus took and broke and said this is my body, broken for you, do this in remembrance of me!!**

**If you're sick come to the table  
Need deliverance – come to the table  
Need revival – come to the table  
Need forgiveness – come to the table**

**Need to forgive someone else – Let some bitterness go...do that now before you come to the table or better yet go to that person and take communion together, and let God do a miraculous healing in our church!! When the pattern is right the Glory will fall!!**

**I'm going to pronounce the blessings over the bread and cup, just as Jesus did 2000 years ago. Just like the jews have done for centuries:**

### **SERVE COMMUNION**

**Jesus took the Cup after supper – The Cup of Redemption  
He blessed it saying:**

**Baruch Attah Adonia Ellohenuh Melech Ha aolam Borey Pre-Hagaffin**

**Blessed art thou O Lord our God King of the Universe who gives us the fruit of the vine!**

**Then Jesus took the bread, Blessed and broke it saying:**

**Baruch attah Adonai Ellohenuh melech ha aolam Ha Motzee  
Lechamin Ha eretz**

**Blessed art thou O Lord our God King of the Universe who brings for the bread from the earth!**