

First, did you know that communion did not begin with Christianity? It was a part of Mithraism, the religion of Constantine, many years before the beginning of Christianity.

“Another important Mithraic ceremony was the celebration of a communion service which was in memory of the last meal which Helios and Mithra partook together upon earth. Here the celebrant took consecrated bread and mingled it with the juice of Haoma. It is quite obvious that only the initiate who had attained the degree of Lions could take this communion.”

Source: "A Study of Mithraism"

Author: King, Martin Luther, Jr. (Crozer Theological Seminary)

Date: September 13, 1949 to November 23, 1949

Second, Messiah was celebrating the Passover seder with His disciples in Matthew 26, when the church claims He instituted the Lord's Supper.

“Jesus Celebrates Passover with His Disciples

¹⁷ Now on the first *day of the Feast* of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸ And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.” ’ ”

¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. ²¹ Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”

²² And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?”

²³ He answered and said, “He who dipped *his* hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. ²⁴ The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?”

He said to him, “You have said it.”

Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, ^[c]blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the ^[d]new covenant, which is shed for many for the ^[e]remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Third, the bread in verse 26 is unleavened bread broken during the Passover seder meal, wrapped in linen cloth and hidden away. After the meal, it is found and brought back to the father. This is symbolic of His death, burial and resurrection. The cup of juice is the third cup of the seder. It has been called the cup of redemption from days long ago.

Fourth, in 1 Corinthians 5 we find that Paul is instructing the gentile church at Corinth about the Passover, as they would shortly be celebrating the Passover together. “⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.” 1 Corinthians 5:7-8.

Fifth, in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul is rebuking the Corinthians for treating the Passover seder like the feast of Bacchus (eating and drinking til they vomit, then eating more...) “²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others*; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise *you*.”

Sixth, continuing in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul refers to the Passover seder Messiah had with His disciples (the last supper). “²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.””

Messiah taught that the affikomen (broken piece of unleavened bread) pictured His body. The third cup, the cup of redemption, pictured the blood He would shed a few hours later.

Seventh, continuing in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul says – “²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” “This bread” is the unleavened bread of the Passover. “This cup” is the cup of redemption from the Passover seder. So, as often as you participate in the Passover seder, do it in remembrance of His death, burial and resurrection.

Eighth, in Leviticus 23, the Lord told us we must keep the Appointed Times, like Passover, only at the specific days and times He commands. **“The Passover and Unleavened Bread**

⁴ ‘These *are* the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵ On the fourteenth *day* of the first month at twilight *is* the Lord’s Passover. ⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no ^[a]customary work on it. ⁸ But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day *shall be* a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work *on it.*’ ”

At the Council of Nicaea the Catholic church forbid celebrating Passover. See the Attached letter from Constantine. So, they adapted the Mithraic communion as a substitute.

Note: All Bible quotes are from the New King James Version.

Note: Letter from Constantine available upon request. Send request to: wdavis.jag@gmail.com