

The Church *in* Our Homes

Skimming the Tops of the Waves: Highlights from Scriptures

- † Churches met in homes sometimes (just like us now!)
- † The first church also broke bread in their houses
- † Jesus was revealed in the breaking of the bread!
- † So Jesus can be revealed in our homes!
- † That bread is also there as part of the Passover sacrifice that Jesus did for us
- † We are to remember HIM until HE comes! (continue to remember HIM in our homes)
- † Going back over the first Passover, we see a similar progression beginning at the household level
- † The great impact starting at the household level infused the assembled level and progression to the
Promise land

Phm 1:2 ESV and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, **and the church in your house:**

Rom 16:5 ESV **Greet also the church in their house.** Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

1Co 16:19 ESV The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, **together with the church in their house,** send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

Col 4:15 ESV Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha **and the church in her house.**

Act 2:42-47 ESV **And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.** (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. (45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (46) And day by day, attending the temple together and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved

Luk 24:30-35 ESV When he (**Jesus**) was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. (31) And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. (32) They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (33) And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, (34) saying, “**The Lord has risen indeed**, and has appeared to Simon!” (35) Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1Co 11:23-26 ESV For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **(24)** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, **“This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”** **(25)** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”** **(26)** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1Co 5:7-8 ESV Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. **For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (8) Let us therefore celebrate the festival,** not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

If we consider a progressive theme from the preceding scriptures that isn't always looked at, we may understand the connection of the passover with individual households (that's where it started!). We may see a call to us that makes our households a holy place of intimate worship and praise of GOD...and the churches in our homes!!!

Exo 12:1-32 ESV The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, (2) “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. (3) Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. (4) And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

(7) “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. (8) They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. (9) Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. (10) And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. (11) In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. (12) For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. (13) The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. (14) “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. (15) Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses,

Exo 12: (18) In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. (19) For seven days **no leaven is to be found in your houses**. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. (20) You shall eat nothing leavened; **in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.**”

(26) And when your children say to you, ‘**What do you mean by this service?**’ (27) you shall say, ‘**It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.**’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

(30) And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. (31) Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “**Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.** (32) **Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!**”

There is a progression that is evident here in the story of the Passover that we need to consider - a simple pattern of

- 1. Commitment started at the household level (the consecration call started in a great assembly)**
- 2. The result progressed to the gathered level (to leave!)**
- 3. Doing the LORD's work (Israel had to work out the battles and the internal rough edges as they went onward toward the promise land, working out amongst themselves the victories, the defeats and complaints)**
- 4. Resting in the place of Promise (the establishment of a nation!)**

As I reflect on this, I see our great opportunity that the LORD has given us during this world wide time of isolation due to the plague...we need to consecrate our households, to dive into the depths of intimacy with Jesus, to recognize the household consecration as the foundation and undergirding of the greater assembly of Saints. When we take this time to do that, then when we resume our assembly together as one, it will be greater in spirit, love and unity than ever before. Oh Saints of GOD, draw in close, don't only relegate the GOD's presence to the "church" gathering, but truly invite the LORD into your lives, your homes, your hearts, your everything!