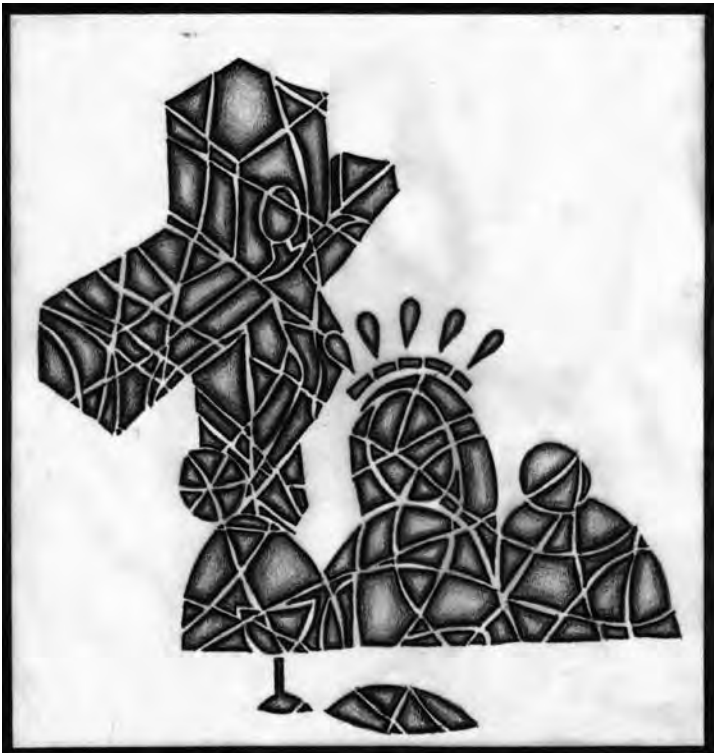


Trumpet, Blood, Cloud, and  
**Fire**

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*“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” (1 Cor. 5:7, NKJV).*



Lunar New Year is an important Chinese festival. According to legend, a monster came every Chinese New Year's Eve and killed a lot of people. This happened for a long time until an immortal one came and taught the people that the monster was afraid of the color red and loud noises. The next New Year, the people killed animals and sprinkled or wiped the blood on their doorframes. When the monster saw the red blood, he ran away. Today, the Chinese put red paper or cloth on their doorframes and burn firecrackers on the New Year. On New Year's Eve, the families gather to eat fish and chicken, which are served whole.

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### When the monster saw the red blood, he ran away.

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God instructed the Israelites to kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on their doorposts the day before He freed them from the Egyptians. It was the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover. They were to eat the lamb after roasting it over the fire (Exod. 12:9). They were to eat their Passover lamb with a readiness to flee Egypt (Exod. 12:11). The Lord's Passover signified the freedom of the Israelites from the persecution and slavery of the Egyptians.

Before leaving their encampment at Sinai, Israel celebrated their first Passover anniversary in freedom. God would not have them forget their miraculous redemption from Egyptian slavery. To remind them of His presence with them, He led them in the pillar of cloud and fire. The cloud led eastward and northward in the wilderness of Paran.

Jesus Christ, who is our Passover Lamb, has delivered us from the slavery of sin. The Lord's Supper is the Christian Passover. Like the Israelites, after eating the Passover lamb, we receive instruction to spread the gospel and to "watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Matt. 26:41, NKJV). Like the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, we are to follow His instructions without worrying about what will happen to us. The key is to trust Him, our all-wise Father.

This week, we will learn about the Lord's Supper, a reminder of His sacrifices and of what we must do in His name.

Num. 9:15, 16;  
10:1–10

## Evidence *Heavenly Guidance for the Journey*

“Numbers is the book of testing. Numbers (L. *numeri*, Gr. *Arithmoi*) is so named because the Israelites were twice numbered (chapter 1 and 26), the first time in the beginning of their journey, the second time at the close of 38 years of wandering in the desert. Numbers is a wilderness book covering the time span from the second month of the second year after the exodus from Egypt to the tenth month of the fortieth year.”<sup>1</sup>

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### The church is our camp.

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This week, we are studying Numbers 9 and 10. These chapters tell about the Israelites’ preparation for their journey to the Promised Land. In Numbers, God gave strict guidelines to the Israelites. “He wanted them to have a lifestyle distinct from the nations around them. He wanted them to be holy people. God was preparing the people, both spiritually and physically to receive the inheritance.”<sup>2</sup>

We, too, are preparing to enter the Promised Land of heaven. God also gives us strict guidelines to have a pure life in the church. The church is our camp. God is preparing us by purifying and sanctifying our lives so we can receive our heavenly inheritance.

Numbers 9:15, 16 portray how God protected the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land. “A pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night guided and protected the Israelites as they traveled across the wilderness. The cloud and the fire were not merely natural phenomena; they were the vehicle of God’s presence and the visible evidence of His moving and directing His people.”<sup>3</sup>

God also gave the silver trumpets for guidance. The cloud and fiery pillar were visible, whereas the trumpets made known the mind of the Lord in an audible way.

Before entering heaven, we must follow God’s guidance to know His will in our lives. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit by day and by night, He will reveal His will in our lives as we move toward our Promised Land.

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1. Merrill F. Unger, *Unger’s Bible Handbook: An Essential Guide to Understanding the Bible* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967), p. 121.

2. *New Living Translation: Life Application Study Bible* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1996), pp. 196, 197.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 211.

Logos  
*The Passover or the  
Lord's Supper?*

Exod. 12:1–29;  
Numbers 9;  
Matt. 26:36–43;  
Luke 22:14–20;  
John 1:29

***The Lord's Supper***

Jesus is God's true Priest. We do not need anyone else serving the same purpose. The sacrificial lamb was but a prelude to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins. This is why Jesus is called the Lamb of God: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29, NKJV).

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**The unleavened bread represents His body, and the wine  
represents His blood.**

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Today, when many Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper, they are celebrating Christ's death on the cross. The Lord's Supper, as did the Passover, celebrates Jesus' sacrifice as the "Lamb of God." The unleavened bread represents His body, and the wine represents His blood.

"Although it may be understood and practiced in different ways by diverse Christians, the Lord's Supper is of central importance to all believers. The rite instituted at Christ's Last Supper is called by different and usually interchangeable names: Eucharist, a giving of thanks for God's good gifts; Communion, emphasizing the fellowship with Christ; and the Lord's Supper, denoting the origin of the service."<sup>1</sup>

"On the fourteenth day of the month, . . . the Passover was celebrated, its solemn, impressive ceremonies commemorating the deliverance from bondage in Egypt, and pointing forward to the sacrifice that should deliver from the bondage of sin. When the Saviour yielded up His life on Calvary, the significance of the Passover ceased, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type."<sup>2</sup>

***The Lord's Supper in the Old Testament (Exod. 12:1–29; Numbers 9)***

The Lord instituted Passover just before He delivered the Israelites from Egypt. It was intended as a foreshadowing of the Lamb of God, who would deliver spiritual Israel from the bondage of sin.

Moses instructed the Israelites to kill a Passover lamb and to paint their doorposts with the lamb's blood. That night the angel of the Lord would kill all the firstborn males of the house which did not have the lamb's blood painted on their doorpost (Exod. 12:21–24).

"The passover pointed backward to the deliverance of the children of Israel, and was also typical, pointing forward to Christ, the Lamb of God, slain for the

redemption of fallen man. The blood sprinkled upon the door-posts prefigured the atoning blood of Christ, and also the continual dependence of sinful man upon the merits of that blood for safety from the power of Satan, and for final redemption. Christ ate the Passover supper with his disciples just before his crucifixion, and the same night, instituted the ordinance of the Lord's supper, to be observed in commemoration of his death. The passover had been observed to commemorate the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt. It had been both commemorative and typical. The type had reached the antitype when Christ, the Lamb of God without blemish, died upon the cross. He left an ordinance to commemorate the events of his crucifixion."<sup>3</sup>

### ***The Lord's Supper in the New Testament (Luke 22:14–20)***

Christians celebrate Passover in their own special way. However, there is a different significance for this special observance. In the New Testament, Jesus is depicted as the Passover Lamb to be sacrificed to free us from the slavery of sin. For Christians, then, the Lord's Supper is a memorial and tribute to Jesus for what He has suffered on our behalf. Seventh-day Adventists follow the rituals of the Last Supper as stated by Jesus to His disciples.

About the importance of the Lord's Supper, we read that "the salvation of men depends upon a continual application to their hearts of the cleansing blood of Christ. Therefore, the Lord's supper was to be observed more frequently than the annual passover. This solemn ordinance commemorates a far greater event than the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt. That deliverance was typical of the great atonement which Christ made by the sacrifice of his own life for the final redemption of his people."<sup>4</sup>

### **REACT**

1. Describe the relationship between the Passover in the Old Testament and the Lord's Supper in the New Testament.

2. Do you stay home on the Sabbaths during which your church celebrates the Lord Supper? If so, why?

3. Consider how your church celebrates the Lord's Supper. How could it be celebrated in a more spiritual, thought-provoking manner?

4. Why do we need to be reminded of Christ's sacrifice for us?

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1. *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, Commentary Reference Series, vol. 12, p. 595.

2. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 539.

3. *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 201.

4. *The Signs of the Times*, March 25, 1880.

## Testimony

# “Behold the Lamb of God”

1 Cor. 5:7

“The Passover was to be commemorative and typical, not only pointing back to the deliverance from Egypt, but forward to the greater deliverance which Christ was to accomplish in freeing His people from the bondage of sin. The sacrificial lamb represents ‘the Lamb of God,’ in whom is our only hope of salvation. Says the apostle, ‘Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.’ 1 Corinthians 5:7. It was not enough that the paschal lamb be slain; its blood must be sprinkled upon the doorposts; so the merits of Christ’s blood must be applied to the soul. . . . We must appropriate to ourselves the virtue of the atoning sacrifice.”<sup>1</sup>

### “Christ’s example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord’s Supper.”

“The salvation of men depends upon a continual application to their hearts of the cleansing blood of Christ. Therefore, the Lord’s supper was not to be observed only occasionally or yearly, but more frequently than the annual passover. This solemn ordinance commemorates a far greater event than the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt. That deliverance was typical of the great atonement which Christ made by the sacrifice of his own life for the final deliverance of his people.”<sup>2</sup>

“Christ’s example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord’s Supper.”<sup>3</sup> Why? Because (a) “Christ by the Holy Spirit is there to set the seal to His own ordinance. He is there to convict and soften the heart. . . . Every disciple is called upon to participate publicly, and thus bear witness that he accepts Christ as a personal Savior. . . . All who come with their faith fixed upon Him will be greatly blessed.”<sup>4</sup> (b) “The Communion service points to Christ’s second coming. It was designed to keep this hope vivid in the minds of the disciples. . . . In their tribulation they found comfort in the hope of their Lord’s return. Unspeakably precious to them was the thought, ‘As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.’ 1 Corinthians 11:26.”<sup>5</sup> (c) “Our ‘soul will receive spiritual strength from every Communion. The service forms a living connection by which the believer is bound up with Christ, and thus bound up with the Father.”<sup>6</sup>

1. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 277.

2. *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 228.

3. *The Desire of Ages*, p. 656.

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Ibid.*, p. 659.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 661.

Exod. 12:1–29;  
Matt. 26:26–30

## How-to A Reminder of His Salvation

The Passover was to remind the Israelites of God's ability to save them and of His promise to give them a new land. In the New Testament, Jesus gave His disciples another reminder of salvation. From the descriptions of these two events, we can learn how we can enrich our Communion experience to strengthen our spiritual lives:

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### Think of a loving Christian character as a sign of Christ's atonement for sin.

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*Remember how you came to accept God's salvation (Exod. 12:17).* God instructed the Israelites to yearly celebrate the Passover because He led them out of Egypt. Jesus leads us out of sin. The Communion service, therefore, is a time to remember that He is our Savior and how He saves us.

*Prepare a special sacrifice (Exod. 12:3–6).* The Israelites sacrificed a lamb without blemish. What special sacrifice can we make? A thank offering? A sacrifice of time and effort to help someone in need or to help with a church activity? Use your sacrifice to reflect on how much greater is the sacrifice Jesus made.

*Do something special on that day (Exod. 12:7, 26, 27).* The Israelites were to put blood on their doorposts. This was a public testimony of their faith and a symbol of Christ's blood as atonement for sin. You may also put a sign on your door. This "sign" may trigger an opportunity to witness. Also think of a loving Christian character as a sign of Christ's atonement for sin.

*Have a special meal (Exod. 12:8–11).* Sharing a meal after the Lord's Supper is a perfect time for fellowship and for sharing your gratitude with other church members. Or share a "meal" by "eating" from the Word of God, either by studying alone or with friends.

*Repeat God's promises (Exod. 12:25).* God promised the Israelites that He would give them the Promised Land. He promises us that He will give us the heavenly Promised Land.

### **REACT**

1. How can you personally apply these steps the next time your church celebrates the Lord's Supper?
2. What is the danger of letting the Communion service be just another religious routine?

# Trust Him and Be Saved

John 3:16, 17;  
Acts 4:12;  
Heb. 5:9

My son Patrick, five years old, sat beside me during the Communion service. He asked, “Why aren’t children allowed to eat the bread and drink the juice?” I explained to him that he would participate when he was baptized. Lately, I’ve come to realize that the answer I provided him was not the right one.

Three months later, at our church’s next Communion service, the pastor’s wife prepared special bread similar to the bread made for Communion. She also provided another type of fruit juice for the children. Then they attended a service in their classroom so that their teachers could teach them about Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for their sins. Patrick was glad to be involved and to learn important lessons from his first Communion service.

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## “Why aren’t children allowed to eat the bread and drink the juice?”

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“Children need to be trained early and to gain an understanding of this service,” our pastor said. Two important lessons for me were that salvation is for everyone and that our children should be taught about Jesus from the very beginning of their lives.

Everyone can participate in the Communion service, regardless of what Christian denomination they belong to, because the promise of God’s salvation is given to everyone (John 3:16, 17; Heb. 5:9).

If in the past, sin could be forgiven by bringing the lamb to be sacrificed before the Lord, and if now sin is forgiven by claiming Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, then we can repent and be saved. “Christ is our only hope. ‘There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.’ ‘Neither is there salvation in any other.’ Acts 4:12.”\*

As my son learned to understand how God is providing for us through His wonderful promises of forgiveness and salvation, so we can learn to trust that the same wonderful promises are given to us.

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\* *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 73.

Num. 9:1, 2

## Exploration *Preparation for the Kingdom*

### CONCLUDE

When God delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, He took them by a series of miracles to the foot of Mount Sinai. There they camped for about two years as He prepared them to live in the Promised Land. He personally gave them His moral law, and they were instructed in the civil laws and religious ceremonies they would be observing in the new land. They received plans for their house of worship and then built it. Finally, they celebrated their first Passover in freedom. God prepared to lead them with a cloud, a pillar of fire, and silver trumpets, and to settle them in a new land, where they would form a new kingdom with Him as their King.

### CONSIDER

- Reflecting on your own life as a Christian, and journaling the ways God's leading has been like a cloud, fire, or trumpet.
- Charting a chronological overview of the events of Exodus 14 through Numbers 14.
- Listening to Michael Card's CD, *Known by the Scars*, and contemplating what Jesus went through to become your Passover Lamb.
- Reading Exodus 12 and listing all the details you can find about the Passover celebration and all the ways Jesus fulfilled these details.
- Celebrating Communion with your family or a few close friends in a unique location (for example, at the beach, washing your feet in the ocean; in someone's living room following a musical worship).
- Planning an agape feast for your church's next Communion service. This is usually an evening event and includes footwashing, a simple meal with contemplative music, Communion, and testimonies.

### CONNECT

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 374–386.

Stephen N. Haskell, *The Cross and Its Shadow*, pp. 93–102; Leslie Hardinge, *With Jesus in His Sanctuary*, pp. 429–442.