

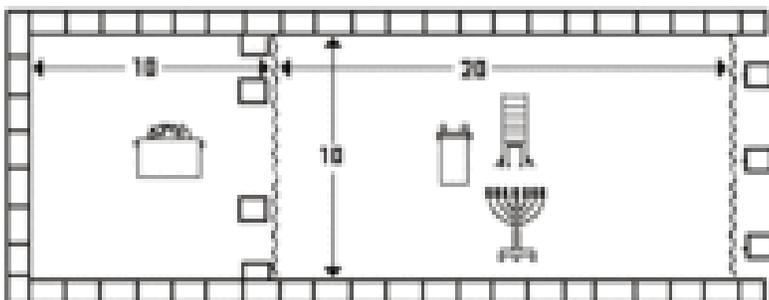
**Exodus 12 New International Version (NIV)**

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb<sup>[a]</sup> for his family, one for each household. <sup>4</sup>If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. <sup>5</sup>The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. <sup>6</sup>Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. <sup>7</sup>Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. <sup>8</sup>That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. <sup>10</sup>Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

(Lintel: A horizontal wooden or stone beam above the doorway. In preparation for the final plague the Israelites spread lamb’s blood on the lintel and doorposts of their houses.)

The lintel that framed the doorway to the inner sanctuary of the temple was also referred to as the pilaster in other records in God’s word. The lintel was the top frame of the doorway and it supported the door frame. Without it the doorway would not hold together. Jesus Christ was the doorway to life, John 10; his blood was shed so we could go through that door.)

(The holy of holies was entered once a year by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle the blood of sacrificial animals (a bull offered for the priest and his household, and a goat offered as atonement for the people) and offer incense upon the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat which sat on top of the ark in the First Temple. The Second Temple had no ark and the blood was sprinkled where the Ark would have been and the incense was put on the Brazen Alter of incense. The animal was sacrificed and the blood was carried into the most Holy Place.)



Layout of the temple with the holy and Holy of Holies.



A model of the Tabernacle showing the holy place, and behind it the Holy of Holies.

### **The origin of the blood covenant.**

The Blood Covenant, or what we call the Lord's Table, is based upon the oldest known covenant; it began in the Garden of Eden with God and Adam.

There are three reasons for men cutting the blood covenant with each other.

1. If there is a strong tribe and a weaker tribe they will band together and cut the Covenant to seal it.
2. Two business men entering into a partnership might cut the covenant.
3. As two men loved each other as devotedly as David and Jonathan, they would cut the covenant.

### **Jehovah cut the covenant with Abraham.**

When God entered into the covenant with Abraham, He changed their names from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah meaning (Prince and Princess of God). Their former names both had negative meanings. And in Genesis 17 it was sealed via circumcision.

This covenant bound Abraham and his descendants by indissoluble ties to Jehovah, and it bound Jehovah to Abraham and his descendants by that token.

The blood has always been important factor since the beginning.

God's people were required to do many sacrifices throughout the year with the Passover lamb slain once a year for the atonement of their sins.

That is why they sacrificed the lamb the evening before they left Egypt. They put that blood on the lintel and side posts of their doors. The angel of death could not enter that household because of the blood of the lamb.

Jesus Christ our Savior was the last sacrificial lamb. His blood was shed for all mankind. He shed his blood willingly for all men, women and children.

Blood had been very important from the very beginning and Jesus Christ finalized that blood covenant.

### **Jesus used bread and wine in the following verses.**

#### **Luke 22: 17-20**

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

#### **Bread**

Bread was considered to be the gift of God, manna in the wilderness. As early as patriarchal times it became a symbol of hospitality, to be shared with strangers and friends alike.

The bread represents Jesus's bruised and beaten body. This body brought us forgiveness and life.

#### **John 6:35 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Jesus Christ the "True Bread of Heaven." This symbolism becomes a vital part of the Last Supper observance.

A continual offering required by the Lord, Exodus 25:30, Leviticus 24:5-9, consisting of twelve loaves, placed on the holy table of pure gold, outside the veil on the north side of the holy place. The bread symbolized Israel's recognitions of God as the provider of daily bread, and the twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes.

#### **Wine**

In the old and New Testament wine is accepted as a commonplace commodity of life. **It was a symbol of well-being (abundance) and of God's blessing (Genesis 27:28) and was often a gift (1 Samuel 25:18) as well as an article of trade.**

At his last meal with his disciples Jesus makes this connection explicit: "This (wine) is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many, Mark 14:24.

The wine represented his shed blood. Because he shed his blood and gave his life, we can have 3 John 2 in our lives.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

<sup>24</sup> And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

<sup>25</sup> After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

<sup>26</sup> For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

His blood shed for all mankind, the blood covenant fulfilled.

His body the bread, (God's gift to all mankind), bruised and beaten for us.

The wine (the commodity of life) his blood shed for us).

Our privilege as Sons and Daughters of God, we take communion using these items and claim a part of our inheritance that was given to us through His son's sacrifice.

### **Hebrews 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

"You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

<sup>6</sup> And he says in another place,

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup> During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

<sup>8</sup> Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered

<sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him <sup>10</sup> and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

(The prayer in John 17 is many times referred to as "The High Priestly Prayer".)

And on the day of the Accession Jesus entered into the Holy of Holies, into God's presence as the High Priest, this was the new covenant, and on the day of Pentecost he sent holy spirit, the comforter had come. Let us celebrate today and always what our God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ did for us.