

Exodus 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Analysis

Three elements comprise the Passover meal: roasted lamb, unleavened bread (matzah), and bitter herbs (maror). The roasting with fire suggests purifying judgment, the unleavened bread indicates haste and purity (1 Cor 5:7-8), and bitter herbs memorialize slavery's bitterness. Together they present salvation's full picture: judgment borne, purity required, bondage remembered.

Historical Context

Roasting (rather than boiling) was the fastest preparation method and allowed the meal to be eaten immediately. Bitter herbs likely included chicory, endive, or horseradish—plants common in Egypt.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do the bitter herbs remind you to never forget the bondage from which Christ has delivered you?

2. What does the requirement to consume all three elements teach about embracing the full message of the gospel?

Interlinear Text

וְאָכְלָהוּ	רָאשָׁת	בְּבָשָׂר	בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה	בְּלִילָה	צְלִיל	אֲשֶׁר
And they shall eat	H853	the flesh	in that night		H2088	roast	with fire
H398		H1320	H3915		H6748		H784

וְאָכְלָהוּ	מִצְמָצָה	עַל	מִרְאֵם	וְאָכְלָהוּ
and unleavened bread	H5921	and with bitter	And they shall eat	
H4682		H4844		H398

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:25 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.

Deuteronomy 16:7 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt roast and eat it in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: and thou shalt turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents.

Isaiah 53:10 (Parallel theme): Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Exodus 13:7 (Parallel theme): Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

Exodus 23:18 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; neither shall the fat of my sacrifice remain until the morning.

Exodus 13:3 (Parallel theme): And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength

of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Exodus 1:14 (Parallel theme): And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in morter, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

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