



Berean Christian Fellowship

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“My Flesh Is True Food”

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7 NASB).

It was not by accident that Jesus was first seen by the world in a manger—a trough (a “dinner plate” for animals) where food is put for beasts! This spoke symbolically to the powerful purpose Jesus came to fulfill when He was born into the world that first Christmas.

Have you ever thought what the food on your plate is doing there? It isn't there for itself! The carrot and the turkey is not at the table for its benefit, but for yours. That carrot could have lived out its natural life in the earth, and that bird could have enjoyed pecking the ground until it died of old age. But instead, its life was sacrificed and provided to you, so that you could live by partaking of it. Without this food, you would starve to death.

Jesus was not born into this world for His benefit, but to give His life so that we could live. Symbolically, He was food for the world: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever”* (John 6:53-58). You must partake of His Life to live—Jesus is the only Way to escape death. Without Him, we are starving ourselves to death.

Another symbol of this reality was the Passover, for when John the Baptist first saw Jesus walking towards him, he said, *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29) Those of you familiar with the Passover know that a family would bring a lamb into their home and sacrifice it. Its blood symbolized taking the family's sin upon itself and giving them its life in exchange, for God would “pass over” the family's guilt. The family then ate the lamb for physical sustenance. In John's vision of Heaven, Jesus was seen as *“a Lamb standing, as if slain”* (Revelation 5:6b), while the Elders of Heaven sing, *“Worthy are You...for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation”* (Revelation 5:9b).

Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples just before He died: *“And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood’”* (Luke 22:19-20). The life Jesus gives is spiritual through His death for our sins, but Jesus will also give us physical life from Himself by raising us from the dead to life eternal.

When Jesus returns to rule the earth after the Tribulation, He will no more be the sacrificed lamb offered for the life of the world, slain for the benefit of sinners. He will come as the conquering *“Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David”* (Revelation 5:5b), *“the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen”* (1 Timothy 6:15b-16)!

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