

You Are Eagerly Invited

By Ron Brackin

CHAPTER 1

I like Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of the second verse in Genesis:

“Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness,
an inky blackness (MSG).”

It was a vacant lot. Blank. Barren.

Nothing there. Zip. Nada. Bupkas.

Yet, in the beginning and in the infinity surrounding it, through the corridors of eternity, God's voice thundered: “This bread is my body which is broken for you! This wine is the new covenant established in my blood, which is poured out for you!”

What we call the Lord's Supper, Communion or Eucharist was in our Father's mind, heart and plan eons before his Son declared to a dozen hand-picked men:

“I have eagerly desired [“with deep longing” – Living Bible]
[“You've no idea how much I have looked forward” – The
Message] [“I have earnestly and intensely desired” – Amplified
Version] [“With an intense desire I desired” – Wuest] to eat this
Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not
eat of it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of
God.”

Luke 22:15-16 (italics mine)

Feel his passion!

“I was pacing the heavens,” I AM declared, “staring at my perpetual calendar, listening impatiently to the ticking clock. There's never been a Passover like this one, nor ever will be again. It trumpets the arrival of a new covenant, releases a new revelation, and throws open the gates of heaven to a relationship between us that you never could have imagined.”

Bread and wine.

The elements of Merciful God's promise to the sinful race he had not yet created. They were before the beginning, and they will be forever – that unique blend of natural elements that he chose to express his only begotten Son.

They pervade his Word, from the creation of time to the end of days, from Genesis to the Revelation of the Christ.

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Bread and wine were Melchizadek's gift to Abraham and his army (Genesis 14:18). They were the symbols of God's presence in the desert tabernacle (Exodus 25:29-30) and the elements attending the sacrificed lamb at the Passover (Exodus 12).

The daily sacrifices of Israel. Grain offerings and drink offerings. "A tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a fourth of a hin of oil from pressed olives and a fourth of a hin of wine . . . a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the Lord by fire" (Exodus 29:40,41).

Gift after gift and sacrifice after sacrifice, the bread and wine carried their promise ever nearer to the Cross.

Paradoxically, a pleasing aroma to God, despite the outrageous horror of it.

But only our Papa comprehends the full significance of these amazing elements. Only our Father, whose constant delight is to look upon these precious earth-fruits and see his Son.