

Passover was the celebration of God's deliverance from Egypt - the Hebrews ate the lamb which had been drained of its blood.
The blood was on the door posts - to protect from the death angel.

BUT on Yom Kippur the lamb was not eaten but the blood was taken into the H of Holies to atone for sins.

God had made the unbreakable law that no one should drink the blood of an animal - with Noah - the animal was to be hung up & the blood drained out before it was eaten.

because (Lev. 17:11) tells us the blood is the life of an animal - it is to atone for sins.

Then ^{along came} Jesus in Jo. 6 - & said that it was necessary for us to drink his blood & eat his flesh in order to have eternal life and when he instituted the Lord's Supper he

a) said the wine represented his blood shed for our sins.

b) the bread his body - broken for us.

This command countermanded God's original command about not drinking the blood - even though it is only meant in a symbolic way.

Why did Jesus command it? Because

He IS the Life ¹⁴ the life is in the blood (Lev. 17)

In a very real way when we believe in the Lord

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Jesus Christ (His life) courses through our veins - it's the only way we can live ^{eternally}. The picture is that in the O.T. everyone was forbidden to drink the blood - because it pictured the real Life that Jesus came to give us - when He came He commanded us to drink His blood to obtain eternal life.

Yet the picture is not complete until he pours out his physical blood on the cross to conquer death ~~and pay for~~ by dying in our place. Jesus chose the Passover instead of the Day of Atonement ^{to institute communion} because that was the only feast where the lamb was actually eaten ^{by the people} rather than burnt on the sacrificial altar ^{as eaten by the priest}. We are to eat of Christ's flesh - that makes us "flesh of his flesh" - members of his Body - members one of another. All partaking together of Christ → One loaf broken for us

(I Cor. 10: 16-17) "Do not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing ^{κοινωνία} in the blood of Christ? Do not the bread which we break a sharing ^{κοινωνία} in the body of Christ. Since there is one bread ^{loaf}, we who are many are one body for we all partake of the one bread ^{loaf}."

Also we proclaim the Lord's death till He comes - it is a way of shouting out to all that we are believers - non-believers really should not partake. In the early church it often unmasked the believers as they were sharing their love-feasts in various homes & celebrated communion

