



# EATING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Gen 2:16-17)

So we said, “Let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you,”... So he (Isaac) made them a feast, and they ate and drank. (Gen 26:28-30)

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’” (Exodus 5:1)

Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to Me. (Exodus 23:14)

FEAST OF PASSOVER – Exodus 12

FEAST OF BOOTHS – Deut 16:9-12

FEAST OF WEEKS – Lev 23:39-43

Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.’  
(I Corinthians 10:7)

# JESUS' EXAMPLE WITH EATING

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look at Him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds. (Matthew 11:19)

And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that He was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to His disciples, "Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Mark 2:16)

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:35)

And He directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, He broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. (Mark 8:6)

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."  
(Matthew 26:26)

What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.  
(I Corinthians 11:22)

# EATING IN THE EARLY CHURCH

but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. (Acts 10:40-41)

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (Acts 2:46)

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” (Acts 11:1-3)

And when he [Paul] had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) (Acts 27:35-37)

It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.  
(Romans 14:21)

If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice”, then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience (I Corinthians 10:27-28)

But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.  
(I Corinthians 5:11)

# PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER .....

1. **FOOD** isn't important – **PEOPLE** are important.
  - “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.” (Proverbs 15:17)
2. **SHARED** meals bring people together – for good or for bad!
  - Wisdom sets her feast (Pr 9:5) and Folly sets her feast, too! (Pr 9:17)
3. **FOOD** is a blessing meant to be enjoyed and **SHARED**
  - also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. (Ecclesiastes 3:13)
  - If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, (Proverbs 25:21)
4. **MEALS** break down **BARRIERS** and provide **OPPORTUNITIES**
  - And Levi made Him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Lk 5:29-32)

**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Heb 13:2)**