

II.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

I. How and When It Was Instituted ?

The Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord, on the night of His betrayal at the close of the Passover feast.

The Passover was a feast of the Jews in which a lamb was sacrificed and eaten by every household, and which commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage, and how the destroying angel, who smote the firstborn of the Egyptians, had *passed over* the houses of the Israelites protected by blood. Ex. 12: 1-30.

Jesus desired to eat the Passover with His disciples. In the early morning of Thursday He sent two of His disciples from Bethany to Jerusalem to prepare for its observance. This preparation consisted in providing bread, wine, bitter herbs, in aiding the Levites to kill the lamb which they had procured, and in seeing that it was roasted whole ready for the feast.

When the hour arrived the disciples took their places around the table. Jesus presided and began the ceremonies by a solemn thanksgiving. He then passed around, for each to drink of it, a cup of wine, accompanying it with a word of thanksgiving. A formal washing of hands followed. This act indicated the purity of heart with which the feast should be observed. Then the whole roasted lamb, two round cakes of unleavened bread, the dish of bitter herbs and the dish of sauce, made of dates, figs, raisins and vinegar, were placed on the table. They took a portion of the bitter herbs dipped them in the sauce and ate them. The hands were then washed a second time. The second cup of wine was passed and drunk. Jesus then took the two