

Subject: *Christ the Passover Lamb*

Scripture: *Exodus 12:1-14*

Exodus 12 is about the Passover. The Passover was so important that God told them to mark the beginning of a new year with this memorial. The Passover took place when God delivered His people from bondage in Egypt. The Passover was a reminder to the Jews how God passed over them in judgment because God saw the blood sprinkled on the door posts of their houses. The Passover is a clear picture of salvation in Christ, who as the Lamb of God shed His own blood for our soul. The Passover is in the OT what the Lord's Supper is in the NT.

It was not a coincidence that Jesus was crucified at time of Passover. Year after year the Jews observed this sacred time to remember what God did to deliver them from Egypt, and then Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper for the church to remember what He did to deliver us. The Passover represented deliverance from the physical bondage of Egypt and Pharaoh, but the Lord's Supper represents deliverance from the spiritual bondage of sin and Satan.

1 Corinthians 5:7 ...*Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*

The most important thing about the Passover was killing of the Passover lamb and the application of the blood to the houses of God's people. In the Bible this is one of the great themes that run from cover to cover:

- The black thread of sin and death
- The golden thread of God's grace and glory
- The scarlet thread of redemption (salvation)

It has been said that you can cut the Bible anywhere and it will bleed. In Gen. 4, we have a lamb for a man. In Ex. 12, we have a lamb for a family. In Lev. 16, we have a lamb for a nation. In Jn. 1, we have a Lamb for the world. Jesus has many names and titles, but in the Book of Revelation, one title is mentioned more than any other. Jesus Christ is "the Lamb."

We can see many truths about Christ in the Passover.

1. The SELECTION of the Passover lamb

Notice how the lamb was selected and set apart for this special occasion (vs. 3-6). The lamb was chosen by every family on the 10th day of the month and kept until the 14th day of the month (vs. 6). What kind of animal was selected and why was it set apart for several days before it was killed? The lamb had to be without blemish (spotless, without defect or deformity). The lamb was kept and observed to make sure it was acceptable to God. All of this pictured Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19¹⁸ *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*¹⁹ *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

This explains in part why Jesus lived a total of 33 years and ministered for three years before He

was crucified as the perfect sacrifice. During that time he lived with His family and with others who saw Him and heard Him. During that time they never saw or heard Him do anything or say anything wrong. He was sinless and without fault.

John 8:46 *Which of you convinceth me of sin?*

2. The DEDICATION of the Passover lamb

What happened after the lamb that was chosen and examined for a few days? The lamb was slain by the whole congregation (vs. 6). A living lamb could not save them. We are not saved by Christ's life, but by His death. His blood must be shed. R. A. Torrey said: "Take the blood of Christ out of your beliefs and you might as well take heaven out of your hopes."

3. The APPLICATION of the Passover lamb

What was the personal connection between the Passover lamb that was killed and God's people? The blood of the lamb must be applied over the door of each home. The actual blood was applied by hand, but the merits of that blood were applied by faith. In the same way, Christ's blood was shed on the cross and the merits of His blood are applied to our hearts by faith.

4. The PROTECTION of the Passover lamb

What is the significance of the word "Passover" and how were God's people protected from judgment? Notice in verse 12, that God says He will execute judgment. Before this, God sent nine plagues upon Egypt. These plagues were God's judgments. The Passover was God's final judgment and it was the most devastating. The death angel passed through the land and killed all the firstborn of every family. God warned His people that the only way to be spared from His judgment was to apply the blood to the doors of their houses.

Exodus 12:13 *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

This is why it came to be known as the Passover. God promised to protect those homes where the blood was applied to the doorposts. Notice three times that God says "I will" (vs. 12, 13) – "I will pass through the land of Egypt"... "I will execute judgment"... "I will pass over you." We see God's authority in all this and absolute certainty about what God will do.

God did not say, "When I see your good intentions." He did not say, "When I see your sincerity." He did not say, "When *you* see the blood." He said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." The important thing was that God saw the blood.

The Bible says we have redemption through the blood of Christ. None of us have ever seen His blood, but God sees it and that's what counts. Let's suppose we could go into two different houses the night of the Passover. In one home there is a spirit of peace and everyone seems at

ease. In the other house the father is walking the floor wringing his hands in worry. What 's the difference? The blood was applied on the doors of both houses, but only one has assurance because they are standing on the promise of God...*When I see the blood, I will pass over you.*

The blood of Christ makes us safe, but the Word of God makes us sure.

5. The COMMEMORATION of the Passover lamb

Was this event so important that it should be remembered and how would it be remembered by future generations? God told Moses (vs. 14) that it was to be a memorial and a sacred feast. Each year when they prepared the Lamb and put the blood on the doors of their homes it would remind them of what God's mercy in salvation when He passed over them in judgment. For the same reason, we have the Lord's Supper. Jesus said: "Do this in remembrance of me."

6. The EXPLANATION of the Passover lamb

What should parents tell their children when they ask about the observance of the Passover? See Exodus 12:24-27. This would be the perfect opportunity to tell them about God's salvation.

Christ gave two ordinances to His church: the Lord's Supper and baptism. Both of these are object lessons that cause our children to ask, "Why do we do this?" It's our duty and privilege to teach our children about Jesus and His perfect sacrifice for our sins.

We have seen the selection of the Passover lamb, the dedication of the Passover lamb, the application of the Passover, the protection of the Passover lamb, the commemoration of the Passover lamb, and the explanation of the Passover lamb, but there is one more thing.

7. The PARTICIPATION in the Passover lamb

Who could and who could not participate in the annual observance of the Passover?

Turn to Exodus 12:43-45, 47. This was for God's people. The congregation of Israel was to keep it, and foreigners, travelers, and hired servants were forbidden to participate unless they were willing to commit themselves to Israel's God and be circumcised as a symbol of God's covenant with His people. In the same way, the Lord's Supper is for the God's covenant people. When we share in the Lord's Supper we are reminded of Christ's words: "This cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood." We are a covenant people redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.