

Nothing but the Blood

Exodus 12:1-13

Lord's Supper (1/8/2023)

Job asked the question "How can a man be righteous before God?" The Bible gives a clear answer to Job's question. However, the question is are you willing to accept what God says in His Word?

Passover was the first great festival of Israel which commemorated their deliverance from Egypt.

Passover was older than God's covenant with Moses at Mount Sinai and older than the Law and the Priesthood. The tenth plague that God visited upon Egypt was the death of the firstborn of man and beast. The LORD had already struck Egypt with nine great acts of judgment. The plague of water turning to blood, frogs covering the land, dust turned into lice, swarms of flies, diseased cattle, boils upon men and beasts, hail mingled with fire, destruction by locusts, and darkness. All of these plagues were directed at the gods or superstitions of the Egyptians. One can only imagine what the devastation was in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go but hardened his heart. The LORD visited one more judgment upon the Egyptians, the death of the firstborn of man and beast. The LORD made a provision for His people.

Passover pictured that God delivers from judgment through the death of an innocent substitute.

The substitute was an innocent lamb that was slain. God gave careful instructions about the selection and preparation of the Passover lamb. This is the month (2) Abib which corresponds to the later part of March or the beginning of April. A lamb was to be chosen on the "tenth of this month" (3). It needed to be a lamb (5) "without blemish, a male of the first year." The lamb was carefully examined for four days. (6) "Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month." God instructed the nation to kill the lamb (6) "at twilight." This is repeated in Deuteronomy 16:6, "at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt." The blood of the lamb needed to be applied to the entrance of their home (7). All of the lamb was to be eaten that night.

- **The blood of the lamb had to be applied by faith in the LORD's provision (12-13).**

Nothing but the blood could save the Israelites that night.

The Passover lamb was a type of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:7, "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." Only God could provide atonement for sin that would satisfy His justice and not compromise His holiness. Jesus is the Lamb of God without spot or blemish. Jesus knew no sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21. Jesus committed no sin, 1 Peter 2:22. In Jesus there is no sin, 1 John 3:5. Only God could be sinless and only a man could die. That is why Jesus the God/man is the perfect and only substitutionary sacrifice for man's sin.

- **It was not the life of the Passover lamb that saved the Israelites it was the death of the lamb.**

Colossians 1:14, "in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." The word "redemption" means to deliver by payment of a ransom." It was used to free slaves from bondage. The payment for our sin was made to God the Father by the death of His Son. Blood stands for death, Leviticus 17:11. Death must be answered by death. Hebrews 9:22, "without shedding of blood there is no remission." Only redemption through the blood of Jesus results in the forgiveness of our sins making us right with God, Romans 5:8-9. The only righteousness God will accept is the righteousness of God. God justifies the sinner as a gift of His grace not because of human merit, Romans 3:24-25. God will accept nothing but the blood of Jesus to forgive man's sin.

Jesus established the Lord's Supper out of the Passover.

There is no religious ritual that can take away man's sin not even those prescribed by God Himself. Hebrews 10:4, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." The physical blood of animals could never cancel man's debt of sin. The Passover lambs and all of the animal sacrifices were mere shadows and types of the reality that God had promised would come, Hebrews 10:1.

- **Tragically many people continue to exchange the symbol for reality.** The regular observance of the Lord's Table will not make a person right with God. People today hold on to baptism and the Lord's Supper but never truly know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Passover symbolized the reality of the death of Christ and the eternal salvation it brings, Hebrews 10:3. The innocent lamb prefigured the innocent Son of God.

- **When Jesus inaugurated the new covenant, it replaced the old,** Matthew 26:26-28, "For this is **My blood of the new covenant**, which is shed for many for the **remission** of sins."

Nothing but the blood of Jesus can save a person from the penalty of eternal death.

(29-30) "...for there was not a house where there was not one dead." Dick Lucas, "There is no protection from God in religion." Their religion could not save them, and it cannot save you.

- **In the midst of judgment is the grace of God (21-23).**

God provided a provision by **applying** the blood of the lamb.

- **There is no deliverance from God's judgment apart from the blood of Jesus (29-30).**

Jesus died on the cross at the very time the Passover Lambs were being killed at the Temple. The blood had to be applied. A person is not saved simply because Jesus died.

God does not demand a payment from you or from me.