

## “Passover Lamb, When Salvation Gets Personal”

*Exodus 12:1-14*

As we have been looking at how the Bible progressively reveals Jesus is the Lamb of God, we began in the garden of Eden where we saw foundational promise in Gen. 3:15 that a seed of the woman would one day crush Satan’s head even though he would be severely injured himself. We also saw that God modeled that the only acceptable way our sin can be covered is by a blood sacrifice made by God Himself (when He took it upon Himself to shed the blood of an animal and cover Adam and Eve with its skin).

Last week we were in Genesis 22 where we learned that Abraham had such great faith in God that He believed God could fulfill His promises to bless Abraham and the world through Isaac since he believed God could bring Isaac back from the dead. God spared Isaac but the almost sacrifice foreshadowed Jesus’ actual sacrifice on Mt. Moriah/Jerusalem where God will fulfill His promises through the resurrected Jesus.

The next place in Scripture where we learn more about Jesus being the future lamb of God is in the Passover in Ex. 12. We have the blessing of living post-resurrection and with a completed New Testament. We know from Col. 2:16-17 that the Passover and all the feasts ‘were a shadow of things to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.’ All the feasts were meant to point to something beyond the historical event which Israel were intended to remember each year.

We who know how Jesus fulfills Passover can see these things quite readily but the unsaved are blinded by the enemy. Also, many Christians are unaware of the significance that the spring feasts foreshadow the death (Passover) burial (Unleavened Bread) and resurrection (First Fruits) of Jesus, Pentecost (summer) foreshadows the harvest of the church and that the fall feasts foreshadow the rapture (Feast of Trumpets), the Tribulation (Day of Atonement) and the millennium ((Feast of Tabernacles). Right now we live in between the fulfilled prophecies of Jesus’ first coming and the church while we wait for the prophecies regarding His return.

But everything starts with Passover because it marks the beginning of each agricultural season. yea. How does Passover foreshadow Jesus’ death and redemption for us? When we see what the historical Passover meant, we see a very clear message of the gospel. The Passover was commanded by God for His people to . . .

### **Celebrate God’s New Beginning in Your Life** **(Ex. 12:1-2, 14)**

By the end of Ch. 12 Israel will finally leave Egypt. All they’ve known for 400 years is slavery to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The Egyptians taught and modeled a pantheistic faith that everything reflected around their gods. The Israelites heard about their God and some prayed to Him – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – but so far their prayers had not been answered. Where was their God? Was He real? Now God has heard their prayers and remembered the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God called Moses to redeem His people from slavery and nine miraculous plagues later, they are on the verge of redemption. But Pharaoh still will not acknowledge Israel’s God and will not let the Israelites go.

So one more plague. This one however was a test of the Israelites' faith. God had not asked the Israelites to do anything, until now. The Passover was a test of Israel's faith in God. They had heard about Egypt's gods all their life but now they've seen what their God can do. "Based on what you've seen so far, do you believe that I can take anyone's life? Do you also believe that I can save your life if you simply obey Me?"

So God told Moses to tell the people to observe the Passover by faith, even marking time by how God worked in their life. "This month will be the first month of your year" basing their calendar on the lunar cycle. On the first full moon of the agricultural year, remember when God first saved you from Pharaoh.

If the Passover is a shadow of the reality of Christ then we should find language in the New Testament that tells us when we accepted Christ it also marks a new work when God saved us. **2 Cor. 5:17** says

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come.*

Didn't Jesus Himself use new beginning language in John 3:3 when He told a well-respected rabbi named Nicodemus that if he wanted to get into the kingdom of God he had to be "born again"? One of Jesus' closest disciples, Peter, used the same language in 1 Pet. 1:3:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope.*

God wants His people to look at our lives based on when He worked in you. When were we saved? Some of you can relate to Paul's words to Timothy where he said 'How from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation and that you became convinced of them and you knew you were saved (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Some of us came to Christ later in life. Somehow God got a hold of us through the gospel and we asked Him to forgive us our sins and we turned to Christ. That marked a new beginning in our life. God tells us to celebrate that He saved us. To look at our life from His saving work in our life.

The Passover shows people how we're saved:

## **When We Believed His Word How to be Saved** **(12:3-5)**

In vv.3-5 God explains to Israel that if they want to live a new life away from Egypt, then they must obey what He says. Take a lamb or goat into your home on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the new month. Make sure it's a one-year-old and has no defects, spotless. Eat it with a large group because you must eat it all that night and burn any leftovers in the morning. God explained to them in words how they could save themselves if they obeyed by faith what He said. Each household had to make this decision. If you invited your neighbour they had to believe by faith that what God said was true. Moses couldn't make that decision for them.

This is a clear illustration of how we're saved. Paul says in Eph. 1:13-14

*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of His glory.*

John explained our need to make it personal. Our parent's or spouse's faith can't save us. *"to those who believed in His Name He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent nor of a human decision or a husband's will but born of God"* (John 1:12).

The Passover reminds you that faith in the Word of God will save you that night if you

## **Acknowledged That the Sacrifice was Made for You** **(12:6)**

The lamb is the key ingredient to the Passover. It unofficially started on the 10<sup>th</sup> day when you selected your own spotless lamb. Again we see the prophetic foreshadowing of the crucifixion of Jesus because if the Passover was on the Thursday, which was the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan (the 1<sup>st</sup> month) then Palm Sunday was the 10<sup>th</sup> day, when the leaders clearly decided that they would kill Jesus. Just as a Jewish family would take the lamb into its home so they can inspect it and make sure it has no defects so Jesus spent the next few days being inspected by the religious leaders for spiritual blemishes, which they could not find.

Jesus, the Passover lamb was sacrificed on your behalf. He died so you won't have to. The Bible clearly tells us Jesus was sacrificed for us.

*"God presented Him as a sacrifice for atonement, through faith in His blood"* (Rom. 3:25).

Jesus died as a sacrifice to atone for our sins but each one must believe that for him/herself. Again we see the Passover foreshadowed our need to . . .

## **Applied the Blood of the Lamb** **(12:7-10)**

*Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.*

*<sup>12</sup> "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

Each home that sacrificed a lamb was to take some of the blood and apply it to its door frames believing by faith in God's words that He would save you from death. Only the blood of the lamb applied to your home could save you.

We can see how God was preparing Israel especially, to understand that Jesus would be the unleavened bread of life whose body would be broken for them and us all. How He would be the unblemished Lamb slain for our sins. If an Israelite that night heard the message and even understood it clearly but chose not to put the blood of the Lamb over their doorposts, then any 1<sup>st</sup> born children in the house would die.

Similarly, it isn't enough to know in your mind that Jesus died for your sins, we must believe that and accept that for ourselves. Each one must choose whether we believe Jesus died for our sins. Paul said in Rom. 10:9-10

*“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”*

When you and I believe that Jesus died for our sins and ask His forgiveness we receive eternal life immediately. Knowing His joy and peace now and forever in God’s presence.

The Passover was the event that marked when ...

## **You Were Freed From Slavery** **(12:12-13)**

In v.11 they were commanded to eat it in haste because on this day (v.17) God said I will bring you out of the land of Egypt. All their known lives these Israelites had been slaves. Physical slaves yes, but in many ways slaves to the false belief system of the surrounding culture. Surely this had to have affected their minds. Always hearing about how great Egypt’s gods were and the Pharaoh especially. They probably built those statues to their gods. The surrounding culture said this is what controls your life. V.12 God says He will *“bring judgment on the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.”* He had already shown His power over everything the culture believed was a god. Now God was showing He was the only God and even more powerful than the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh, who had thought he was master over all, would now, by the death of his first born, be shown to be subject to God himself.

The Passover foreshadows God freeing us from the enslavement of sin. Just as Israel listened to the lies of Pharaoh who claimed he was their master, now God was telling them, I will free you from his power. Later on in the wilderness we will sadly read that some would want to go back to that life when the wilderness life got a little hard. Even today God’s people are tempted to go back to their sin enslaved life when living for Jesus doesn’t look like its working. Paul says that when we accepted Christ, we exchanged masters. We are no longer slaves to sin. *“Thanks be to God that though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and become slaves to righteousness”* (Rom. 6:17-18).

In freeing them from the Pharaoh, God was telling Israel ‘Let Me be your new gentle master and I will meet your needs and show you a new life in the promised land.’ It didn’t mean everything will always be easy and fine – it wasn’t – but it will mean that God can give you the power through his Spirit to overcome sin’s desire to master our lives.

*“Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus”* (Rom. 6:11)

In Christ God equips us to have power over sin by trusting Him and believing His word. The power of sin over us has been broken. We choose whether we want to be free from its control.

Israel chose God to be their master. By applying the sacrificed blood to their doorposts they believed by faith God would

## **Rescue Them from the Penalty of Death** **(12:13)**

God put to death the firstborn of those who did not put the blood on their doorposts. Those who applied the blood lived and were set apart to be with God. God showed His His presence was

leading them with the cloud by day and fire by night.

The imagery for us who apply the blood of Jesus Christ to our life is clear. God will spare us from the final judgment of separation from God when we die. God promises us He will never leave us nor forsake us in this life and the next. Death for the believer is a transition from earth to God's presence. The Bible assures the believer in Rom. 8:1 and many places:

*There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1)*

The shadow of the Passover reveals the reality in Christ. That He is the Lamb of God whose blood was shed for us on the cross. If we accept Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our sins, the final judgment passes over us because we are new in Christ. He is the only God who can save us and free us from the future penalty and present power of sin through Jesus His Son.

The Passover was a clear picture of what Jesus would do, and also our personal need to apply it. Perhaps you've heard the gospel many times but never applied it to yourself. Knowledge is not enough.

Rom. 10:9-10      *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

Confess to God you are a sinner in need of salvation. Profess that Jesus is Lord and the one who died for your sins and place your trust in Him. And if you know that then be grieved over your friends, family members, co-workers and neighbours who are lost and unaware that they need to apply the blood of Jesus to their own sins if they want to be free from sin's mastery over their lives. Tell them what Jesus did for them.

Our willingness to live obediently to God, victorious over sin that still tempts us, is the most powerful way to share the gospel. When people see the freedom we have from the things most people worry about, when they see us showing we have hope even in difficult circumstances, they will want to know how they can 'get' what we have. Pray we are always ready to share the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you have any comments or questions about this message please contact us at [olivet@rideau.net](mailto:olivet@rideau.net)