

THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB

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The Israelites had cried out to God for deliverance from the bondage they had experienced for 430 years in Egypt. “Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.” (Exodus 12:40)

God hears their prayers for freedom from the Egyptian slavery and sends Moses and his brother Aaron to Egypt to appear before Pharaoh, telling him God’s message to “let My people go.” This happens ten times. God sent different types of plagues to convince Pharaoh to “let My people go.” The tenth plague worked.

God gave Pharaoh several opportunities to let the Israelites go. The final plague cost Pharaoh and all of Egypt dearly. “⁴ Moses said, ‘Thus says the Lord, ‘About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; all the firstborn of the cattle as well. ⁶ Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been before and such as shall never be again.’” (Exodus 11:4-6)

God gave Moses directions so this would not happen to the Israelites. “Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.” (Exodus 12:5) “Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.” (Exodus 12:7)

“¹² For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:12-13)

God gave very specific instructions to the Israelites on how to prepare the lamb, a blemish-free lamb only, certain times for specific instructions, and to follow them exactly as God told Moses to share with the Israelites. As always, we are to follow God’s instructions exactly. By following God’s instructions, they were spared as God had told them. “For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.” (Exodus 12:23) “²⁸ Then the sons of Israel went and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

²⁹ Now it came about at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. ³⁰ Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.” (Exodus 12:28-30)

Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go. “³¹ Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the Lord, as you have said. ³² Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also.” (Exodus 12:31-32)

Now the Passover Feast had been put in place by God. How long is the Passover Feast to be celebrated? “²⁴ And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. ²⁵ When you enter the land which the Lord will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is a

Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.” And the people bowed low and worshiped.” (Exodus 12:24-27)

God, in all His wisdom set the example for us to follow today. We don't celebrate Passover, but we do remember the perfect sacrifice, Jesus and the blood He shed on Calvary. We are slaves to the bondage of sin. “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” (Hebrews 12:1)

“¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,” (Romans 8:1-6)

Jesus represents the blemish-free lamb in the Old Testament. Jesus's blood covers a multitude of sins and saves us, just as the blood covered the entrance to the house. “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22) Jesus is our “Passover Lamb.” We remember and celebrate our freedom from sin with communion each Lord's Day. Have a blessed week.

The Blood of the Passover Lamb:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRH_jBuH38k&list=RDDRH_jBuH38k&start_radio=