

A LAMB, THE LAMB, YOUR LAMB
Exodus 12:1-11

Intro: One of my favorite scenes in the Bible is that of Jesus walking toward John the Baptist at Bethabara, located ten miles south of the Sea of Galilee, on the Jordan River. It was as though Jesus was walking out of the Old Testament into the New. Here He was the Son of God, God the Son, our Passover moving toward John. It seems I can here the voice of one crying in the wilderness as he says: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

In the Old Testament Christ is:	In the New Testament Christ is:
Concealed	Revealed
Anticipated	Acknowledged
Contained	Explained
Promised	Proclaimed
Pictured	Presented
Predicted	Fulfilled

Throughout Old Testament scriptures, there are pictures scattered all about that point to the redeeming, sacrificial work of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 53:6, He is: "brought as a Lamb to the slaughter." In Psalm 22, we have the vivid account of the Savior on the cross dying for sinners. In Isaiah 50:6, we read: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting." A whole series of messages could be preached on the sacrificial work of the Lamb in the Old Testament.

Yet, it is in the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb that we have such a manifold representation of the person and work of Jesus Christ our Passover that no other portrayal can equal it.

The Passover is all about atonement. The Godward and man-ward factors are seen in that the Passover prefigures Christ Jesus as satisfying the just demands of God the Father and in His being the substitute for the sinner.

I. Vs. 1-2, PASSOVER BEGINNINGS

A. The Jewish new year celebration is called Rosh-Hashana, which occurs in the month Tishri, the seventh month of the Jewish calendar; yet the beginning of Israel as an independent nation was in the month Nisan, the first month of the Jewish calendar.

1. Passover month was set by the Lord to be the beginning of Israel's year. The month of the slaying of the Lamb was important in the

eyes of the Sovereign of the universe.

2. The Passover Lamb is a type of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just as the Passover Lamb of Exodus twelve marked the Jewish calendar, the birth of Jesus Christ, our Passover, has marked the calendars of the world. The Latin Anno Domini means: “the year of our Lord.”

a. The calendar is not dated from Christ’s death, but from His birth.

b. Time is reckoned from the birth of the Babe laid in a manger in Bethlehem. The Lord of time has put His signature on time itself.

B. The month Nisan is the month of the atonement for sin. It was in this month that the Passover Lamb was slain. It was a new beginning for Israel.

1. Not only was the Lamb slain, but its blood had to be applied for the blessing of deliverance from God’s judgment to be realized and a new life begun.

2. This is how it is with you and me. Christ died for us, but this was of no avail until we by faith applied the blood. Then, a new life began (2 Cor. 5:17).

II. Vs. 3, PASSOVER, A LAMB

A. A lamb was singled out to be the sacrifice.

1. A lamb was set apart, chosen, and appointed to death.

2. A lamb was appointed to die four days before it was actually slain.

a. Jesus Christ was appointed to die before He was actually crucified. 1 Peter 1:19 says that we are: “redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8 speaks: “of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

b. The word world is significant both in the passage in First Peter and in Revelation. The Passover lamb was to be appointed to die four days before its actual death. The number four is the number of the world. Jesus Christ was chosen to die “before the foundation of the world.”

c. Four years before His death, Jesus was singled out to die. His earthly ministry lasted between three and four years. This singling out began with the cry of John the Baptist: “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:19). It was at this time

that He was singled out from the flock for He says He was sent “unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matt. 15:24).

B. Without faith, He is only a Lamb to you. To the Egyptians, Egypt is a picture of the world; the Passover Lamb of Israel had no significance. It was only a lamb. They did not believe in applying the blood.

1. The people of the world, as a whole, do not see Christ as the Lamb or their Lamb. He is just a great man, one of many, a man, a lamb.

2. How do you see Him today? Is He a Lamb, or is He the Lamb, your Lamb?

a. Yes, Christ is a Savior. This is what was announced to the Shepherds who were watching their flocks by night. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

b. He is the Savior for there is none other who can save from sin. Acts 4:12 says: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

c. The question is this: is the Lamb of God your Savior? (John 1:12)

3. Yes, Christ is a Savior. Luke 2:11: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ the Lord.” To you dear one, is He the Lamb, the Savior (John 4:42) or just a Lamb, a Savior? To be saved, we must be able to say: He is my Lamb!

III. Vs. 4, PASSOVER THE LAMB

A. John the Baptist in John 1:29 saw Jesus as the Lamb. There are no others. There is but one Savior, one Lamb.

1. Acts 4:12 says: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

2. Jesus Himself said in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by me.”

B. To get into heaven, you must come by way of the Lamb. You must come through the only door. Jesus is the Lamb, and He is the door (John 10:7-10).

IV. Vss. 5-6, PASSOVER-- YOUR LAMB

A. Vs. 5, Our perfect God requires a perfect sacrifice, and the Lamb has to be perfect without blemish (Leviticus 22:21-22).

1. A sinful sacrifice could not make atonement for sin. All the sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed toward the cross of Christ where the perfect sacrifice died for sinful man. We have sinned; in Him is no sin .

2. At the baptism of Christ, God the father declared: "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

a. God was pleased because the Law could and would only be kept in word, thought, and deed by one who had no sin and had kept the Law in every aspect. None but Christ could do this.

b. Christ was born under the law and fulfilled it in every way (Gal. 4:4).

3. "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year..." The lamb was not to be too young or too old.

a. Christ died not as an old man, nor as a child or teen. Christ died in the fullness, as Urquhart says: "in the fullness of His opening manhood" (Pink 89).

b. Christ was cut "in the midst" of His days (Psalm 102:24).

4. "Your lamb." To the lost and unregenerate, He is just a lamb. To the awakened, the regenerated, seeing Christ as the only hope; He is THE LAMB. To those who have been granted faith to receive Christ as personal Savior, He is "Your Lamb." At this point, the words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 2:20 become very real to every believer. They become the words of eternal worth as we say that Christ is the one: "who loved me and gave Himself for me."

B. Vs. 6, The lamb was to be killed at a certain time, an exact time. Christ died at the exact time that the Passover lamb was being killed in the temple.

1. Not that it says here: "Israel shall kill it in the evening." Thousands of lambs died, yet these all pointed to "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

2. There are those who believe that we are saved by the example of Christ, by His good life. This is not so; we can only be saved by the death of Christ.

a. Hebrew 9:22 says: "Without shedding of blood is no remission."

b. To the Egyptians, the slaying of the lamb was foolishness; but to the believer, it is the only way of salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18-24).

Conclusion: For the blood to avail it had to be applied (Vs. 7). Has the blood been applied to your heart?

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