

## Behold the Lamb

Exodus 12:1-13

8/03/08

### Intro

Pharaoh continued to harden his heart throughout the contests between the gods of Egypt and Jehovah, the Great I Am. Pharaoh continued to ask Israel to compromise, but Moses and Aaron refused to compromise and so Pharaoh continued to harden his heart against God.

God had given the Egyptians many warnings, many opportunities to recognize the power and preeminence of God, but they would not be changed. Finally, a day of judgment was given and the final plague was to be released in the land of Egypt -- the death of the firstborn in every house in Egypt.

This section of scripture is one of deepest significance to us because it points so clearly to Jesus Christ and it had everything to do with our lives today because it speaks to God's provision for our freedom from the oppression of the world and freedom from the consequence of our own sins.

### **I. The Lamb is God's Provision**

- God had warned the Egyptians as well as the Hebrews that He was going to bring about a great plague, the death of the first born, but He made a provision so that anyone who listened to God would be saved.
  
- They were to take a lamb and it was to be killed as a provision so that the angel of death that was to go throughout Egypt would Passover their houses, but would visit every house that did not do as God instructed them to do.

A. Mark your calendar by this date

- This was to be such a significant event in the history of Israel that they were to mark their calendars by it.
- The first month of the Jewish calendar is Nissan, though the name was given to it later. The new year (Rosh Hashanah) actually comes in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar.
- There are many other interesting aspects of the Jewish calendar. They use lunar months and will occasionally add a 13<sup>th</sup> month (leap year) so that Nissan always comes in the spring after the barley harvest.
- One of the greatest truths from the section of scripture, however, is that Jesus is the Lamb that is spoken of here.

**I Peter 1:18-19, “knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”**

- They therefore mark their calendar by the sign of Jesus Christ.

**App – I find it very interesting that we also marked our calendar by Jesus Christ. “A.D.” of course refers to the Latin, anno domini, the year of our Lord, though many have changed that tradition and now say, CE, or common era.**

- But Jesus marks our life as well. When someone accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior they become 'born again' and that marks their life.

**Illus – When I accepted Christ I was eleven years old. I will never forget that day, it marks the beginning for me.**

**Illus – When we have our Candlelight Service every year, we ask each person to put out their candle according to the number of years they have known the Lord.**

- In other words, this is no small events in our lives. But rather should be the central event by which all things are measured.

**B. Have a relationship with the Lamb**

- The Hebrews were to select a lamb on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month and bring it into their homes.
- In other words, they were to grow close to it, even though it was to be killed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month.
- When you bring an animal into your home, certainly the family will grow close to it.
- At one point in the raising of our children, we had something like 17 various animals living in our house.

**Illus – when it came time to put down one of our dogs, we felt like we were losing a member of our family.**

**Illus – We had some friends raised to beef cattle for us once, and so as to make sure the children didn't grow too close to them, we name to them Barbeque and Beef.**

- The point here is that the Lamb was to become precious to the family. This is a typology again for our relationship to Christ.

**App – The point is that God was motivated by His love for us and desires that we would have our hearts committed to Him as well.**

**Romans 5:8, But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

C. The Lamb must be inspected

- The scripture tells us that the Hebrews were to take an unblemished lamb into their homes.
- In other words, someone must inspect the lamb to make sure that it is perfect in every way.
- This is a picture of the sinless perfection of Jesus Christ.

**John 1:29, “The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”**

**Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”**

- But the beautiful application of this to our lives is also that it was *the Lamb that was inspected and not the person bringing the Lamb.*
- Unfortunately, some people like to inspect other people’s lives, but are very poor judges.

- This is the whole point of why we need a Savior. Our sins have separated us from God so that if God were to inspect our lives, we would be found completely bankrupt spiritually.
- The Lamb will die in our place, but only a perfect and sinless Lamb, Jesus Christ, will be able to stand before God in our place.

<b>II. You Must Partake of the Lamb</b>
---

- This next section is such an important part of the scriptures and we must pay special attention to understand all we can because of its application to our own lives today.

**A. The blood must be applied**

- On the fourteenth day of that month, they were to kill the lamb and drain its blood into a basin that they were to set at the threshold of the door of their homes.
- They were then to take a branch from a hyssop tree and sprinkle some of the lamb's blood on the lintel and doorposts of the door.
- Here again the typology is powerful because it speaks of the blood of Jesus Christ that was poured out on Calvary.
- But it's not enough that the blood of Christ was poured out, it must be applied to our lives.

**Illus – What if someone didn't agree with God's provision and preferred his own approach? Could someone post a list of good works on the door post of the**

**house? Or a list of contributions to charity? Could someone think some money or jewelry on the doorposts other house?**

- The blood of Christ applied to our lives is God's provision for our salvation and we must come to God on his terms.
- But there certainly is an aspect of faith involved. In order for the Hebrews to do what God asked, they would have to believe that God's judgment it's coming just as he said, but they would also have to believe that they would be saved by the blood applied to the doorposts of their houses.

**Hebrews 11:28, "By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the first-born might not touch them."**

**Hebrews 9:22, "And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."**

**I Peter 1:18-19, "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."**

- The blood must be applied by faith, not by feelings. There are many times when our feelings will let us down.

**Illus – Do you always feel saved? When you're driving down the freeway and someone cuts you off, you might not at that moment feel saved.**

- By applying the blood of the lamb to the doorposts of their house, they were then “passed over” by the angel of death.
- This is in fact, how we are saved. Every person is under the condemnation of death, but when the blood of Christ is applied to someone’s life; then condemnation does not fall upon them.

## B. The Lamb must be consumed

- The Hebrews were then to eat the lamb in its entirety, anything that was not eaten was to be burned with fire by morning.
- They were not to eat the lamb raw or even boiled in water, but it was to be roasted with fire.
- Here again is the picture of the condemnation of God falling upon Jesus Christ. Some have mistaken this to mean that the fires of hell follow upon Christ. While it is true that we are saved from the fires of hell because of what Christ is done in our behalf, it is God’s judgment that falls on Christ rather than upon us.
- But here we see a picture that we also see in communion. We partake of the body of Jesus Christ and therefore we partake of His righteousness.
- Here is that great exchange. He takes our sin upon Himself and we partake of His righteousness. We become united with Christ in our salvation.

**II Corinthians 5:21, He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

**Illus – If our sins were debts or bounced checks, we would be overdrawn to the point of spiritual bankruptcy. But God not only pays our debts, he adds to our account the unlimited righteousness of God.**

- Notice also that the lamb must be completely consumed. I believe this speaks of our complete fervency in Christ.
- When Christ says that he prefers that we are either hot or cold, He of course prefers that we would be hot. It's all of us that he wants and so we must fully partake of all of God's provision for us.
- Some people believe they can take nibbles and tastes and then give God just a little of themselves, then they wonder why they don't experience the fullness of God's power in their lives.

**Illus – It's like when we take our kids swimming at the lake. There are two ways to get in the water; wading in a little at a time or jumping in all at once. That's the best way to jump in, totally committed to Christ.**

It's the picture of baptism, be buried and raised again to newness of life!! You can't do that in parts, you must do it completely!