

Christ Our Passover Lamb

The Jews had been living in Egypt for 400 years as slaves to the Egyptian people.

But then, just as God had promised Abraham, a deliver was sent — Moses.

Through Moses, God caused a series of 10 plagues to come upon Egypt ... to break Pharaoh and free the Jews from their bondage and slavery.

Ten plagues ... but the last was the worst ...

God was going to send a plague that would mean the death of the firstborn son in every home.

However, God didn't send the plague without warning.

God told the Israelites to kill a lamb, roast the lamb, put the blood of that lamb on the doorposts of their homes, and eat the lamb.

... Any home that obeyed this command, God promised the first born would survive

... any home that did not obey the command ... the first born would die.

This was called the Passover

Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household. 4 'Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. 5 'Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 'You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. (Exodus 12:1-6)

'Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste-- it is the LORD'S Passover. (Exodus 12:11)

PRAY

Jesus on the cross is **a picture** of the greatness of God's love ... and the horror of God's wrath.

- God is a loving God ... so loving in fact, that He sent His son to die for those who hated him.
- God is a holy God ... so holy in that He cannot tolerate even the slightest sin.

You see ... Calvary tells us what **God thinks about us**, and it tells us what **God thinks about sin**.

Sin is a wound, an infraction, a violation that must be healed and undone.

God is repelled by sin.

... and yet when humanity sinned

... a sin that required the eternal death of finite creatures

... rather than discard humanity forever

... the infinite holy God set in motion a plan whereby **He would heal** our wound, **repair our infraction**, and **pay our debt**.

Salvation is the story of a **holy God rescuing unholy humanity**.

This is what the story of the Passover lamb is all about.

The Jews in bondage in Egypt is a picture of us ...

- ... we are all born slaves to sin.
- ... we can't keep from doing wrong

- ... that is “who” and “what” we are ... **that is our flesh.**

Pharoah is a type of the devil, and the Egypt is a type of the world.

... not only are we drawn to sin by our own **flesh,**

... we are also greatly influenced by the **world** and the **devil.**

These are the enemies of our soul: The world, the flesh, and the devil.

Thankfully God has a rescue plan!

In today’s scripture the perfect Passover lamb is **killed**, and its **blood is painted** on the doorposts of the home ... the lamb is **roasted** and then **eaten**

The Passover and the Passover lamb **perfectly pictures** God’s rescue plan for humanity.

1. The Passover Lamb Was Perfect

⁵ 'Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old

Unblemished ... If the lamb had the least defect or sign of disease, it was disqualified.

If there was any imperfection it was ineligible.

The Passover lamb was to be unblemished, perfect, without imperfection, and without flaw.

This was Jesus, He was our spotless, faultless, flawless, perfect Passover lamb.

... he was born of the virgin Mary and begotten of the Holy Ghost.

... without sin, without iniquity, undefiled and separate from sinners

The Passover lamb was also supposed to be a year old ...

... that means a lamb in its prime and at the peak of perfect adulthood.

... not a baby lamb but a full adult.

This was Jesus, the Lamb of God, fully man, in every sense of the word.

... he was not an immature child **but** someone who had fully passed through puberty.

... not a naïve young adult **but** someone who fully knew and understood the temptations of life.

... Jesus knew ... and he was not unaware of what was happening when the Roman soldiers took him away.

... He completely understood his own words when he prayed, *“Father, let this cup pass from me, but not my will, Thine be done.”*

Jesus our Passover Lamb, perfect in every way.

2. The Passover Lamb was Proven

... you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month

God instructed them to **take the lamb away** from the rest of the flock and **inspect it** for four days
...

... to carefully and fully examine it to make sure there was no:

- blemish on the skin;
- crooked limbs;
- the eyes were to be good;
- no tear in the ears;
- no split in the hooves;
- they even checked the inside of the mouth, eyelids, and nostrils of the lamb.

... the Passover lamb was under scrutiny for 4 days to make sure there was nothing that would

render it unacceptable to God.

Again, here we see the Lord Jesus Christ pictured.

... because for, 4 days, beginning with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was under intense scrutiny.

... as if to intentionally show that he was a Lamb being prepared for slaughter

... Jesus rode through the eastern gate right up to the temple as if to say, “let the investigation begin.”

Interesting fact ... the gospels record more about those last 4 days of Jesus’ ministry than they do about the rest of Jesus life.

... this is majority of what is recorded in the gospels.

And during those four days:

- Jesus cursed the unfruitful fig tree
- he drove the moneychangers from the temple
- he reprimanded the chief priests and elders
- he told the parable of the husbandmen, who killed those who were sent to them
- also, the parable of the man who went to the feast without a wedding garment
- the parable of the ten virgins, five wise, and five foolish
- He told his disciples, *“Let not your heart be troubled, you believe God, believe also in me ... I go to prepare a place for you that where I am you also may be.”*

The greatest things that Jesus did and taught occurred in those last four days before his crucifixion.

During those 4 days Jesus Christ was examined by every class of people.

The **lawyer** asked him which was the greatest commandment? and he said, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy might; and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

The **Pharisees** tempted him ... The **Sadducees** tried to trip him up about the resurrection

... The **Herodians** came and questioned him about the tribute money

Every class of person ... common, military, religious, political ... scrutinized him.

AND WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THIS INTENSE EXAMINATION?

The **officers** said, *"never has a man talked like this man."*

Pilate declared, *"I find no fault in him."*

The soldier at Calvary announced, *"surely this was the son of God."*

3. The Passover Lamb Satisfies

Look at what Paul wrote to the Corinthian church.

For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

Paul says something that the Old Testament Jews could not say.

... they could only say a **Passover lamb** has been sacrificed ...

... Paul says what we can say, CHRIST OUR PASSOVER has been sacrificed!

... and this is something that every born-again child of God can say

... not just that Christ is crucified ... but **Christ our Passover Lamb is crucified for us!**

... You see, Christ is our hope for life and peace is because of two things:

His **blood** and His **body**.

⁷ '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. ⁸'They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ 'Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails. ¹⁰ 'And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. (Exodus 12:8-10)

The **blood of the Passover lamb** was **collected** and **sprinkled** on the two sides and top of the door frame.

... then they ate the flesh of the roasted lamb.

How does this picture Jesus Christ our Passover Lamb being sacrificed for us?

The best way I know to illustrate this is to read you something **written by Charles Spurgeon** on December 2, 1855, ...

... this is how he imagined that first Passover night in Egypt thousands of years ago ...

"It is evening. The Egyptians are going homeward—no thought of what is coming.

But just as soon as the sun is set, a lamb is brought into every house.

The Egyptian strangers passing by, say, "These Hebrews are about to keep a feast tonight," and they retire to their houses utterly careless about it.

The father of the Hebrew house takes his lamb, and examining it once more with anxious curiosity, looks it over from head to foot, to see if it has a blemish.

***He findeth none.** "My son," he says to one of them, "bring hither the bason." It is held. He stabs the lamb, and the blood flows into the bason.*

Do you not think you see the father, as he commands his matronly wife to roast the lamb before the fire! "Take heed," he says, "that not a bone be broken."

Do you see her intense anxiety, as she puts it down to roast, lest a bone should be broken?

Now, says the father, "bring a bunch of hyssop." A child brings it.

The father dips it into the blood. "Come here, my children, wife and all, and see what I am about to do." He takes the hyssop in his hands, dips it in the blood, and sprinkles it across the lintel and the doorpost.

His children say, "What mean you by this ordinance?"

He answers, "This night the Lord God will pass through to smite the Egyptians, and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come into your houses to smite you."

***The thing is done; the lamb is cooked;** the guests are set down to it the father of the family has supplicated a blessing; they are sitting down to feast upon it. And mark how the old man carefully divides joint from joint, lest a bone should be broken; and he is particular that the smallest child of the family should have some of it to eat, for **so** the Lord hath commanded.*

Do you not think you see him as he tells them, "It is a solemn night—make haste—in another hour we shall all go out of Egypt."

He looks at his hands, they are rough with labor, and clapping them, he cries, "I am not to be a slave any longer."

His eldest son, perhaps, has been smarting under the lash, and he says, "Son, you have had the task-master's lash upon you this afternoon; but it is the last time you shall feel it."

He looks at them all, with tears in his eyes—"This is the night the Lord God will deliver you."

Do you see them with their hats on their heads, with their loins girt, and their staves in their hands? It is the dead of the night.

Suddenly they hear a shriek! The father says, "Keep within doors, my children; you will know what it is, in a moment."

Now another shriek—another shriek—shriek succeeds shriek: they hear perpetual wailing and lamentation. "Remain within," the father says, "the angel of death is flying abroad."

A solemn silence is in the room, and they can almost hear the wings of the angel flap in the air as he passes their blood-marked door.

"Be calm," says the father, "that blood will save you."

The shrieking increases. "Eat quickly, my children."

In a moment the Egyptians come and say, "Get thee hence! Get thee hence! We are not here for the jewels that you have borrowed. You have brought death into our houses."

"Oh!" says one mother, "Go! for God's sake! go. My eldest son lies dead!"

"Go!" says a father, "Go! and peace go with you. It was an ill day when your people came into Egypt, and our king began to slay your first-born, for God is punishing us for our cruelty."

***Ah!** see the Jews leaving the land; the shrieks are still heard behind them; the people are busy about their dead.*

As they go out, a son of Pharaoh is taken away to be buried in one of the pyramids.

But this is a happy night for God's people—when they finally escape their lives of slavery and bondage!

I hope you notice that they had to both **sprinkle the blood** AND **eat the lamb**.

This is exactly how Peter pictures the blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: (1 Pet. 1:1-2)

Everyone, without exception, is born a sinner and therefore the object of God's righteous wrath.

... **because of this** there was a great spiritual chasm between unrighteous humanity and righteous God.

... but thankfully God is not only righteous and just ... He is also loving, gracious, and merciful.

... Therefore, God took it upon Himself **to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.**

... to pay debt, take away our sin, and reconcile us to Him.

And our heavenly father did that through the blood of Jesus Christ our Passover Lamb.

¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him (Col. 1:19-20)

We are saved because the blood of Jesus Christ satisfies the Father!

But even beyond this ...

... thousands of years ago when these Hebrew slaves ate the flesh of the first Passover lamb ...

... **in that action they pictured and prophesied** of the coming Lamb of God who would Himself, satisfy every precious child of God.

²⁷ God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col. 1:26-27)

When the blood of Jesus Christ is applied to soul, Jesus himself takes up residence in that soul, in the person of the blessed Holy Spirit.

God the Father is satisfied and so are you!

You see were designed for more than the pursuit of temporary pleasure.

All of us, in ourselves, are empty shells of discontentment seeking satisfaction in all the wrong things.

... We're always eating and always hungry. ...

... Always drinking but never satisfied.

Jesus, our Passover lamb satisfies us forever!

- *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. (Jn. 6:35)*
- *⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good. (Ps. 107:9)*

4. There is Safety in the Passover Lamb

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, (Exod. 12:13)

Much like Noah's Ark if you are "behind the door," which is Christ Jesus, then you are forever safe!

If you have been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ ... you are ever secure.

YES, I want to obey the commandments of Christ; I try to obey the commandments of Christ ... but I am far from perfect.

... no matter how hard I try I am incapable, in myself, of being holy

... I cannot satisfy myself ... and even more than that, I cannot satisfy a holy, righteous God!

... In other words, **I cannot do what only Jesus Christ My Passover lamb must do.**

My only hope for **satisfaction** ... my only hope for **righteousness** ... my only hope for **safety** ...

... is Jesus Christ Our Passover Lamb

Listen to the prayer of the Psalmist ...

Save me, LORD, from my enemies; I flee to You to hide me. (Psalm 143:9)

... If OUR only hope is Jesus Christ... then WE SHOULD FLEE TO HIM!

Sinner and Saint alike! ... Flee to him.

If OUR only hope is Jesus Christ ... then why are we continually looking elsewhere?

I'm not just talking just about sinners who **blindly refuse to accept Jesus** as their Lord and Savior.

... I'm talking about **children of God, who day after day, avoid intimacy with God!**

... no **prayer time**, no time **in God's word**, no time **meditating in silence, dwelling in God's presence.**

This is not a rebuke! This is a plea!

This is not chastisement! This is an appeal: FLEE TO CHRIST!

I want to leave you with the words of David Wilkerson from one of his final sermons.

Video of David Wilkerson