

The Blood of the Lamb

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Exodus 12:1–13

Introduction

Prayer

Lord we come before you in worship. You alone are God. Lord cause us to remember. May we remember the nature of your word and the nature of your works. May today be a day where we remember your wondrous act of sovereign Grace in redeeming us from sin and death. May this time be clarifying as we think through the doctrine and

theology and the enduring ramifications of what you have done. May your words capture us and change our hearts and our minds and make us cling more closely to you and prize what you have done. We ask you that you would give us clarity and conviction at this time. We ask that you would grant eyes that can see and ears that can hear your truth and believe in your Gospel. Cause us to have hearts of worship and obedience. Draw us closer to yourself through your Word this morning. In your glorious name we pray, Amen.

Illustration

Before a building is constructed, ground must be broken and a foundation must be laid. Before a tree grows and bears fruit, a seed must first be planted. In order to arrive at your final destination you must first begin your journey. For something to be finished it must first have a beginning. Today what we see in our text of Exodus 12:1-13 is the foundation for God's crowning work of Salvation. What we have in this Old Testament passage is the seed of the tree which grew to become the cross on which our savior died. **Here in this old old story we have the**

beginning of the wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin, the dawn of the story of Jesus and His love.

Context of Exodus 12

Before we dive in to Exodus 12, let me bring you up to speed on the context of this book. Exodus is the book where God declares and demonstrates His name, YHWH. This book is all about Him - Who He is, what He says and what He does. Exodus begins with God's chosen people, Israel, living in the world's first great empire - Egypt. A key passage to understand how Israel ended up

in Egypt is found in Genesis 15. This is the glorious chapter where God officially arranges His covenant with Abraham and promises to make his offspring as numerous as the stars in heaven and give them the Promised Land of Canaan. It is also in this chapter that God makes this promise in verses 13-14, “**13** God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be **strangers** in a land that is not theirs, where they will be **enslaved** and **oppressed four hundred years.** **14** “But I will also **judge** the nation whom they will serve, and afterward **they**

will come out with many possessions. ” Then at the close of Genesis we see God cause Jacob, the great-grandson of Abraham, and his twelve sons settle in the land of Egypt in order to survive a famine. See in this that it was God’s sovereign plan to send Jacob and His twelve sons to Egypt. It was God’s design Exodus begins three generations later, after Jacob and his sons have died. It is in chapter 1 that we see Pharoah, the king of the world’s first empire, attempting to thwart the Promises God that He made to Abraham. **God**

promised to multiply the offspring of Abraham. Pharaoh ordered the murder of Abraham's offspring. God promised to bring Abraham's offspring into the promised Land of Canaan. Pharaoh ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service to prevent them from escaping from the land of Egypt.

Despite Pharaoh's satanic efforts, God continued to multiply the people of Israel. God also raised up a deliverer for His people,

Moses. God was doing this before the Hebrew people had any idea that He was working to deliver them and bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey.

They were just lowly slaves making bricks to build the great cities of Pharaoh. Exodus 2:23 says that they were crying out to be rescued from this existence.

But their cries weren't directed at anyone, they had no hope and no understanding of God's work and God's promises. And yet, God hears their cry and sends the deliverer that He raised up.

When Moses comes to Pharaoh to relay the command of YHWH

to “let my people go” Pharaoh mockingly responds in Exodus 5:2, “Who is YHWH that I should obey his voice?”. God then shows Pharaoh who exactly He is by sending 9 devastating plagues upon Pharaoh and Egypt. In the epic chapters of Exodus 6-10 you can read how the Creator of the universe demonstrates His sovereign power over the creation and creatures He created for the purpose of judging Pharaoh and delivering His people. In Exodus 9:14-16 we read of that God’s ultimate purpose in sending the plagues. He tells Moses to declare this to

Pharaoh **14** “For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, **so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth...** **16** “But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, **in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.** God has sovereignly preserved the lives of the Egyptians through these plagues and He has sovereignly been working in the already rebellious heart of Pharaoh so that He might demonstrate His supremacy, His power, His glory,

His otherness as God alone, His judgement against sin and idolatry and His covenant love for His chosen people.

In Exodus 11:4-7 God declares to Pharoah his death blow, the tenth and final plague “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.**” But in verse we see that **7** ‘**against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the Lord makes a distinction between**

Egypt and Israel.”” Exodus began with God working behind the scenes to accomplish His promises. Here YHWH declares that He will personally come down and deal the final death blow to Pharaoh and end His people’s enslavement in Egypt. Notice that this 10th plague will be a dual miracle of sorts, God will miraculously cause the death of all the first born in Egypt and He will miraculously cause there to be a distinction between the wailing in the homes of the Egyptians and the complete silence that will occur in the homes of the Israelites

However there is a tension here. God declares that He will make a distinction between Israel and Egypt, implying that the firstborn of Israel will be spared from this plague. This is God fulfilling the promises He made in His covenant with Abraham, to bring His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.

And yet his people are deserving of punishment as well. If you look carefully at the wording of verse 5, God did not say that “all the firstborn of the land of Egypt shall die”, but “all the firstborn in the land of

Egypt". **This sentence of judgement included all the households in Egypt, both the Hebrew homes and those of the Egyptians.** This sentence was not unjust. The Hebrew people were just as implicated as the Egyptians were. They were sinners deserving of the wrath of God too. As Paul lays in Romans 3, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Jews and gentiles alike are all under sin and the penalty for their sin is death. Sin against God is capital offense. This is the reality that all men and women face. When our first parents

violated the command of God and ate the forbidden fruit they became mortal and depraved as did all the human race that came from them Not only were the Hebrews sinners by nature, they had willfully offended the holiness of God in several ways. They rejected the words of Moses, they were filled with doubt and anger at God when He began to send His plague; which you can read about in Exodus 5:20-23. Lastly, in Joshua 24:14, Joshua commends the children of this generation who were slaves in Egypt to, “Put away the gods that your fathers served

beyond the River and in Egypt”
How then can God show favor and mercy upon the homes of the Israelites on that night? They were a people filled with unbelief, doubt and idolatry. How can God make a distinction between Israel and Egypt without violating His just judgement? How can God’s just wrath against sinners and His love and mercy for His chosen people be reconciled? The solution to this is found in Exodus 12.

Maint Point

Here in Exodus 12 we see God reveal His signature

move: sovereignly saving His chosen people from His just wrath for the purpose of magnifying His name and His glory in all the earth. Here in this ancient book, written 3500 years ago, God demonstrated His sovereign grace to His people, even while they were yet sinners rebelling against Him. God revealed His love for them by devising a plan to show mercy to them and yet still satisfy His just wrath against their sin. God requires death for sin, and in

Exodus 12 we see that God provides what God required. That is the message of this passage, **God provided what God required: a substitute sacrifice to die for His people.**

Structure

We will see this message in the following structure. In verses 1-5 we will see God's substitute selected. In verses 6-11 we will see God's substitute slaughtered. Lastly in verse 12-13 we will see God's people saved.

1. **God's Substitute Selected - 12:1-5**

2. **God's Substitute**

Slaughtered - 12:6-11

**3. God's People Saved -
12:12-13.**

Transition

**So then let us see the mighty
plan of God unfold
beginning in verses 1-6:
God's Substitute Selected.
Let's begin by looking at
verse 1.**

God's Substitute

Selected - vs 1-6

A New Calendar for a

New Nation - vs 1-2

1 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.

The chapter begins with God changing their national calendar. From that moment forward the new year was to begin in the month that God delivered Israel out of Egypt. God is here defining the national agenda of Israel. In the United States, our national holiday - Independence Day - sets the agenda and the identity for who we are as Americans. We are all about

freedom and individual liberty, that is what is engrained in our national ethos. For Israel, the holiday of Passover set the agenda and the identity for who they are as Israelites. They are a people who are all about God and His redeeming work of Salvation. This is how we, the people of God today, look at our lives as well. It is almost like we have lived two lives. One life before we were saved, and the life that we live now, as if experienced a second birth. Let's look now at verse 3.

**Each one, Each
household, Each**

neighbor - vs 3-4

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**.’

Notice here how God commands each man of the congregation to take a lamb. What we see here is

that this sacrifice is both congregational and individual.

Because every individual is marred by the stain of sin, every individual must

participate. Each father was to

officiate this sacrifice for his household and if the household

was too small to share one lamb, they were to perform this with

their neighbors. Lastly, God's desire for an individual response from each of his people is seen

when we look closely. **In verse 3.**

the Passover Lamb is called a lamb, in verse 4 it is called

the lamb and then in verse 5.

it is called your lamb. See

here how amazing the Love of God is in that He desires a personal relationship with each one of His chosen people. The lamb that they chose was to be their own lamb.

Sacrificial Lamb - vs 5

5 **Your lamb** shall be an **unblemished** male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Nothing but a perfect, spotless sacrifice could satisfy the requirements of God. The Israelites were not spotless, their sin and their guilt marked the record of their lives. Only a

spotless lamb could satisfy God's wrath. Later in the chapter in Exodus, in verse 46, God commands that the bones of the lamb remain unbroken. This was the plan of the sovereign God who in His great mercy and grace provided what He required: an unbroken and unblemished lamb.

Transition

So then we saw that God provided what God required a spotless lamb for every household so that every person may participate. Now let's look at our next section: God's

Substitute Slaughtered.

We'll start in verse 6,

God's Substitute Slaughtered - vs 6-11

The Slaughtered Lamb - vs 6

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.

In verse 6 God commands that

the whole assembly of the congregation kill the passover lamb at the same time - twilight. See here the corporate nature of the individual sacrifice. God desires a relationship with each one of His chosen people, but He also desire to be worshipped by His people as a corporate body. Notice as well that God's plan for salvation requires a sacrifice. This lamb is not a pet but a substitute. Remember, the wages for sin is death. Either the first born dies, or the lamb dies. The innocent substitute must die for the guilty sinner. Surely, this would have been strange to the

people upon first hearing these commands. It would have been foolishness to the wise. But God does things His way, this was His plan and His wisdom confounds the wisdom of man.

Blood-covered Wood

- VS 7

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.

It is crucial that we remember that YHWH, not Israel is describing this procedure. This is the plan of God's sovereign

Grace. What He commanded was that the blood of the sacrificial lamb be placed on the doorway of each household. This was not Israel's plan or their own method for averting the wrath of God. God commanded the procedure that would avert His wrath. In salvation God provides what God requires.

Here in verse 7 we see God instruct the people what to do with the blood of the Passover lamb. We will discover the purpose behind this instruction in verse 13 but here in verse 7 I want you to see God requiring each of his people to exercise

faith. The only way to be saved from the wrath of God was for each Israelite to trust in the blood of the lamb. Staining the wood of their doorposts with the blood was a public confession of faith, it was a sign that they trusted in the atoning effect of the sacrificial lamb. See here the crystal clear picture of salvation by grace through faith. God in His sovereign grace provided the atoning lamb and then the Israelites demonstrated their trust in the blood of the lamb and by faith painted their doorways with its blood. Now then, in verses 8-11 God

gives instructions for what they must do after they applied the blood of the Passover Lamb.

Fast Food - vs 8-11

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. **11** ‘**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.

Much can be said about the significance of each of these details here. But the main point of these three verses is that Israel was to eat the lamb in haste. The reason for this haste is the same reason fast food is convenient, they didn't have time to sit down and relax, there was no time to linger about in their miserable existence in Egypt. They were going somewhere - that night they were leaving their homes in

Egypt behind and beginning their journey to the Promised Land. This was a forward looking meal. They were to anticipate the decisive and instantaneous deliverance from Egypt. God wasn't going to struggle to deliver His people. When God breaks the bondage of sin, those chains fall off and the doors of the prison open instantly. They were to be prepared to leave and never look back. So too must we never long for our the conditions of our time as slaves to our sin. We have been delivered and we must move with haste as we journey to that Great Celestial

City, the Kingdom of God.

Transition

After learning about the instructions for the Passover in our first two sections we will now learn about the purpose for the Passover in our final section, God's People Saved.

God's People

Saved - vs 12-13

The Wrath of YHWH

- VS 12

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.**

The Egyptians worshiped idols fashioned in the image of animals and insects. They worshiped the Nile river, they worshiped the sky and they worshiped the sun. In the first 9 plagues YHWH demonstrated that He alone is God by exercising His sovereign control over the environments, elements and creatures that the people of Egypt worshiped. In this final

plague, God is not only executing judgement against all in the land of Egypt for their sin; He isn't only executing judgement against Pharaoh for his satanic enslavement of God's people; He is also dealing one final decisive blow against the false religion of the Egyptians. The chief of all the Egyptian deities was Pharaoh himself. He was the one whom they believed was the ultimate authority for all of life. When one Pharaoh died his firstborn son became the new chief deity. By killing the firstborn of Pharaoh, God showed that the most powerful of all the Egyptian gods,

Pharoah was in fact powerless. He had no power over life. He couldn't even save the life of his son from the hand of YHWH.

See here how God is declaring that He alone has the power over life for He is the one who created life itself.

At the end of verse 12 God declares I am YHWH - I am who I am. Remember that the theme of the book of Exodus is God revealing His name. **In this 10th plague He displayed His awesome and unmatched power, He displayed His supremacy.**

and sovereignty over creation, He displayed His exclusiveness as the one true God, He displayed His just wrath and judgement against sin and He displayed His grand design to save those whom He loves.

This 10th plague is the climax of God revealing who He is to His people and to the world. In an instant, He judges the wicked and delivers His chosen people. Let's look at our last verse and witness the sovereign grace of YHWH.

The Grace of YHWH -

VS 13

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.

What saves the Hebrew from the 10th plague? Was it being raised in a good Hebrew home? What is doing more good deeds than bad? Was it following all the traditions and customs of the Hebrew forefathers? No. In God’s plan of salvation, it is only the blood of the lamb that saves. By painting the blood of the lamb

on their doorpost, the Israelites were trusting in the death of an innocent substitute in their place. When they looked up and saw the blood stained wood, they knew that they were covered. That night, the blood of the lamb covered over their sin so that they were no longer guilty and deserving of judgement. Their stain of sin was placed on the slain lamb and in return they were seen as spotless, like an unblemished lamb. Not only did the blood cover over the guilt of their sin, it turned away the wrath of God. The blood was what theologians call a

propitiation. See in the second half of the verse how God declares that **when He sees the blood**, He will pass over the house. Death had already done its work there. The innocent had died for the guilty and God's just wrath was satisfied.

Transition

Do we not serve a glorious and awesome God? How amazing is His sovereign plan for salvation and judgment? God provided what God required: a substitute sacrifice to die for His people. That is what we saw in Exodus 12. We

read how God instructed Israel to select a substitute. Then we saw God instruct Israel to slaughter that substitute. And then we finished by witnessing how God saved His people. But as I've shown you before, that glorious night in Egypt was just a shadow and a foretaste.

Conclusion

The Lamb Crucified
Shadows of the Cross

You see, on that night in Egypt,
God provided what God

required: the blood of the lamb staining the wood of the doorway so that the sons of Israel might live. 1,500 years later, on a day on Mount Golgotha, God provided what God required: a substitute sacrifice. It was there that the Lamb of God was slaughtered, His blood staining the wood of the cross He hung on so that all who believe in Him might be covered in His blood and have eternal life.

Christ Our Passover Lamb

See here what a glorious foretaste of the gospel is found in

this ancient book.

In the Gospel of John we see John the Baptist, upon seeing Jesus for the first time, declare,

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” Christ was our

perfect, unblemished and unbroken substitute.

He was perfectly holy, He lived a perfectly righteous life. He was truly unblemished. But on the

cross, **“21** He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor 5:21). He took our sin, He

bore our shame and we in turn received His holy righteousness “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (Romans 5:8-9) We are no longer guilty in the eyes. His blood justifies us. When God the Almighty Judge looks at the doorposts of our hearts He sees the blood of Christ and passes over our sins. Finally, it was His blood that paid the price for our deliverance from slavery to sin and death. 7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace (Eph 1:7) and “You were redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” (1 Pet. 1:18, 19)

It is for this reason Paul calls Christ our Passover Lamb in 1 Corinthians 5:7.

Applications from the Text

Allow me to finish by giving you two main applications from this text and I want to give them to

you in the form of a question.

Do you Believe?

First, Do you believe? Ask yourself, do I believe that Christ's death has paid the penalty for my sins, that His blood covers over the stain of my transgressions against God? Do I believe that the wrath of God was satisfied in Christ alone and that I contribute no righteousness of my own in order to receive forgiveness? Do you believe in the blood of the Lamb?

Dear friends, the Word of God is clear that the wrath of God will be visited upon sinners. As I read before, the wages of sin is death.

If all have sinned, then that obviously includes me and you. You will never see your need of salvation until you accept that you are as guilty as everyone else of sinning against the God of the Universe. As Pastor H.B. Charles puts it, “that is the bad news. The worst news is that there is nothing *you* can do to fix the fact that your sin separates you from God. But the good news is God sent His Son Jesus to die at the cross to pay for your sin and [He] rose from the dead for your justification. And the best news is if a you run to the cross today and trust in Jesus you can have

free forgiveness, new life, and eternal hope this very day.

Dear friend do not wait till you have your act together to experience the Love of God.

Theologian A.W. Pink paints a beautiful picture to illustrate this point, “God’s eye was not upon the house, but on the blood. It might have been a lofty house, a strong house, a beautiful house; this made no difference; if there was no blood there judgment entered and did its deadly work. Its height, its strength, its magnificence availed nothing, if the blood was lacking. On the other hand, the house might be a

miserable hovel, falling to pieces with age and decay; but no matter; if *blood* was upon its door, those within were perfectly safe.” My dear friends, do you believe?

Do you Remember?

The second question I want you to ask yourself is: Do you Remember?

Moses’ Command:

Remember - vs 13:3

After God executed the 10th plague and the people performed the Passover, Moses gave this command to the people in Chapter 13:3, “**Remember this**

day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place.” He then goes on to command them to keep the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened bread when they enter the Promised Land of Canaan. See from this that even when the Israelites reach the promised land they must never forget their origins. They were to remember, all the days of their lives the day that they came out of the land of Egypt
To remember is to devotedly focus your mind and to keep your

focus on that object, lest you forget. Do you remember how Christ saved you and delivered you from your bondage to sin? Do you remember that you were once dead in your trespasses and sins and that you were once separate from Christ, having no hope and without God? Do you remember how God made you alive and saved you by His grace? Do you remember how you who were far off have been brought near by the Blood of Christ? There are myriads of benefits to remembering Christ but I just want to finish by highlighting 2 for you today.

Remembrance brings Peace and Assurance

First, remembrance brings about peace and assurance.

There may be some of you hear who are filled with doubt and anxiety and fear that you will not be saved. So often we are tempted to base our assurance on how we are feeling, on something within ourselves, on an experience. When we do this we make ourselves the source of our hope, our peace and our assurance. Dear saints, remember Christ. Fix your mind upon Him and His work of salvation. Constantly remind

yourself that it is by the blood of Christ that you are saved. *His sacrifice has secured your salvation.* Your security lies at the cross. If you have been covered by the blood of Christ you will be saved from eternal death and to eternal life. God promised the Israelites that when He saw the blood He would pass over. The blood of the Lamb secured their salvation. The promise of God provided them peace and assurance. This is the promise of God to you dear friend, “**24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has

eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24).

Remembrance Produces a Heart of Worship and Obedience

Israel’s Example - Exodus 12:27b-28

Lastly, remembrance produces a heart of worship. In Exodus 12, upon hearing the instructions of God for the Passover from Moses we see the people’s response, starting at the end of verse 27, “the people bowed down and worshiped. **28** Then the sons of

Israel went and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.” What is the proper response to God’s sovereign grace? Worship and obey. This is what the Israelites did that day. Every Israelite bowed down and worshipped God and then they followed all His commands for that night. When we are constantly fixing our mind on God and His sovereign grace our hearts are constantly compelled to worship Him and filled with a longing to serve Him.

The inverse of this is true also, when we do the opposite of

remembering, when we forget, our hearts tend to stray. This is what the Psalmist observed about this very generation of Israelites in Psalm 106 starting in verse 10, “**10** So He saved them from the hand of the one who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. **11** The waters covered their adversaries; Not one of them was left. **12** Then they believed His words; They sang His praise. **13** They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, **14** But craved intensely in the wilderness, And tempted God in

the desert.” See here that when we cease to remember, and instead forget the works of our Savior, we easily fall into the trap of disobedience and idolatry. We must not fall into this trap but instead, as the Author of Hebrews writes in Hebrews 12:1-2, “**1** 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, **2** **fixing our eyes on Jesus,** the author and perfecter of faith,

who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Closing Statement

So then, today we learned that God provided what God required: a substitute sacrifice to die for His people. His name is Jesus, the Firstborn Son of God, our Passover Lamb. Will you believe in Him? Will you remember Him?

Benediction

Paul says this in Romans

11:33-36, “33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom

and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! **34** For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? **35** Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? **36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”