

## AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE FOR SINS

Today we are in **Week 2** of the second section of our Through The Bible journey called **“Promised Land”** as we continue to follow the unfolding story of how God is preparing the way for Israel to return back to the Land He promised to their fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). Of course as we learned last time, God has chosen Moses as the one to go back to Egypt and deliver His people from bondage and to lead them back to the Land of Promise in Canaan. We need to take note of the fact that **everything God is doing here in Exodus is preparation for how Israel is to conduct themselves when they actually get to possess the Promised Land**. One important aspect to their way of life in the Promised Land is how they are going to maintain a right relationship with God. **In essence God is establishing an important practice of worship that will allow them to teach their children about their history, God’s faithfulness to His people and how it is that God overcomes the sin that can often hinder our lives.** If you think about it, that is exactly what we are called to do in our lives as followers of Jesus. We are to **TEACH** our children and others about God and the history surrounding our faith. **TEACH** our children and others how to worship God and be in a right relationship with Him. And to **TEACH** our children and others how it is that God overcomes our sin. And that is exactly what the **PASSOVER** is all about here in Exodus 12. So if you will turn there with me, I am going to **PRAY** for us as we begin.

When we last left Moses, God had revealed to Moses that he was the one God wanted to use to deliver Israel out of bondage in Egypt. After wrestling with God and trying to make excuses as to why he was a poor candidate for this endeavor, Moses finally surrenders to God’s call on his life. After a series of pleas by Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh to let the people of God go, God sends a series of plagues upon Egypt to show Pharaoh that God not only means business but that the power of God is greater than any deity that Egypt worshiped or depended on for good fortune. With each plague Pharaoh only hardened his heart toward God and refused to release Israel from Egyptian bondage. In fact, not only does he refuse to let them go, Pharaoh makes things harder on God’s people as a result. After 9 attempts to persuade Pharaoh to let Israel go and after an ultimatum from Pharaoh threatening the life of Moses. God declares one final plague on Egypt.

**Exodus 11:1 (NIV) 1** Now the Lord had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.

**Exodus 11:4-8 (NIV) 4** So Moses said, “This is what the Lord says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. **5** Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. **6** There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. **7** But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.’ Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. **8** All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will leave.” Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

As a result of Pharaoh's hard heart where he refused God's request to let the people of Israel go, there is now a death sentence hanging over all the first born sons of all creatures in the land. **But because God is gracious and merciful He is going to provide a way of escape for those who are willing to take it.** Just like He did for Noah in **Genesis 8**. Just like God provided for Lot in **Genesis 19**. And just like God provided for Isaac on Mt Moriah in **Genesis 22**. God rescues those from SIN's judgment who want to be rescued. And here in **Exodus 12** God is going to provide a way of escape once again.

When it comes to issues of SIN (remember the definition of sin is anything that is done where we do not trust God) there is only one thing that will atone for or cover our sin and that is the shedding of blood. **Hebrews 9:22 (NIV) In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

Just like Egypt had a plague hanging over them, we all have the plague of sin hanging over us as well. And with that plague comes a death sentence as we learned in week one of **"In The Beginning"**. **Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV) 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."**

So the reality is that something must die in order for our sin to be atoned for. **Either we have to die or something else has to take our place.** It is through what God is going to call the people of Israel to do to avoid this coming plague that God is going to institute a sacrificial system that will become a way of atoning for their sins moving forward in the future. In fact, this passover sacrifice that is to be instituted by Israel will also be a look ahead as to what the Promised One (Jesus) will accomplish for us when He becomes our Passover Lamb as revealed by the NT.

So here is what I want us to do today. First, we are going to look at the **details Moses was given regarding this PASSOVER SACRIFICE**. And then I want us to see **how their PASSOVER SACRIFICE relates to Jesus who is our PASSOVER SACRIFICE**

**Exodus 12:1-3 (NIV) 1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.** First of all, I want you to notice that this PASSOVER event will signify to ISRAEL the official beginning of them as a nation. Every time they celebrate this event in the future it will be like our 4th of July to us for this is the moment when God first established them as a nation. **3 Tell the whole community of Israel** They were to make this known to ALL the people. This signifies the importance of it! It is essential that everyone knows about this because it literally is a matter of life and death. It was essential for their well being because it was God's plan for delivering Israel from bondage in Egypt.

This reminds me of our responsibility as followers of Jesus to tell others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ! **Mark 16:15-16 (NIV) 15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.** This is the same reality for everyone in Egypt at this moment in time. If they believe and do what they are asked to do they will be spared the judgment that is

coming. But if they refuse to believe and don't do it they will suffer the consequences. Here in verses 5 we see the first detail given regarding the passover sacrifice.

### **The sacrifice must be WITHOUT DEFECT**

**Exodus 12:3-5 (NIV)** **3** Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. **4** If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. **5** The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. That which was to be sacrificed was to be from their choicest of animals. They could not bring a sacrifice using their sickly or crippled animals. It also could not be their old animals that were close to death and had served their purpose. It had to be a young sheep or goat that was without spot or blemish.

**When it comes to what we bring God we should always offer our best!** I want you to notice that when it comes to God and the sacrifice offering He made for our sins He offered us the best He had! **1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)** **18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

God offered up for us His perfect spotless Son so that through his blood we could be redeemed from our sin! **Because God gave us His best we should always seek to give Him our best.** Whether in worship! Whether in service! Whether in all of our life! **Do you bring God your best?** Based on what He has given us we should always give Him ours! Notice the second detail regarding the passover sacrifice.

### **The blood must be APPLIED by FAITH**

**Exodus 12:6-7 (NIV)** **6** Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. **7** Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. As we noted earlier, blood is required in order to save from death. And since a death sentence had been placed on Egypt's first born it was important for God to be able to distinguish those who are His people from those who were in Egypt. And so to accomplish that God asks His people (those who are willing to trust Him by faith) to apply the blood of the sacrificed lamb to the door of their homes. This act of faith, using the agent that God required for atonement, allowed the death angel to pass over their home. The act of doing what God had asked them to do was in itself a declaration of faith and it was this faith that spared their lives. Just like the doorway is the entrance to a home leading to the family who is inside. Our hearts are the doorways to the soul that lead to who we are and when we apply the blood of Jesus to our hearts by FAITH God's wrath towards our sin passes over us as well.

**Romans 5:8-9 (NIV)** **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Detail #1 - The sacrifice must be without defect. Detail #2 - The blood must be applied by faith. And here is detail #3;

### **The sacrifice is to be THOROUGH without anything remaining**

**Exodus 12:8-10 (NIV)** **8** That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. **9** Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. **10** Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. When it comes to a sacrifice it is to be a complete and a thorough sacrifice the way God has asked for it to be. **We come to God on His terms not ours.** The sacrifice God asked them to make was to be complete without anything leftover or remaining. God asks us for complete obedience. In fact, as we have already stated a few weeks ago, **“Partial obedience is still disobedience!”** God is trying to show His people that when He does something for them it is thorough and complete. He wants us to know that when He provides for our atonement it is a thorough and complete atonement. This is especially true of the sacrifice Jesus made for us that atones for our sin.

**Hebrews 10:8-14 (NIV)** **8** First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. **9** Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. **10** And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **11** Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. (In a complete sense because they always have to come back and offer more sacrifices) **12** But when this priest (JESUS) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, **13** and since that time He waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. **14** For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Once Jesus was offered up there was no more need for sacrifices. Nothing more to add. What he did was thorough and complete once and for all. If you have Jesus that is all you need for complete forgiveness! Detail #1 - The sacrifice must be without defect. Detail #2 - The blood must be applied by faith. Detail #3 - The sacrifice is to be THOROUGH without anything remaining and Detail #4

### **The deliverance is SURE and they must be READY to GO when it comes**

**Exodus 12:11-13 (NIV)** **11** This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover. The deliverance that is going to be accomplished on their behalf is a sure thing and when it is accomplished they must be ready to step out into it and leave where they ARE for where God wants them to BE. No time to waste! No time to think about it! No time to play around! They must be ready to move and go when it is accomplished. How many times have we prayed for deliverance from something only to remain where we are rather than stepping into where God wants to take us because we are too comfortable where we are. If we are honest with ourselves we are more comfortable in the bondage of our sin than we are walking with God in faith. We don’t like our bondage but walking by faith seems a little scary and uncomfortable. If you are

praying for God to deliver you from your current situation where you are in bondage to something you need to do two important heart checks:

- 1) **Expect God to provide for your release** (God wants to set us free. It isn't a matter of IF it is a matter of WHEN )
- 2) **Prepare to move when He does** (You cannot stay where you are because He has something much greater for you. But know this, it requires that we trust Him. If you want change you have to be ready to GO and to move from where you are currently to where it is God wants you to be)

Judgment is coming one day, for the Lord is holy and righteous. He will not let sin go unchecked or unpunished. However, when the blood of Jesus is applied to your life by faith God's judgment will pass over you. So the question becomes: **Have you applied the blood of Christ to your life?**

As the first Passover marked the Hebrews' release from Egyptian slavery, so the death of Christ marks our release from the slavery of sin.

**Romans 8:1-4 (NIV) 1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

As the first Passover was to be held in remembrance as an annual feast, so Christians are to memorialize the Lord's death in communion until He returns.

**1 Corinthians 11:25-26 (NIV) 25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Old Testament Passover Lamb, although a reality in that time to help them relate to God, was a mere foreshadowing of the better and final Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. Through His sinless life and sacrificial death, Jesus became the only One capable of giving people a way to escape death and a sure hope of eternal life once and for all!

**1 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) 7** Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

## **Worship Team Comes Back Up**

### **Invitation:**

**Is your sacrifice pure? God has already provided a perfect, unblemished sacrifice for our sins, and that sacrifice was His one and only Son, Jesus. But we are to live our life as a living sacrifice to God. So, what are you giving Him? Are you giving him from the first fruits or are you giving leftovers? Are giving what's easy or are you being intentional and giving Him what He is asking for?**

**What and who are you willing to risk as collateral damage for your disobedience ? Pharaoh heard but did not listen. Pharaoh allowed 9 plagues to be carried out in Egypt. Pharaoh was willing to sacrifice the first born of not just his family but all of Egypt. Some of us have heard, but won't listen, and unfortunately it will take something drastic and tragic for God to finally have our ear.**

**Have you been delivered but you were not ready or prepared to leave the house?**

**God has already provided salvation and applied the blood for forgiveness on the "door". Will you enter in and accept His salvation? What's keeping you from stepping through the threshold? Bitterness, Anger, Stubbornness, Hurt/Pain, Jealousy?**