

Shadows of the Cross: The Lamb

Primary Text: Book of Exodus 12:1–14 **Key Fulfillment Texts:** Gospel of John 1:29; First Epistle to the Corinthians 5:7

Introduction

Before there was a cross, there was a lamb. Before Calvary, there was Passover. Before “It is finished,” there was “Take a lamb.”

Exodus 12 is not merely Israel’s deliverance story — it is a prophetic shadow of Jesus Christ.

When John the Baptist declared,

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29), he was announcing the fulfillment of centuries of sacrificial imagery.

Let us walk through the preparation of the lamb and see Christ in every detail.

Exodus gives us insight to the plight of the situation judgement is coming. Judgment isn’t just coming for Egypt it’s coming for everyone. The reality is that only one thing will satisfy God’s judgement

I. The Lamb Had to Be Without Defect

Exodus 12:5

“The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect...”

Exposition

God required a spotless lamb — no blemish, no defect, no corruption.

This was not arbitrary. The lamb represented innocence dying in place of guilt.

Cross References

- Book of Leviticus 22:20 — “Do not bring anything with a defect...”
- Book of Isaiah 53:9 — “He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.”
- First Epistle of Peter 1:18–19 — “...with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”
- Second Epistle to the Corinthians 5:21 — “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...”

Fulfillment

Jesus met the requirement no one else could meet. Tempted — yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

Accused — yet innocent. Examined — yet flawless.

II. The Lamb Was Chosen and Examined

Exodus 12:3, 6

The lamb was selected on the 10th day and kept until the 14th day.

Exposition

For four days it was observed. Handled. Examined.

Cross References

- Book of Deuteronomy 17:1 — Sacrifices must be without defect.
- Gospel of Matthew 21–23 — Jesus publicly questioned in the temple.
- Gospel of Luke 23:4 — Pilate: “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”
- Epistle to the Hebrews 7:26 — “Holy, blameless, pure...”

Fulfillment

Jesus entered Jerusalem days before Passover (Palm Sunday).

He was questioned by:

- Pharisees
- Sadducees
- Lawyers
- Herod
- Pilate

Every examination confirmed His innocence.

III. The Lamb Was Slain at the Appointed Time

Exodus 12:6

“...slaughter them at twilight.”

Exposition

God set the hour of deliverance.

Cross References

- Book of Ecclesiastes 3:1 — “There is a time for everything...”
- Gospel of John 19:14 — Jesus condemned at the time of Passover preparation.
- Gospel of Mark 15:33–34 — Darkness at the crucifixion.
- Epistle to the Galatians 4:4 — “When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son...”
- First Epistle to the Corinthians 5:7 — “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”

Hyssop branches in the Passover (Exodus 12:22) served as a, applicator to sprinkle the lamb's blood on doorposts, symbolizing **protection****purification**, and **atonement**. As a, fibrous plant, it

represented the cleansing of sin, connecting the Old Testament deliverance from death to the New Testament sacrifice of Jesus.

“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”
Psalms 51:7 NIV

Fulfillment

Jesus died during Passover — not by accident, but by appointment.

IV. The Blood Had to Be Applied

Exodus 12:7, 13

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”

Exposition

The lamb could be slain — but if the blood was not applied, judgment still came.
Deliverance required personal application.

Cross References

- Book of Leviticus 17:11 — “It is the blood that makes atonement...”
- Epistle to the Hebrews 9:22 — “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”
- Epistle to the Romans 5:9 — “Since we have now been justified by his blood...”
- First Epistle of John 1:7 — “The blood of Jesus... purifies us from all sin.”

Fulfillment

Salvation is not automatic because Christ died.
His blood must be applied by faith.

Emphasis

It is not enough to admire the Lamb. You must come under the blood.

V. Not One Bone Was to Be Broken

Exodus 12:46

“Do not break any of the bones.”

Exposition

A small instruction — but prophetically massive.

Cross References

- Book of Numbers 9:12 — Repeated instruction.
- Book of Psalms 34:20 — “He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.”
- Gospel of John 19:33–36 — Soldiers did not break Jesus’ legs.

Fulfillment

Though crucifixion victims often had legs broken, Jesus' bones remained intact. Even in death, Scripture was fulfilled.

VI. The Lamb Was to Be Consumed

Exodus 12:8–10

The lamb was to be eaten — fully received.

Cross References

- Gospel of John 6:53–56 — “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man...”
- First Epistle to the Corinthians 11:23–26 — The Lord’s Supper.
- Book of Revelation 3:20 — “I stand at the door and knock...”

Fulfillment

Christ must be personally received.
He is not partially accepted — He is fully embraced.

Emphasis

The Lamb sustains those He saves.

VII. The Lamb Marked a New Beginning

Exodus 12:2

“This month is to be for you the first month...”

Exposition

Passover reset Israel’s calendar.
Redemption created a new identity.

Cross References

- Second Epistle to the Corinthians 5:17 — “The new creation has come...”
- Epistle to the Romans 6:4 — “We too may live a new life.”
- Epistle to the Ephesians 2:4–6 — Made alive with Christ.

Fulfillment

The Lamb does not merely spare you from judgment — He starts your life over.

Grand Biblical Arc

In Book of Genesis 22 — “God himself will provide the lamb.”

In Gospel of John 1 — “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

In Book of Revelation 5 — “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!”

From question... To revelation... To exaltation.