

EXODUS TWELVE, THIRTEEN

Intro: On Sunday mornings we have been learning about the wonderful, the amazing doctrine of salvation. Paul was directed by the Holy Spirit to set it down in all of its fullness, and with greater detail, than had ever been written before. BUT ALL THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD HAD BEEN GRADUALLY UNFOLDING THIS TRUTH. It began in the garden of Eden, and it is possible to trace it right through the Old Testament.

However, when we get to Exodus 12 the Lord suddenly reveals greater detail about salvation than He had at any other time before, and it is doubtful if there is any one passage which can compare with it in all that follows. Possibly Isaiah 53 would be a contender.

We have an advantage as we come to this Scripture tonight which not even Moses had. WE CAN APPROACH IT FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT AND SEE WHAT HAD TO BE IN THE MIND AND HEART OF GOD AS ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN TO MOSES.

Cf. our Lord at the Passover - Lord's Supper.

Cf. 1 Cor. 5:7b,

"For even Christ, our passover, is sacrificed for us."

Cf. 1 Pet. 1:18, 19,

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

In Exodus 12:5 God told Moses, "Your lamb shall be without blemish."

THEREFORE, THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE PASSOVER LAMB WAS A TYPE OF CHRIST. THAT WHICH HAPPENED TO THE LAMB, IN FACT THAT WHICH WAS SAID ABOUT THE LAMB, ALL POINTED AHEAD TO CHRIST AND HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS.

In Exodus 12, then, we can expect to find some very important truths regarding salvation--truths which still are very important for all to understand. We want to look at some of them tonight.

First, let us look at

I. THE CONTEXT (Ex. 12:3-7). There is much more here than we have time for tonight, but let me point out five things from the context which are important.

A. The tremendous importance of the "lamb" (Ex. 12:3, 4).

The only hope that Israel had was in the Lamb. If God had not told them about the Lamb, they would have been as hopeless as the Egyptians.

Later on Isaiah would bring out what was of special significance in a lamb, but definitely the Lamb provided them with their only hope.

Cf. John 1:29. There are not many ways; THERE IS ONLY ONE!

B. The perfection of the lamb (Ex. 12:5a).

It had to be physically perfect. This points to the sinless perfection of Christ. Peter says that He "did no sin." The writer of Hebrews says that He was "without sin." John says that "in Him was no sin." Paul says that He "knew no sin." Even our Lord Himself said to His enemies, "Which of you convicteth me of sin?" Peter also called our Lord, "a lamb without blemish and without spot."

A person about whom such things could be said and written had to be more than just a man; HE HAD TO BE GOD!

C. The observation of the lamb (Ex. 12:6a).

It was taken on the 10th day, and kept until the 14th day. Why? To make sure that it was perfect. Any imperfection would have disqualified it.

How does this find its fulfillment in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ? In His public ministry. What was one of the main purposes for the three years our Lord spent with His disciples and before the public eye if not to show that He was the sinless Son of God?

But, just suppose, that some of the Israelites had wanted to stop here. Many people in the past have felt that this was sufficient. They speak of Christ as a Great Example-- and He is! Or they speak of the teaching which He did-- and it was the greatest! BUT, AS IMPORTANT AS IT WAS TO KNOW THAT THE LAMB WAS PERFECT, THE PERFECTION OF THE LAMB WOULD HAVE DELIVERED NO ONE FROM DEATH! And so we have next . . .

D. The death of the lamb (Ex. 12:6b).

"Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures," wrote the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian Church. "While we were yet sinners," he wrote to the Church of Rome, "Christ died for us."

There is no question but that this is the emphasis we find in the NT. This, and no other explanation, can possibly be right.

But let us suppose again. Suppose that there were some in Israel who felt that this would be enough. There are some like this today. They feel that since Christ died, everyone will eventually be saved. There is nothing more that needs to be done, they say.

What would have happened if any Israelite had gone this far, and no farther? The result would have been death.

What else was needed?

E. The application of the blood (Ex. 12:7).

This is personal faith.

Although Christ was absolutely perfect. And although He died for your sins and mine--for the sins of the whole world. NO ONE IS SAVED FROM DIVINE JUDGMENT UNTIL BY FAITH HE RECEIVES JESUS CHRIST AS HIS SAVIOR.

The picture is very clear. The essential parts of the deliverance are here. Nothing can be omitted. It all must be left as it is.

Now, let us turn to our

II. TEXT (Ex. 12:13).

The primary purpose of this verse was to give the Israelites assurance.

Here God gives His people:

- 1) A promise.
- 2) A point-of-view.
- 3) Protection.

A. The promise: "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are."

Almost everyone is inclined at first to mis-read this verse. The people were not giving God a token; God was giving them a token, a sign. This is a word which is used over and over in the first part of Exodus. Sometimes it is translated, sign. This is what the plagues were. This is what Moses had when he turned his rod into a serpent, and when he made his hand leprous.

What did the token mean?

It was evidence that God would not kill the first-born in that house. It was not a question of feelings, but it stood as evidence of an absolutely certain promise.

Our merit is not involved, nor are our feelings. It is the death of Christ and what God has promised to do for us as a result of His death.

B. The point-of-view: "And when I see the blood."

Who said this? The Lord did. This is what is important for us to notice.

He did not say that it had to have their approval. Nor did He say that they had to understand all that was involved in what they were doing. They had to look at it from God's point-of-view, or death would have resulted.

This is the case with salvation today. Man has his ways, but unless it is what God wants to see, it means nothing. It does not make any difference how many people accept a certain way, if it does not have divine approval, it means nothing. THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO IS DOING THE SAVING, AND HE ALONE HAS THE RIGHT TO SAY HOW IT WILL BE DONE.

C. The protection: "And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

You may say, How do you get protection out of that? Cf. Isa. 31:5,

"As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it, and passing over he will preserve it."

On that passover night, the Lord did not simply pass through the land, house by house, but every house which had the blood, He remained there to preserve it. The picture is of a bird spreading her wings over her young to protect them. Cf. Luke 13:34.

Our Lord said, "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish."

Concl: How thankful we ought to be for the Lamb of God, and how grateful that there is yet time for men to come under the shelter of the blood!