

“WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD”

Exodus 12:13

Intro: I am not saying anything unusual when I say that the Passover Lamb of Exodus 12 was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone studying Exodus 12 with any degree of spiritual understanding would be able to see that the details of what was to be done with the Passover Lamb were a type of Christ. We get our English word *type* from the Greek τύπος, and Thayer defines its doctrinal meaning as “a person or thing prefiguring a future (Messianic) person or thing” (p. 632). His definition could, and should, be expanded to include animals. The Passover Lamb was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ because it gave us an OT picture of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But we have even more evidence in the NT that this is the case because the Apostle Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth said, “For even Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7).

It also has significance for the Lord's Supper which we are observing again tonight because it was at the observance of the Passover that our Lord instituted the Lord's Supper. Please turn in your Bibles to the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 26, where I will begin reading with verse 27. (Read down through verse 30.)

In doing this, the Lord was showing that there was a connection between the Passover and the Lord's Supper. But He was doing even more than that. He was showing that following His death He was to be remembered by the Lord's Supper, not by the Passover. The Passover was prophetic; the Lord's Supper shows that the prophecy involved in the Passover had been fulfilled, and so the Passover was set aside along with all of the other parts of the Law. The One Who was prefigured in the Passover had come, and so there was no longer the need to be looking for Him. Those who observe the Passover today like the Jews did in OT times do not believe that the Passover Lamb was fulfilled in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. But those of us who know that Jesus Christ fulfilled the type pictured in the Passover Lamb, do not observe the Passover. The Lord said concerning the Lord's Supper, not the Passover, “This do in remembrance of Me.” These words are not found in Matthew's account of the Lord's Supper, but they are in Luke's account (22:19), and in Paul's teaching about the Lord's Supper in 1 Cor. 11:24, 25.

Tonight, in preparation for our observance of the Lord's Supper, I want to concentrate attention on the blood of the Passover Lamb because, after all of the preparations were made for the Passover Supper, God's words in Exodus 12:13 show that it was the blood that He would be looking for on that Passover night. The whole supper was designed for one purpose, and that was to spare the life of the firstborn son in every family. If the blood were there, the son lived; if the blood were not there, the son died. And so the Lord said to Moses, and Moses was to tell the people, "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." God would be looking for the blood, and nothing else.

Now let us think about the blood from what we are told in Exodus 20.

The first thing that stands out in this passage is that:

I. IT HAD TO BE PERFECT BLOOD.

Type, of course, had their limitations, but as far as it was physically possible for an animal, in this case, a lamb, to be perfect. It had to be perfect. It had to be "without blemish" (Ex. 12:5). If a lamb had any deformity outwardly, or was in any way less than healthy outwardly or inwardly, it could not be used as the Passover Lamb. Only the blood of a physically perfect animal could provide the blood that was sufficient to spare the life of the oldest son.

Therefore, in the second place,

II. IT HAD TO BE CHOSEN BLOOD.

We can think of it as chosen blood because it was from a chosen lamb. Every lamb in the flock had blood, but this particular lamb was selected and therefore the hopes of the son were tied to that one particular lamb.

What I want to point out to you is that what was required of the lamb ultimately established the value of the blood to deliver the firstborn son from death. So, since the lamb was chosen, the lamb's blood was chosen also.

But there is another point that we need to notice.

III. IT WAS PROVEN BLOOD.

Did you ever wonder why the lamb was chosen on the tenth day of the month (Ex. 12:3), and kept until the fourteenth day of the month (Ex. 12:6) before it was killed, and how that was related to the life of the Lord Jesus Christ? Well, I think that there is only one answer to that question. The lamb was watched for those four days so that the people could make sure that it was perfect, without blemish.

Why was it that the Lord Jesus lived, to the best of our knowledge, for three years in the eye of the public before He died? There is more than one answer to that question. There were people who needed His healing power. There was much teaching that He needed to do. *But one of the main reasons for the public life of the Lord Jesus Christ, was that all people, His family, His friends, and even His enemies, could see that He was without sin!*

We are told in John 8:46 that the Lord asked His Jewish enemies, “Which of you convinceth Me of sin?” “Convinceth” means *convicteth*. His enemies tried in vain to find a single charge against Him that would stand up in court. Follow the Lord for the years of His public ministry, and there is not the trace of sin of any kind! He lived in the presence of His enemies as well as His friends, but there was no trace of sin in anything that He ever did, or in anything that He ever said. He claimed that God was His Father, and His enemies latched onto that. But that was true! So no charge against Him could stand.

But there is another point that comes to us from Exodus 12 relative to the blood of the Passover Lamb.

IV. IT WAS SACRIFICIAL BLOOD.

The Israelites were very familiar with the blood of lambs. They ate lamb’s meat continually, and there always was the shedding of blood every time a lamb was killed. But their main purpose in killing this one particular lamb was to have its blood available. This was sacrificial blood. The lamb had done nothing worthy of death. In fact, a perfect lamb like they were to choose was the kind of a lamb that you would want to keep. But the death of this lamb was different from any other lamb that had ever been killed: this lamb was killed as a substitute for the firstborn son. This lamb died in order that the firstborn son would not have to die.

The one who would have been the most grateful for the blood of that lamb was the firstborn son. As perfect as the lamb might have been, it was of no value to the firstborn son who was under a sentence of death, until the lamb died, and its blood was shed.

But there is another very important truth from Exodus 12 concerning the blood which we must not miss..

V. IT HAD TO BE APPLIED BLOOD.

Note what is said in Ex. 12:7.

The blood running in the veins of the lamb was not sufficient. Nor would the blood collected in a bucket and carried around by the firstborn, have spared him from death. *It had to be applied to the two side posts and the upper door post of the home where he lived. If the blood were there, the son would live. At any home where the blood was not applied, the son would die.* It was as simple as that. What the Lord was looking for that memorable night was “the blood.” No substitute would be accepted. There was no other way.

One more point.

VI. IT HAD TO BE “THE BLOOD.”

Twice we have in the KJV the two words, “the blood.” (Read Ex. 20:13.) As I was preparing this message and looked at that expression, I wanted to know if the word “the” was in the Hebrew text, or was it added, as words sometimes were, to make a point or to make the language flow a little easier. Sometimes translators do that because there are always some problems that they run into when translating anything from one language to another.

My question was, did the Hebrew text say “the blood,” or simply “blood.” I was delighted beyond words to find out that the Hebrew text says, “the blood.” So the Lord did not say, “When I see blood, I will pass over you,” but He said, “When I see the blood.” And before that in the same verse, verse 13, the Lord did not say, “And blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are,” but again it is “And the blood shall be a token unto you.” The word “token” has several meanings. It can mean that which would attract God’s attention, like a flag or banner.

“The blood” was to be the distinguishing mark of a family that believed God, and had made the very preparation for their son that the Lord had told them to make. It also conveyed the idea of being proof of their faith. God told them how to escape the plague of death, and they were to follow what He said because there was no other way that the firstborn would survive that night.

So you see, “the blood” means the blood of the animal that had been selected, the animal that had been observed and was known to be without any blemish, the lamb that was killed for the son for the specific purpose of sparing his life, this lamb whose blood was shed for the son, this was “the blood” that the Lord would be looking for on the doorposts of the homes on that Passover night.

But now as to the meaning of the word “passover,” turn with me to verse 21 in this chapter, and follow me as I read down through verse 23. (Read.)

Concl: Isn’t this a wonderful picture of our salvation? We were all born sinners, under the sentence of death because of our sin. God in His grace appointed His Son to take our place. He came, the sinless Son of God. His blood was pure. His life proved that He was the Son of God. He died on Calvary’s Cross. His blood was shed. He took our penalty upon Himself. And because He died, and died for us, we have the gift of eternal life. As we learned in memorizing 1 John, “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.”

The Apostle Peter said it this way:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God (1 Peter 1:18-21).

John the Baptist preached, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), by which he did not mean that everyone in the world is going to be saved, but that throughout the whole world and

all of time, if people are to be saved, it can only be through “the blood” of Christ. There is no other Savior.

And so, as we come to the Lord’s Table tonight, I trust that we come with a deeper understanding of what the Lord has done for us, and that we come with praise in our hearts for His grace in saving us from the eternal penalty of our sins. There were only two possibilities for the firstborn in Egypt on that night, whether Jew or Egyptian, and they were death or life. God was the Judge, and He was looking for “the blood.” That, and that alone, was sufficient to spare the firstborn son. So today eternal life is only through the shed blood of God’s beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us all make sure that His blood has been applied to the doorposts of our hearts. The Gospel still is, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31),