

## **“WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD”**

The Passover was one of the great Old Testament feasts that God required His people to keep (Ex.12:14). It was instituted while Israel was in bondage in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh’s stubborn refusal to let God’s people go brought upon Egypt ten horrific plagues, the last of which was the most horrendous of all—the death of the firstborn male in every household. Jehovah made provisions whereby His people could escape this terrible plague, if they would but obey Him. In the institution of the Passover (Ex.12:3-20), we find many parallels to our Passover, Jesus Christ (1 Cor.5:7).

God required that the Israelites take a lamb or goat of the first year, one without blemish and without spot, kill it, and eat it in observance of the Passover (Ex.12:5-8). They were required to offer the very best of their flock to God in order to escape this great penalty brought about by sin. Our merciful Creator gave the very best heaven had to offer, His only begotten Son (Jn.3:16), in order that we might escape the penalty for our own sins (Rom.6:23; 1 Cor.5:21). The Lamb of God (Jn.1:29) suffered, bled, and died so that we might live. Only this perfect sacrifice (1 Pet.1:18,19) could atone for our sins.

The Israelites were required to take the blood of that lamb or goat and sprinkle it upon their door posts. When the harbinger of death came, he would pass over all those who were covered by the blood. All who failed to do so would experience the death of their firstborn. God still says, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.” All who have been baptized into the death of Christ (Rom.6:3), wherein he shed his precious blood (Jn.19:34), are covered by the blood, and will continue to be covered by the blood so long as we continue to walk in the light (1 Jn.1:7). We can escape spiritual death through the blood of our Passover!

The Israelites were to teach their children concerning this great feast and all that it represented (Ex.12:24-27). Thankfully, our Lord instituted a similar reminder so that we would not forget the great sacrifice made on our behalf (Mt.26:26ff). Every time we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we should be reminded of our Passover, and that if we remain faithful to the Lamb, spiritual death will pass us over.

Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb? When God looks at you, does He see the blood, or does He see one who is condemned to die under the penalty of sin? If you are outside of Christ, or are unfaithful to him, God does not see the blood. For the faithful, God continues to say, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”

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