

THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

“Behold the Lamb!”

Introduction

In the land of types and shadows, allegorical language is useful for communication, but often falls short of reality. Thus, in the Torah we have a multiplicity of sacrifices instituted to teach us about the one sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. The daily sacrifices, the Sabbath sacrifice, the sacrifice on the new moon, the yearly sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, the feast sacrifices and the ordinances for the sin, trespass, peace, meal, and burnt offerings all speak to us of what Christ accomplished on the cross. But of all of these, one sacrifice holds typical preeminence: the sacrifice of the Passover lamb.

When Jesus came to be baptized, John proclaimed “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”¹ Years later, the Apostle Paul wrote “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”² An understanding of the Blood of Jesus Christ requires an examination of the Passover.

I. The Historical Passover

By the historical Passover, I mean when the feast was first instituted. Its later observance was regulated by slightly different rules. We shall look at that in a moment. For now, recall the scene. The Israelites had been crying out because of their burden. So the Lord sent Moses and their load grew heavier! Plague upon plague was poured out on Egypt and still Pharaoh would not relent. Then the Lord told Moses that He was going to kill all the firstborn. To avoid this plague, the Israelites had to choose for themselves a lamb.

1. The Passover Lamb

A. Chosen – Ex 12:1-5

Exodus 12:1-5

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: KJV³

We learn many lessons from this section of Scripture. First of all, the Lord reset the marking of time to begin with redemption. The month of the Passover would become the first month of the year (in the ceremonial calendar). The lambs were chosen per

¹ John 1:29

² 1 Cor 5:7b

³ All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

households. Each family had a representative that chose a lamb for them. And the lamb was to be without blemish, perfect and undefiled.

B. Sacrificed – Ex 12:6, 21

Exodus 12:6, 21

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

This lamb was then to be sacrificed. They could have kept it as a pet and died in the plague! It was of no redeeming value to them until it was sacrificed.

C. Eaten – Ex 12:8-10

Exodus 12:8-10

8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

The lamb was to be consumed by the families. It was not divided to indicate the unity of the covering sacrifice for the house. Its holiness is exemplified in that the remainder had to be burned if not eaten.

2. The Placement of Blood

A. On the Doorposts – Ex 12:7

Exodus 12:7

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

It wasn't enough to spill the blood of the lamb. That blood had to be applied to the house. The blood markings on the doorposts and lentil marked out the sign of the cross.

B. With Hyssop – Ex 12:22; John 19:29

Exodus 12:22

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

Hyssop was used to apply the blood. It is a spongy, reed-like plant that is well suited to the application of liquids. It was also used at the crucifixion.

John 19:29

Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

C. As a Sign or Token – Ex 12:13

Exodus 12:13

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

The blood was to be a sign or a token to the Lord that that house was under protection. In these end times, there is much speculation about what the mark of the beast might be. Whatever it is, it is merely a pale counterfeit of the mark of God.

Ezekiel 9:4-9

4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

8 And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

Revelation 7:2-3

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

What is this seal? In our day, it is none other than the Holy Spirit of God that marks us where the Blood has been spilled.

Eph 1:13-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory. NIV

3. The Purpose of the Passover

A. Protection – Ex 12:23

Exodus 12:23

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

Sure, the Passover sacrifice provided the blood of protection from the plague. But what was the point of the plague?

B. Deliverance – Ex 11:1

Exodus 11:1

And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether.

The purpose of the plague was so that Pharaoh would let the children of Israel go. But go where and why?

C. Worship – Ex 8:1

Exodus 8:1

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

The word used for “serve” can also be translated as “worship.” “Let my people go that they may worship me,” The Lord was telling Pharaoh. The ultimate goal of that terrible night spent under the cover of the blood was to be release to the mount to worship.

Exodus 3:12

And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

The Lord told this to Moses from the burning bush. But before Moses approached Him, what warning did the Lord give?

Exodus 3:5

And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

He was standing on holy ground! What made it holy? The presence of God. And His appearance on the mount sanctified it. It became the holy place.

Psalms 68:16-21

16 Why leap ye, ye high hills? this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell in it for ever.

17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

20 He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death.

21 But God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses.

To this holy place, Moses was to lead the children of Israel that they might worship their Redeemer and Maker. But what happened when they got there?

Exodus 20:18-19

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

They recognized that the presence of a Holy God brought to them a death sentence. "We dare not approach!" they said. So they stood "afar off."

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Yes, the Blood protects us. Yes, the Blood delivers us. But there is a point to it. And the point is that we may enter into the presence of a Holy God and not die! Worship is what He desires. He spilled His blood to make our worship not only possible, but acceptable as well.

II. The Memorial Passover

I believe that prior to entering into the Land, the children of Israel only celebrated the Passover one more time, and that at the foot of Mt. Sinai. The Lord then gave instructions of how the feast was to be observed once they were in the Land.

1. The Place of Sacrifice

- A. Where God Shall Choose – Deut 16:5-6
Deuteronomy 16:5-6

5 Thou mayest not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:

6 But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

The revelation of the Passover sacrifice moved from universal household sacrifices to a centralized location. The location was to be where the Lord had chosen to place His Name. This place became the Temple Mount.

B. Mt. Moriah – 2 Chr 3:1; Gen 22:2, 13

2 Chronicles 3:1

Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

The Temple was built on Mt. Moriah, the very place where Abraham offered up his only son Isaac.

Genesis 22:2, 13

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

C. The Passover Procession

Offered in three companies with lines of priests handing up bowls of blood to be poured out at the foot of the altar. Much blood.

2. Passover, Peace, and Revival

A. The Peace Offering – Lev 7:15

Leviticus 7:15

And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.

The Passover is most closely associated with the peace offering, sometimes also called the fellowship offering. Like in the Passover, any leftovers of the peace offering had to be burned. Like the Passover, the point of the sacrifice was communion with God.

One of the hallmarks of Old Testament revival was the reinstatement of the Passover. Following are a couple of examples.

B. Hezekiah's Revival – 2 Chr 30:1, 26-27

2 Chronicles 30:1

And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.

They kept the Passover and what was the result?

2 Chronicles 30:26-27

26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.

27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

There was great joy and their prayer came up to heaven!

C. Josiah's Revival – 2 Kings 23:21-24

2 Kings 23:21-23

21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

22 Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

23 But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

What was the result of this Passover?

2 Kings 23:24

Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

The land was cleansed of the occult, abominations, and idols.

3. The Last Supper

A. Make Ready the Passover – Matt 26:17-19

Matthew 26:17-19

17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

The meal they prepared for is the meal we know as the Last Supper.

B. While They Were Eating – Matt 26:26-29

Matthew 26:26-29

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

It was while eating the Passover meal with His disciples that our Lord instituted Holy Communion. And it was in the Passover season that He was betrayed to be crucified.

C. Behold

Behold! It is quite the command on the lips of one in authority. Pilate didn't fully recognize the stage he was called to play on when he said, "Behold..."

i. The Man

John 19:5

Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, **Behold the man!**

ii. The King

John 19:14

And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, **Behold your King!**

iii. The Lamb

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb** of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Revelation 5:6-10

6 **And I beheld**, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood **a Lamb** as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

- 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;
- 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

III. Keeping the Passover

1. Being Rid of Leaven – 1 Cor 5:7

1 Corinthians 5:7

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

A. Leaven of Immoral Influences – 1 Cor 5:1-6

1 Corinthians 5:1-6

1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

B. Leaven of False Doctrine – Matt 16:6, 12

Matthew 16:6, 12

6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

C. Leaven of Hypocrisy – Luke 12:1

Luke 12:1

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

2. Sincerity and Truth – 1 Cor 5:8

1 Corinthians 5:8

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity**^α and truth.

A. Sincerity

*Strong's definition*⁴-

NT:1505 **eilikrineia**^α (i-lik-ree'-ni-ah); from NT:1506; clearness, i.e. (by implication) purity (figuratively): KJV - sincerity.

NT:1506 **eilikrines** (i-lik-ree-nace'); from heile (the sun's ray) and NT:2919; judged by sunlight, i.e. tested as genuine (figuratively): KJV - pure, sincere.

B. Truth

John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

3. Overcoming by the Blood

A. Kept from the Destroyer – Ex 12:23; Heb 11:28

Exodus 12:23

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

Hebrews 11:28

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

B. The Destroyer Exposed – Ps 78:49-51; Rev 9:11

Psalms 78:49-51

49 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.

50 He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

51 And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

Revelation 9:11

And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

Apollyon means destroyer.

C. The Accuser Cast Down – Rev 12:9-11

Revelation 12:9-11

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

⁴ From BibleSoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 BibleSoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Conclusion

1 Peter 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.