

“The Passover”  
Exodus 12:1-13  
(Preached at Trinity, April 8, 2007)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we’ve seen, there are many reasons God sent the plagues upon Egypt.
  - A. It displayed His glory.

**Exodus 9:16** – “And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up, for to shew *in* thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”

    1. Ultimately, God does all things for His own glory.
    2. The Exodus was a mighty display of God’s power over creation
    3. The Exodus was a display of God’s glory in the redemption of His people.

**Ephesians 1:5-6** – “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”
  - B. It was an act of mercy upon His chosen people. They had suffered greatly at the hand of the Egyptians and God took notice.

**Exodus 2:23-25** – “And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. <sup>24</sup> And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup> And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto *them*.”
  - C. It was an act of judgment upon the wickedness of the Egyptians – God is a righteous God and His judgments are just.
    1. Pharaoh refused to submit to God by refusing to let Israel go so that they could worship God.
    2. Pharaoh’s heart was committed to serving other gods. This was an assault upon Egypt and her false gods.

**Exodus 12:12** – “For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD.”
2. After nine terrible plagues Pharaoh still refused to let Israel go. Finally God sent the deadliest plague – the death of all the firstborn of Egypt.
3. As we enter this chapter we find God ordaining the institution of the Passover. The Passover is the most excellent picture of the atonement. It is so excellent that the Christian ordinance of Communion was instituted as Jesus and His disciples shared the Passover – the Lord’s Supper is our Passover meal as it commemorates His death upon the cross as our Substitute.
4. Tonight I want us to look at the meaning of this first Passover and especially as it applies to us a Christians.

- I. Like the Egyptians, the Israelites were under a sentence of death
- A. All attention has been upon the wickedness of the Egyptians but Israel was not innocent
1. When God visited the homes of the Egyptians with death He visited the homes of the Israelites as well with the purpose of killing their sons.  
**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.”  
**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*.”
  2. The Israelites must have been shocked that they were in danger. They had watched in safety as God poured His judgments out upon the Egyptians.
  3. Israel was not guiltless from sin
  4. They were guilty of unbelief.
    - a. At first when they heard the wonderful words from God they believed.  
**Exodus 4:31** – “And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”
    - b. When difficulty came, however, they condemned God’s servants  
**Exodus 5:20-21** – “And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh: <sup>21</sup> And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.”
  5. Like the Egyptians, they were guilty of idolatry  
**Joshua 24:14** – “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.”  
 They probably got the idea of the golden calf from their practices in Egypt.
  6. Like the Egyptians they were sinners by nature  
 If God had not provided a means of salvation their firstborn sons would have also died.
- B. This problem of sin is also our problem
1. Human beings all share in the universal problem of sin  
**Romans 3:10-12** – “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: <sup>11</sup> There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. <sup>12</sup> They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”  
**Romans 3:23** – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

2. If God had not provided a means of salvation we would surely perish  
**Luke 13:3** – “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
- C. God has promised condemnation for sin
  1. God has promised death  
**Genesis 2:17** – “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”  
**Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin *is* death”
  2. The reason the avenging angel was visiting Israel is that they deserved death just as much as the Egyptians – and we deserve death – all are under God’s just condemnation

## II. God provided a lamb

- A. God gave them careful instructions concerning the lamb
  1. It had to be a perfect
    - a. A yearling pure and spotless  
**Exodus 12:5** – “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:”
    - b. There could be no defect  
**Leviticus 22:20** – “*But* whatsoever hath a blemish, *that* shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.”  
**Leviticus 22:22** – “Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the LORD. . .”  
God is holy and any sacrifice offered to Him must be the very best we have to offer
    - c. They brought it into their home for four days – they fed it, cared for it. They probably played with it. It would have become like a part of the family. The point is they identified with it. And then they killed it
  2. Jesus was our perfect, spotless Lamb
    - a. The perfection of Israel’s lamb was physical. The perfection of Christ was moral – He was sinless  
**Hebrews 7:26** – “For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”
    - b. He kept the whole Law perfectly for us.
- B. The lamb was offered in the form of a substitute  
**Exodus 12:22-23** – “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. <sup>23</sup> 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*.”
  1. God required the death of the lamb – the spilling of its blood. The first born did not have to die because the lamb took his place.

2. God has always required a blood offering
  - a. This was true with Cain and Able  
**Genesis 4:3-5** – “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: <sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.”
  - b. God provided a lamb to Abraham  
**Genesis 22:7-8** – “And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”
  - c. It was true for Israel as yearly on the Day of Atonement a sacrifice was offered
  - d. God’s requirement of a blood offering is affirmed in Hebrews  
**Hebrews 9:22** – “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
3. When God saw the blood of he slain lamb He passed over them in judgment  
**Exodus 12:13** – “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.”
4. All of this points to the ultimate Lamb of God
  - a. Jesus is the Lamb of God  
**Revelation 13:8** – “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
  - b. John the Baptist affirmed this as he looked upon Jesus  
**John 1:29** – “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
5. The substitutionary atonement is an essential element of the Gospel
  - a. Jesus took our place
  - b. God looked upon the blood of Christ shed in our place. Jesus bore our guilt and suffered our condemnation. God looks upon the perfect sacrifice of Christ and passes over us in judgment.

### III. The Passover was an illustration of faith

- A. It demanded that Israel believe the promise of God and follow Him
  1. God made a demand upon them – they had to choose a perfect lamb and prepare it according to God’s specifications. They had to apply the blood upon the door post. By faith they trusted that they would be spared.
  2. All who followed God’s plan were spared. They had to believe God and follow Him by faith
  3. The Bible doesn’t list any who disregarded God’s plan. If any thought it silly or foolish or simply disregarded God’s plan the “destroyer” would have brought death.

4. It should be noted that Israel's action in placing the blood upon the door was not a meritorious work. Rather it was following God in faith and receiving His grace.
- B. God makes certain demands in the Gospel
1. God demands that all men repent of their sins. This is a command from God.  
**Acts 3:19** – “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”
  2. God demands that we trust His substitute  
**Acts 16:31** – “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”
    - a. If you think this is foolish you will perish
    - b. If you choose to disregard God's demand you will perish
  3. It should also be noted that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is not a meritorious work but simply following Christ in faith and receiving His grace.

#### Conclusion:

1. If you want to be accepted by God you have to come to Him through the Lamb that He has provided. There is no other way.
2. The Passover points to Christ
  - a. When Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem it was the very day the Passover lambs were herded into the city. According to Josephus there would be several hundred thousand lambs brought into the city – and in the midst of them the Lamb of God. The thousands of gallons of blood of those lambs could not provide atonement for the sins of God's people, but the precious blood of Jesus could.  
**1 Peter 1:18-19** – “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; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”
  - b. The Last Supper took place as Jesus was celebrating the Passover with His disciples.  
**Matthew 26:26** – “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. <sup>27</sup> And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; <sup>28</sup> For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
  - c. Jesus was crucified during the Passover feast as God's Lamb given for the sins of His people.
3. God says if you trust His Lamb, His substitute – if you trust Jesus and His death as your substitution He will save you.  
When God sees the blood of Christ He says, It is enough, My justice is satisfied – the price for sin has been paid.
4. The Israelites placed the blood on their doors. By faith they believed that they would be spared. Have you trusted in Christ that by His blood you will be spared?