

## Administering The Lord's Supper, Exodus 12:26-27, The Lamb Is Provided

As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember the history of it. Before God brought His people out of slavery in Egypt, God started a yearly feast called the Passover. The purpose of the Passover was to remind the people of God's grace in redeeming them. We consider the words of Exodus 12:26-27, "...when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel of Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses...'"

The judgment that God poured upon Egypt was one plague after another, but God protected His people from the plagues. In the 10<sup>th</sup> and last plague, the firstborn of each household were threatened with death.

It brings up the question – since God's holy judgment required the death of the sinner in Egypt, then how could the sinner in Israel survive God's judgment? Only by a Lamb being provided to die in their place.

But was a wooly lamb, an animal, truly a sufficient substitute?

Let's look at Abraham, the leader who represented Israel. What about his firstborn son Isaac. Would Isaac need to die? Back in the time of Abraham, in the book of Genesis, that question was answered in chapter 22. God required the death of Isaac, but then God Himself provided a substitute ram. Later, in our chapter in Exodus 12, God required each household to choose a lamb from their flocks. Each lamb was slaughtered, and the blood of the lambs was sprinkled on the doorposts.

On the night when God's angel of death came to kill in accordance with God's judgment, God commanded that His angel of death pass over the homes where there was the blood of the lamb. The blood signaled purification of the stain of the guilt of their sins.

Exodus 12:13, God said, "*when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.*" God saw the blood, and His justice was satisfied. God ordered the angel of death to pass over that house.

Why do we need a sacrifice? Because of our sin. Not just a little sin here or there, but because in the deepest place of our hearts we have constantly rebelled against God. It is the story of our lives. And yet, despite that, because of God's great love for us, He provided us with a perfect, sinless sacrifice. The lamb. Our hearts can be released from their slavery to sin and rebellion. We can receive God's blessings instead.

This is still how it works today in the Kingdom of God and in the Lord's Supper, because it is the history of The Lord's Supper, and the history of God's judgment and God's grace. It is not that each Christian family that provides a lamb. We cannot provide a sacrifice good enough. God Himself provided the lamb.

Is it a wooly animal? No. Not even the people of Israel were actually saved by one wooly animal per house. Every single lamb and all of the blood on all of the doorposts was one big object lesson.

God would provide the true Lamb.

The spotlessness of the true Lamb was much more than the physical purity of the best lamb of the flock. The Lamb that God would provide was a person with a whole life of perfect obedience. The Lamb of God would later say, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." (John 4:34). Which of us has ever said that? Who in ancient Israel ever was so passionate about doing the will of God that he said it is my very food?

Peter said about the Lamb of God that "*He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth.*" (1 Peter 2:22)

Peter finally identified the Lamb of God. Listen to 1 Peter 1:18-19, "...*you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*"

How were you ransomed? Not with all the silver or all the gold in the world. Not with all the lambs in all of Israel, or all the world.

You were ransomed with something that is LIKE the blood of a lamb without spot.

You were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the true lamb provided by God.

This was the plan of God all along. This is the history of the Lord's Supper. From all eternity past, God the Father had infinite delight in His precious Son. Jesus had fulfilled all of the will of God the Father.

The life of Jesus Christ was precious to God the Father, in a way that is difficult for us to fully appreciate.

When the life of Jesus Christ was ended as a sacrifice for our sins, then all of God's requirements for us were fully and perfectly satisfied.

Long before God even sent His Son into the world to become this sacrifice, God reminded His people with a feast once a year. The Passover meal of a lamb and other foods reminded them that they owed their existence as a people to the blood-bought redemption. A blood that was yet to be spilled! They annually celebrated their redemption in Christ, more than 1,000 years before Christ was even born.

God has provided the Lamb for us. By the blood of Christ, God is reconciled to us. We have forgiveness in Jesus. Enjoy the bread and cup that were given by God to remind you of the joy God has provided, 2,000 years since He rose again! "*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...by His wounds you have been healed.*" (1 Peter 2:24)

