THE PASSOVER LAMB

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**DATE: 11/25/2018 pm**

**TEXT: Exodus 12:1-13; 21-23**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter is going to take us several messages to get through

That is, if we want to adequately deal with the topic

**Ill.** In 1938, a man in New England went to the store and purchased a new barometer. He took it home and placed it upon a window sill. The next morning, he looked at it to see what the weather would be like that day. He couldn't believe it. The barometer said, "hurricane." Here he was in New England. Hurricanes only hit Florida. He grabbed the barometer and stomped back to the store to return it. The store clerk asked, *"What's the matter?"* He said, *"The barometer you sold me is defective. It's reading "hurricane."* The store owner said, *"Oh, well we will happily refund your money."* He got his money back and started home. By the time he got home though, his house had been blown away by the hurricane that hit New England in 1938. Turned out the barometer wasn't wrong after all.

Beloved, the Bible is God's barometer for mankind

And It’s always accurate because it’s God’s Word

For men without Christ, it reads, *“The Judgment is Coming”*

You can tap it, say it’s broken or wrong, but it is still accurate

The barometer for Egypt was reading, *“The Death of the First Born”*

This was God's warning, whether you were an Egyptian or a Hebrew

As we will see, **if** God's instructions weren’t followed, the firstborn in that house would die

This Passover chapter is a glorious chapter because it continually points to the Lord Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb

He is the Lamb of God that has taken away the sin of the world

This chapter is a treasure chest of insights and Biblical principles for living

Let's open the chest and look at the jewels in the Light

Let’s stand and read **vs. 1-13** together

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see …

**I. A “DATE CHANGED” – vs. 1, 2**

***“And the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,” “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you”***

The Passover is the most significant event in Israel's history,

So significant, that God used the Passover to change Israel’s Calendar

**A. Exodus 12 is the Birth Chapter of Israel as a Nation**

They entered Egypt as a Family and will exit as a Nation

Their National existence basically starts from this point

It was the month of Abib (Our month of April)

Abib means *young head of grain,* it’s when the wheat is in the ear

The month of Tisri (October), had previously had been the first month,

It was now changed to the seventh month of the Jewish calendar year

All of the other feasts of Israel will be based upon the Passover

**B.** **The Passover Lamb Begins the Chronology of Israel as a Nation**

They have a new beginning, a new start

In the Lord Jesus Christ, we have the same new beginning!

The Passover Lamb is a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ

The birth of Christ changed the calendar of the world

Just like the death of the Passover Lamb changed it for Israel

They would be putting their past behind

**II Corinthians 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

As Israel's past has been blotted out, so are our sins

When Israel leaves Egypt, they begin a New Journey

For us, salvation is not a resting place, but a starting point in our life for Christ

**A “DATE CHANGED”**

**II. A “DECISION MADE” – vs. 3-6 …**

God instructs Moses to speak to His people about getting ready to leave Egypt

A lamb was to be chosen on the tenth day of the month for each household (or two homes if the family was small) and would be sacrificed on the fourteenth day

**A. The ‘Appointment’ of A Lamb – v. 3**

***“they shall take to them every man a lamb”***

The Lamb would be God’s Divine Deliverance

I’m sure the Hebrews thought it strange; the way Moses was setting up their Deliverance – A Lamb?

It was God’s idea though, not man's

The Lamb was the only way of escape

God did not appoint a number of ways to escape

If Moses had told Israel they could be saved through other means,

Moses would have led multitudes to their death

That’s what many are doing today, with their religions

Throughout Scripture, the Lamb is found as the means God has appointed to protect men from Judgment

For Example …

In **Genesis** **3:21** God sacrificed an animal to cover Adam and Eve’s nakedness after they had sinned

***“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them”***

We’re not told what type of animal, but I’d bet it was a Lamb

In **Genesis 22 …** (Abraham offering up Isaac) … it was the Lamb that saved Isaac from death on the altar

When Abraham and Isaac got to the place for the sacrifice, Isaac asked in **v. 7** - ***“Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”***

Abraham's answer was filled with a Gospel overtone when he said in **v. 8** – ***“God will provide Himself a Lamb for a burnt offering”***

God did provide the Lamb in **v. 13** – ***“and*** ***Abraham... offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son”***

This is a beautiful picture of Calvary

The Provision of the Lamb for our salvation is also see in many other Texts

Such as **Isaiah 53:6, 7 – *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; …***

***… and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not his mouth”***

When we come to the New Testament, John's Gospel plainly describes Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God

We see John the Baptist declared this in **John 1:29 –**

***“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”***

In the epistles we read in **I 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;” “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”***

Finally, in the last book of the Bible, Christ is spoken of as a Lamb some 28 times

It begins with the Lamb that was slain in …

**Revelation 5:6 - *“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, … “***

And ends with the Lamb on the throne in …

**Revelation 22:1, 3 – *“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb” “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; …”***

So, from Genesis to Revelation, we learn that God Appointed the Lamb (Jesus Christ) to provide salvation for mankind

**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”***

**The ‘Appointment’ of the Lamb**

**B. The ‘Application’ of a Lamb – v. 3**

***“They shall take to them every man a lamb”***

Every Father was to Provide for his Family a Lamb

The provision of the Lamb was for everyone

***“Every man”*** must take a Lamb for his household for protection from the slaying of the firstborn

There were No exemptions

If the Lamb was not used for protection, the firstborn in that house would die

In like manner, every soul needs the Lamb (Jesus Christ) for their soul's protection, or they will perish in their sins

It makes no difference who the person is, what his social status is, where he is from, what his race or nationality is, how much money he has, or what position in society he occupies

What matters is whether his soul is protected by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ

As there was no distinction in Israel

So, it is in a Soul’s salvation

**The Application of the Lamb**

**C. The ‘Availability’ of a Lamb – v. 4**

***“If the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor 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”***

Some of the Households did not own a Lamb (To Poor)

Therefore, in that case, the neighbor who did have a Lamb was to share it with those who did not

The Lamb as been made Available to Whosoever will

**Revelation 22:17 – *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”***

Notice the Progression made in **vs. 3, 4** & **5**

First, it’s **A** Lamb – **v. 3**

A Lamb That Pictures Salvation

Then, it’s **The** Lamb – **v. 4**

The Lamb that Provides Salvation

Finally, it’s **Your** Lamb – **v. 5**

The Lamb that Personalizes Salvation

There was a Decision that had to be made about the Lamb

**A “DATE CHANGED”**

**A “DECISION MADE”**

**III. A “DINNER PREPARED” – vs. 7-10**

God now tells Moses How Israel is to Prepare the Meal and what it’s Purpose is

**A. The ‘Preparation’ – vs. 8-10 …**

The lamb was to be totally roasted with fire and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs

As it was the ordinary custom of the Jews to boil their flesh, some think that the command given here was in opposition to the custom of the Egyptians, who ate raw flesh to honor their gods

The Ethiopians are to this day known for eating raw flesh

The ***“purtenance”*** or intestines, heart, kidneys, lungs, and liver were also roasted

Again, this Lamb points to Christ

The entire Lamb that was roasted was God's Provision for those on the Inside of the house

The blood on the Outside secured their Protection from God's judgment

How wonderful it is that the Lord supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus

**B. The ‘Purpose’ – v. 7**

The blood of the sacrifice Lamb was to be applied to the door posts of the home

**v. 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,”***

(We will focus on this point in greater detail, in later messages)

What we will note here is several insights

The Jews were demonstrating Faith in God's Word when they applied the blood to the door

They were Acting Upon what they Believed to be true

Knowledge was not good enough

There are all kinds of people who know ABOUT Jesus

But that … Do Not Know Jesus

Salvation is more than just knowing or acknowledging that there is a God

There is the Diligently Seeking Him

One must trust Him by faith, obey His Word, and believe upon Him

Faith in God was visible to others as the blood was outwardly applied (not on the inside of the house)

But on the outer doorposts of the homes of those that believe

As the People entered the door of their homes, their thoughts would be upon the blood

As they left the next morning for the Promised Land, they were greeted by the blood at the door

This would be the Reason for their Deliverance

*The Blood will always be a visible, tangible reminder of the Price paid for our Deliverance*

The abandoned, bloody homes would be a constant reminder to the Egyptians, of their sin, disobedience, and only way of deliverance

They would be reminded of their lost opportunity

**A “DATE CHANGED”**

**A “DECISION MADE”**

**A “DINNER PREPARED”**

**IV. THE “DIRECTIONS GIVEN” – vs. 11-13; 21-23**

In these last set of verses, we see God Directing Israel as to what will happen next

**A. The ‘Dress’ – v. 11**

First, He tells them how to get ready

***“And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S Passover”***

This verse deals with the dress of the people for departure and provides a number of parallels for today's believers as we journey through the wilderness of this life

**1.** First they were to eat with their ***“loins girded”***

God's people were to be prepared to leave within hours

***“Loins girded”*** meant that their robes were tucked in, ready for movement, walking, running, or as a soldier for battle

Ungirded garments would be cumbersome and a hindrance

He was telling them to have their Bags packed!

As Believers, we too, are reminded to remove hindrances from our lives

We are to also be ready for service which is typified in the girded loins

**I Peter 1:13 – *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”***

**Hebrews 12:1b, 2 – *“let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”***

Bad habits, bitterness, temper tantrums, addictions, selfishness, pride, and lying are to be laid aside and forsaken / They are all weights

**Ephesians 6:14 – “*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”***

**2.** They were to have their ***“shoes on their feet”***

This is particularly mentioned by the Lord because it was not customary to eat with your shoes on

This custom continues today

As they do not use tables and chairs as we do in America and Europe,

But have their floors covered with carpets, they throw off their shoes when they enter their homes lest they should soil those carpets

The Israelites were to have their shoes on, because they were about to commence their journey

Shoes would Help their walk

Beloved, God wants to Help us in our walk and challenges us to walk with Him

[**Romans 10:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+10%3A15) **– “*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”***

[**Ephesians 6:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A15) **– “*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”***

[**Romans 6:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+6%3A4) **– “*Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”***

[**II Corinthians 5:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+5%3A7) **– “*(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”***

[**Galatians 5:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A16) **– “*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

We find that the Lord took care of God's people as they walked through the wilderness

-- There was no swelling in their feet

[**Deuteronomy 8:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+8%3A4) **– “*Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years”***

-- Their shoes did not fall apart

[**Deuteronomy 29:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+29%3A5) **– “*And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot”***

God Promises that our Walk with Him will never get old

**3.** The Jews were also to have ***“their staffs in their hands”***

Although in most cases the Staff depicts authority

Here, I’d like to believe it speaks of the pilgrim life

God's people are pilgrims

And earth is not our home, we are just a passing thru

Thank God, this is not our final home

**Hebrews 11:13** – ***“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”***

**I Peter 2:11** ***– “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims …”***

A Pilgrim is a traveler or a Wanderer

What is the life of a Pilgrim like?

-- Pilgrims travel light

They don’t carry around a lot of Stuff

**Hebrews 12:1 – *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight”***

-- They often encounter difficulties in their travels

[**I Peter 5:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+5%3A8) **– “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”***

-- A pilgrim has no permanent home

[**Philippians 3:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+3%3A20) **– “*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”***

-- The Wandering life will have times of quietness, beauty, and meditation

**Psalm 121:1 – *“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help”***

-- The pilgrim is ready to travel at a moment's notice

As Christians, we are to be ready for the Lord’s coming / This could happen any minute!

[**I Corinthians 15:52**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A52) **– “*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”***

**4.** Something else I want you to notice here – end **v. 11**

Notice that it is ***“the LORD’S Passover”***

Emphasis is usually upon Christ's death toward man

But, little if any on the effects toward God

The demand for the death of the innocent to atone for sin Glorified God,

Revealing His holiness and hatred for sin

The Lamb appeased Him and satisfied His justice and magnified His holiness

Christ is our Passover, given to us by God

He provided the final Lamb for us by giving us His only begotten Son

[**I Corinthians 5:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+5%3A7) **– “*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:”***

**B. The ‘Destroyer’ – v. 12 …**

Death would be the Destroyer

God warned that HE would pass through the land of Egypt and smite the firstborn in every home, human or animal, with death

… Unless the blood was upon the doorposts

The Lord was going to execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt

Remember that animal worship was important in Egypt

Certain animals were considered gods

This judgment was literally against their gods

Death of firstborn animals was considered a calamity

This would demonstrate the nonexistence of their gods

The only Defense against the judgment of death was the blood on the doorposts

**C. The ‘Defense’**

The only Defense against the Destroyer is the Blood

**1.** Grace and Mercy was not shown at the expense of righteousness

God’s Righteousness had to be met

God’s demand for holiness and the price for sin was met / How?

A Substitute was provided

The sentence of death was not executed upon innocent victims

The difference between the Egyptians and Israel was not a moral one (Both of them were sinners)

The sole difference between them was the blood of the lamb known as the ***“Passover”***

The word ***“Passover”*** is from a verb that means *to Protect*

It means *to spread the wings over to protect*

The blood protected and covered God's people from judgment and death

The Destroyer passed over the houses with the blood on the posts / Why?

The price of Death had already been paid by the Lamb

The price for sin was paid

Justice was satisfied as the innocent died for the guilty

**2.** God's eye was Not on THE house, it was upon the Blood

The house could have been a palace, strong, elegant, and beautiful

The doorposts could be gold-plated and adorned with sapphires, emeralds, and diamonds

But that wouldn’t have done any good either

Only the ruby red blood of the Lamb would do

If the house was a shack, falling apart from age or decay, it would be safe with the blood

**3.** God's eye was Not on those IN the house

Power, position, and prestige would not benefit anyone or the lack of these things would not hurt anyone

The focus of God's Attention was on the blood!

The shedding of the blood of the innocent for the guilty, of the pure for the impure, was a blueprint and object lesson which pointed to Jesus Christ

He who knew no sin died for all sinners, shedding His blood at Calvary

**4.** It was not enough to shed the blood, it had to be applied to the door posts

It is not enough to know about Christ, you must receive Him as your Saviour

His blood must be applied to the door of your heart

If sin is to be paid for, then the finite (us) must suffer infinitely

Or the Infinite One (Jesus) must suffer for the finite

The blood on the door posts was pointing to Jesus death on the cross

Jesus said that He was the Door and He was covered with blood on the cross

 He was the door to what?

The answer is Heaven

He was not a door, but THE Door

There is no other way to Heaven except through Him

**CONCLUSION**

**A “DATE CHANGED”**

**A “DECISION MADE”**

**A “DINNER PREPARED”**

**THE “DIRECTIONS GIVEN”**