

Some of “Promises Fulfilled”

December 1, 2019

Exodus 12:1-14, 29-30

I. Introduction

I hope that all of you had a good Thanksgiving and that not too many of you had to make another notch in your belt. If you are like most families, by now the company is all gone (or will be gone soon), the good dishes and silverware are back in storage, and the leftovers have all been put away in the ‘frig and the freezer. After all the planning and eating to your heart’s content, Thanksgiving has come and gone. Now, unlike the many stores who have been prepared for Christmas for months, we need to get ready for Christmas—physically and spiritually.

Decorating the church, decorating our homes isn’t just putting out some “Christmas things.” With many of these “things” there are memories. Some are personal—they bring back memories of people and things from the past. Some are spiritual—they remind us of the “reason for the season.” Things like a crèche or a manger remind us of the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem—just one of many promises that were fulfilled concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many pictures or promises concerning Jesus Christ in the Old Testament—Bob and Leah read just one of many passages from Isaiah concerning the coming Messiah. The institution of Passover and the Passover lamb are also pictures or promises concerning Jesus Christ. In [John 1:29](#) John the Baptist called Jesus “[the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.](#)” In [1 Cor.5:7](#) Paul wrote, “[For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.](#)”

In the verses we just read from Exodus 12, the people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt for about 400 years. They had been crying to God for rescue. God answered their prayers by raising up Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. But there was one problem; as you know, Pharaoh didn’t want to let them go. So, using Moses and Aaron as His spokesmen, God sent plagues upon Egypt. The plagues were to punish Egypt and to teach Israel about their God. By the time we get to Exodus

12, there had already been 9 plagues: turning water into blood, frogs, gnats, flies, a plague on the livestock, boils, hail & lightning, locusts, darkness. In spite of all these horrific things, Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrews go. It wasn't until the 10th plague—the death of every 1st born male in Egypt—that Pharaoh and the Egyptians were more than ready to let the Israelites leave.

The Israelites didn't experience all of the plagues. But unlike the other plagues, if they or anyone else were to be spared from this 10th and final plague, they had to do something. That's what we just read. From that point on, Passover was to be celebrated every year as the people remembered how God had spared or saved their lives. It was at such a Passover meal about 1500 years later that Jesus instituted Communion or the Lord's Table that we are going to celebrate later this morning.

On the 1st Sunday of Advent, let's look at some of the promises concerning Jesus Christ that are given in the celebration of Passover and the Passover lamb as we compare the characteristics of the Passover lamb and the characteristics of Jesus Christ.

II. Characteristics of the Passover Lamb and Characteristics of Jesus Christ

A. Without defect One characteristic of the lamb is found in [Exodus 12:5](#), *the lamb was to be without defect*. Moses wrote that the Israelites were to keep the lamb from the 10th day to the 14th day--4 days during which time they would be able to see if their sacrifice really was “without defect” or blemish.

What about Jesus Christ? In [1 Peter 1:18-19](#), Peter wrote, “For ... you were redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” Peter had lived with Jesus for 3 years. He and the rest of the Apostles had seen Jesus in a variety of situations; both public and private. Through it all, Peter was able to say that Jesus was perfect—“without blemish or defect.” Jesus was interrogated by the Sanhedrin and then Pilate, but Jesus was found to be blameless through it all. [Turn to John 19:1-4](#). Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God—a lamb without defect or blemish.

B. Slain between 3 and 6 pm In [verse 6 of Exodus 12](#) we read: *The lamb was to be slain at twilight.* The Sadducees and the Pharisees fought about what this meant, but the time they settled on was between 3 pm and 6 pm. The 2nd characteristic of the Passover lamb was that it was slain between 3 and 6 pm.

When did Jesus die on the cross? [Turn to Mark 15:33-39.](#) If you have any footnotes in your Bible, you see that the 6th hour is our 12 o'clock or noon and the 9th hour is 3 pm. God's Passover Lamb—Jesus Christ—died at the appropriate time. Jesus died at 3 pm.

C. Sacrificed to save others In [Exodus 12:13](#) God promised, *“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.”* It wasn't the life of the lamb that saved the people from judgment, it was its death—its blood. This is the 3rd characteristic of the Passover lamb: it was sacrificed to save others.

Just as the lamb had to die to save the Israelites, Jesus had to die to save the world. [Matt. 20:28](#) says, *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* [1 Peter 2:24](#) says, *“By his wounds you have been healed.”* Jesus died to save others.

D. To be saved, blood had to be applied To save those in a house, [Exodus 12:7](#) says that the blood of the lamb was to be put *“on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.”* If this wasn't done, there would be no salvation; death would come to that house. This is the 4th characteristic: to be saved, blood had to be applied.

Similarly, it isn't enough to admire Jesus' life and teachings. It isn't even enough to know that Jesus was sacrificed for the sins of the world. Just as each Israelite household had to apply the blood to the sides and tops of the doorframes, each person must accept Jesus' sacrifice for himself. Every person must say along with Paul in [Galatians 2:20](#), *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* That's why Paul wrote in [Romans 10:9-10](#), *“If you confess with your*

mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To be saved from an eternity in hell, Jesus' blood must be applied to our hearts.

Hebrews 9:22 says that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

E. Roasted over fire represents judgment Exodus 12:8 says, "That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire." Throughout Scripture fire represents judgment—think of Sodom and Gomorrah, think of hell. Roasting the Passover lamb over fire represented the judgment of God.

Prophesying about the coming Messiah, Isaiah 53:5 says, "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." Jesus was punished or judged guilty for our sins, not for something He had done. Jesus was punished or judged for our sins.

F. No broken bones Writing about the Passover lamb, Exodus 12:46 says, "It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones." In order that the lamb remain intact or whole, it was roasted not boiled in water or cooked in some other way. This is the 6th characteristic of the Passover lamb: no broken bones.

Turn to John 19:31-34. As Jesus hung on the cross and was judged for our sins, He like the Passover lamb had no broken bones.

III. Conclusion

Passover and the Passover lamb are pictures or promises of Jesus Christ—we've listed just 6 of them this morning. The Passover lamb's death and blood saved the physical bodies of the Israelites. God's Passover Lamb—Jesus Christ—died to save the spiritual body—the soul—of everyone who believes in Him. Jesus satisfied all the requirements to be the Savior for all mankind.

For many of you, what we have talked about today is "old stuff"—you've heard all before. But as we come to a close, let me ask you two questions. The first is "Have you applied Jesus' blood to

yourself?” Knowing that Jesus is the Son of God; knowing that Jesus died for sinners; knowing that Jesus rose from the dead are all good things—but Satan and his demons know this, too. [James 2:19](#) says, “**You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-- and shudder.**” But they are still on their way to an eternity in hell. As [John 3:16](#), [Romans 10:9](#) and many other verses say, you have to believe that Jesus died for you and for your sins AND you have to make Him Lord of your life. He must be number ONE in your life. Have you done that? Is He really?

When the blood from the 1st Passover lamb was applied to the side and top of the door frame, everyone could see it. Everyone—believer or not—knew that people who did believe in God and His promises lived in that particular house. There was no denying it—the blood was there to be seen by everyone.

So, the second question is: “*Can others see the difference in you?*” The operative word here is “see”—not “hear.” Are you different or do you blend in with everyone else? Do you laugh at all the same questionable jokes? Do you have the same bad habits as everyone else around you? Is there any difference between what you do and say and what the world does and says? If you say you have applied Jesus’ blood and have made Him Lord of your life, it must be seen not just heard. In [Mat. 7:16](#) Jesus said, “**By their fruits you shall know them.**” James wrote in [James 2:18](#), “**I will show you my faith by what I do.**” [1 Peter 2:12](#) says, “**Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.**” How about you, can your faith and the lordship of Jesus Christ be seen in your fruit, in what you do?