

The Lamb Crucified Before the Foundation of the Earth

Key Verse: 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.

As we gather this Passover, we reflect on one of the most profound truths that the Christian faith holds dear: that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who was crucified before the foundation of the earth. This theme is crucial because it reveals the divine intention of God to redeem humanity long before sin even entered the world. The overarching red thread woven throughout the Scriptures reminds us that without the shedding of blood, there can be no foundation upon which our lives can stand firm. “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).

Let’s first consider the significance of the blood of the Lamb in the history of the children of Israel. As they were enslaved in Egypt, the Lord gave them specific instructions about preparing for their deliverance. In Exodus 12, God commanded each household to sacrifice a lamb—one without blemish—and apply its blood on the doorposts and lintel of their homes. The Lord declared that when He passed through Egypt to execute judgment, He would see the blood on the door and “pass over” those homes, sparing the inhabitants from death. This biblical principle illustrates the protective power of the blood of the Lamb, which signifies not just temporal safety, but also obedience to God's command.

This moment marks a critical point in the covenant relationship between God and His people. The application of that blood not only preserved their lives but also established a foundational truth: the necessity of blood for redemption and salvation. In the same way, Jesus, our perfect Passover Lamb, was sacrificed to provide ultimate protection, rescue us from the bondage of sin, and ensure our eternal life. Now, we can identify three significant foundations in the Bible that were dedicated with blood:

1. **The Foundation of the Passover:** The event of the Passover marked Israel's deliverance from slavery. The shedding of the lamb's blood was pivotal in ensuring freedom—not just from physical servitude but from spiritual bondage. This first

foundation set forth the idea that God would provide a sacrifice for His people, culminating in Christ.

2. **The Foundation of Solomon's Temple:** In 1 Kings 8, when Solomon dedicated the Temple, he oversaw an enormous number of sacrifices—over 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. The continuous offering of sacrifices and the shedding of blood consecrated this magnificent structure, representing the presence of God dwelling among His people. *The Temple was a physical structure, yet its spiritual foundation was laid in blood*, pointing towards the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus that would render all animal sacrifices obsolete.
3. **The Foundation of the New Covenant:** At the Last Supper, Jesus introduced the New Covenant in His blood, as recorded in Luke 22:20: "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." This statement highlights that the sacrifice of Jesus is the foundation upon which our relationship with God is built. Through His blood, we receive forgiveness, grace, and access to the Father. This New Covenant represents the fulfillment of the law and prophetic promises, establishing an irrevocable bond between God and humanity.

In contrast, consider two cases from Scripture where the foundation lacked blood:

1. **Cain's lack of a blood foundation:** In the account of Cain and Abel, we see the consequences of Cain's failure to establish a blood foundation, which ultimately led to him becoming a vagabond. Cain, in his offering to God, presented the fruits of his labor from the ground, which represented his efforts and works but lacked the essential element of sacrifice and blood that God required. Unlike Abel, who brought a lamb and offered it as a blood sacrifice to the Lord, thereby establishing a foundational relationship with God through faith in the provision of a substitute, Cain neglected this vital aspect of worship. As a result, God rejected Cain's offering, indicating that without the blood, there could be no acceptance or true communion with the Divine. This rejection not only led to Cain's anger and jealousy, which drove him to commit the grave sin of murdering his brother Abel but also resulted in his punishment—being cursed and marked as a wanderer on the earth. Stripped of a solid foundation based on genuine sacrifice, Cain became a vagabond, destined to roam without rest or belonging. His life became a poignant reminder of the spiritual emptiness that accompanies a rejection of God's established order, where the shedding of blood is

necessary for redemption and an authentic relationship with Him. Therefore, Cain's story warns us that a life devoid of a blood foundation ultimately leads to a life of aimlessness and separation from the presence of God.

2. **The Tower of Babel:** In Genesis 11, humanity sought to construct a city and a tower that reached the heavens, driven by pride and rebellion against God. They attempted to make a name for themselves while ignoring God's command to fill the earth. Their efforts were fundamentally flawed because they lacked reliance on God's plans and covenants. God intervened and confused their language, scattering them across the earth. This illustrates that any foundation built outside of God's provision—symbolized by blood—is destined to fail.

As we draw parallels from these examples, it becomes evident that our lives too can be constructed on a shaky foundation without the Lamb's blood. Jesus presented this reality in Matthew 7:24-27, where He spoke of wise and foolish builders. The wise man built his house upon the rock, symbolizing obedience to His words, while the foolish man built upon sand, which collapsed when the storms of life came. Brothers and sisters, our lives are like those houses—strengthened or weakened by the foundations we choose. When we accept the blood of the Lamb, we establish a foundation that stands firm against the trials and tribulations of this world. Without the blood of Jesus covering our lives, we face the storms of doubt, fear, and despair, which can threaten to wash us away. It is through the blood of the Lamb that we find our security and hope, knowing that we are anchored in Christ—a relationship fortified by His sacrifice.

As we meditate on the Scriptures, we cannot overlook the necessity of faith in Jesus, the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. The apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 1:4-5 that God chose us in Christ “before the foundation of the world,” highlighting that our identity in Him was part of His divine plan, cemented in the blood of the Lamb. This foundational truth assures us that our security does not depend on our works or merit, but on the grace of God manifest through the sacrificial death of Jesus. Additionally, in Revelation 12:11, we read, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.” Here, we see the transformative power of the blood—it empowers us to overcome sin and the adversities we face. The blood does not merely protect; it empowers us to live victoriously as children of God.

In the context of Easter, we are reminded of the resurrection of Christ, which underscores the significance of His sacrifice. The blood was shed for our sins, but the resurrection affirms that death itself has been defeated. The empty tomb is the ultimate declaration of the New Covenant established in Jesus' blood. As we celebrate this season, we rejoice that the foundation laid by Christ is alive and active in our lives today. As we look forward to the New Jerusalem, we can reflect on the promise of a place built on the blood of the Lamb. Hebrews 12:22-24 draws a beautiful contrast between two covenantal communities—the Mount Sinai community filled with fear and the Mount Zion community filled with joy. In the New Jerusalem, we will experience unbroken fellowship with God, made possible by the blood of Jesus. The city represents our ultimate home, where there will be no more tears, suffering, or death. Our citizenship in this eternal city rests solely upon the foundation of Christ's blood.

As we conclude this message, I want to extend an invitation to each of you. If you find that your life lacks the foundation of the blood of the Lamb, I urge you to believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Acknowledge His sacrifice, embrace His grace, and allow His blood to cover and transform you. Acts 2:38 calls us to: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." This scripture reveals the steps toward establishing a firm foundation; it invites you into a covenant relationship with God through the blood of Jesus. This Easter, let us celebrate not only the resurrection but also the profound truth that Jesus is God and the Lamb of God, the one who was slain for our sins, from before the foundation of the world. Let us rejoice in the security and hope that come from knowing we are founded on the rock of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice.

May each of us leave today with a commitment to build our lives on this unshakable foundation—the blood of the Lamb. And as we do so, may we share this message of redemption and hope with those around us, inviting them to experience the life-changing power of the Lamb slain before the foundation of the earth. Amen.