

Main Lesson: God offers protection through a *perfect* sacrifice. (Exodus 12: 1-13)

Following the nine plagues, on the eve of the tenth and final plague, the people of Israel were instructed by God (through Moses) in the way of their salvation. The Israelites were given specific instructions on what they were to do to be spared the destruction of the oncoming plague:

- Each household were to select ***one sacrificial offering*** (lamb or goat), ***one year old***, and ***without defect or blemishes*** {in other words, it had to be a good quality animal, the type that Able would have most likely offered to God {Gen 4:4; Heb 11:4}}
- To be ***slaughtered at twilight*** (the time of day when the sun has dropped below the horizon, but some of its light is still visible in the sky { <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twilight> })
- Its ***blood was to be smeared on the doorposts and lentils*** (this was to be the sign that they were covered and protected, set apart and safe from the oncoming plague)
- The entire animal (head, legs, internal organs, torso etc..) was to be ***roasted***, that is it was to be slow cooked over a fire for a long period of time until cooked (think turkey in the oven)
- The ***entire animal was to be consumed***, if the family could not finish it was to be burned up completely, ***none was to remain***.
- They were to wear their clothes in a certain manner, ***dressed for travel***
 - Robes tucked, belts fastened
 - Sandals on their feet
 - Staff in hand.

This meal is called the Passover because every time that it is celebrated the Israelites would remember their deliverance and how the Lord “passed over” them when He judged the land of Egypt. One thing to keep in mind, this was the start of a completely new kind of relationship between God and his people, before the people of God related with God on a one to one basis (think Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, and Joseph). Now God was beginning to establish a relationship with an entire group of people, a nation. This is foreshadowed in the first verse of the passage. God decreed that month was to be the start of Israel’s calendar (Ex. 12:1), a new beginning. God established their calendar based on theology, so that at the beginning of every year when they celebrated the Passover meal, they would remember God’s great salvation.

Things uncovered during group discussion.

- The precision of God.

The level of detail disclosed concerning the way things were supposed to be done was extremely precise. Here we see a glimpse into the mind of the God who constructed the universe with all its intricate designs, marvels, and unsearchable beauties. This account however is not the first time we get glimpse at God’s precise nature and it will not be the last. If you can recall, during the time of Moses, it was God who instructed Moses on the dimensions, details, and overall design of a boat that was to weather 300+ days of storm and drifting, as well as house countless species of animals. The titanic, in all its grandeur, sank 5 days into its maiden voyage, the ship that God designed withstood one of the worst biblical disasters. Further into the Exodus

narrative, God gives even more instructions about all types of things (tents, tabernacles, dressings, proper behaviors, cleansing rituals etc....). If God is this precise about his plans and his designs, think on the promises of [Jerimiah 29:11](#) and reflect on the amount of care that God is putting into your life right now as well as into your future. The Word teaches us to lean not on our own understanding and trust God and He will make our paths straight ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

- The Mercy of God

The people of Israel were spared judgement through the means of a sacrifice. The sacrificed lamb and the blood on the doorposts were how they came to receive their deliverance. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt" ([Exodus 12:13](#)). God's final judgement was about to fall on the whole of Egypt and though the Israelites were not innocent(sinless), God Judged them as Innocent because of the blood of the sacrificed lamb. Does this sound familiar? It is the same story that we are actively living out as we work out our salvation ([Phil. 2:12](#)), because "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."([Ps. 103:10](#)). We experience the mercies of God fully through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, just as the Israelites who covered their doorposts with the blood of the lamb were spared; so to, those who have been born again (accepted Jesus into their hearts and actively live out [Romans 10:9](#)), have Christ's blood covering them. God sees Christ's blood and passes over our sins **and** assigns Christ's righteousness as our own.

- The perfect purity of the sacrifice.

A careful look at the text reveals that God does not desire any old offering. God requested the animal that was to be slaughtered to be one that was pure, without defects or blemishes. A blameless life had to be sacrificed in the place of guilty people who needed salvation. Does that sound familiar? Jesus Christ, pure and sinless, was offered up as a ransom for sinners ([Matt. 20:28](#)).

We are called to be like Jesus and "be about our Fathers' business" ([Luke 2:49{KJV}](#)). In the words of Paul, we must offer up *ourselves* as living sacrifices to God ([Romans 12:1](#)), acting in Christlike purity and holiness in all the areas of our lives, whether it be home, school, work, church, personal disciplines, or interpersonal relationships. Our aim should be to get to a place where we feel strongly in our hearts those words that came from heaven on the day of Jesus' baptism "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased ([Matthew 3:17](#))" {For the ladies, read daughter instead of Son}.

Passages pondered and discussed

- Romans 14
- 1 Samuel 1:12-14
- Matthew 11:30
- Matthew 5:23-24
- Genesis 3:15
- Ephesians 2:8-9

Some things to reflect on till next time

Read through the entirety of Exodus chapter 12

Read Luke 22 and try to connect some of the details of the Passover back to Exodus 12.

Also attached is a resource that explains the differences between several different English bible translations.

Sermon : The speaker expands on the Galatians 5:22-23, the focus is on the fruit of the Spirit:
Patience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e4TEb1cvcl&t=13s>

... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)