

The Road to Easter #2:

The First Passover

Exodus 12:1-13 ¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover. ¹²“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The **background** of this passage is that Israel is in captivity in Egypt and Yahweh has sent Moses to deliver them. The seventh and final plague before Pharaoh releases them is the plague of the death of the firstborn of every family that does not have animal blood on their doorposts and doorframes.
- B. This was the beginning of the **Jewish** calendar. V. 2
- C. **Each** household is to take a male lamb without defect and bring it into their home for four days. V. 3-6 It can be a sheep or a goat. V. 5
- D. The lamb is to be slaughtered and the blood is to be put on the **sides** and **tops** of the doorframes of their houses. V. 7
- E. They are to eat the Passover Meal in **haste**. V. 8-11
- F. Every household **without** the blood on their house will have their firstborn sons all killed. V. 12
- G. The homes **with** the lamb’s blood on them will be spared.

II. What can we learn from this.

- A. It is important to know this **story**, otherwise, Easter makes no sense.
- B. We cannot expect non-believers to understand Yahweh’s wrath. However, without it **grace** becomes a license for sin.

C. We must understand that our God requires things from us. They had strict guidelines for Passover. They were time consuming and cost money.

D. Our God still demands a sacrifice for the sins of His people.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. (BSB)