

As we consider the *Lord's Supper And The Questions We Should Ask*, it is absolutely essential to first look into the Old Testament book of Exodus and the very first Old Testament feast God Himself instituted for the nation Israel: Passover. Passover was in direct correlation with the tenth plague God brought upon the Egyptians: death of the firstborn.

It's interesting to note that when the LORD commissioned Moses and sent him back to Egypt, that the LORD said to Moses, "...you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."'" (Ex. 4:22-23) As every plague was a direct attack on the various gods of Egypt, the tenth plague was no exception. The firstborn son was considered special and sacred among the ancient Egyptians. Obviously Pharaoh's firstborn son was the heir-apparent. But let's consider the extent of the death of the firstborn:

And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold." And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people. Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the hand mill, and all the firstborn of the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'" (Ex. 11:1-7)

And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. (Ex. 12:29-30)

So it is in this setting that God instituted the very first Old Testament feast for His people, Israel.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make

your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Ex. 12:1-13)

In light of such an awesome event, let's consider what might have been the conversation between a firstborn son and his father on that very first Passover:

“Daddy, what did you talk to Moses about today?”

“Well son, the Lord has said He will bring one more plague upon Pharaoh and Egypt, and that this time Pharaoh will let us go.”

“Daddy, there have already been other plagues, and every time Pharaoh gets more upset. Do you really think Pharaoh will let us go this time?”

“Yes son, I do. The Lord said Pharaoh will want us to leave. He will practically throw us out!”

“Daddy, why are you looking for the best lamb of the flock?”

“Well son, we are going to have a late meal, but this meal is going to be different from all the other meals we have ever had. This is going to be a feast unto the Lord. The Lord always deserves the best of all that we have. The Lord has given special orders that it's to be the best of the flock. As we prepare it, God has given special orders how to prepare it; and not even a bone is to be broken in its body.”

“Daddy, what are you going to do with that basin?”

“Well son, to catch the lamb's blood.”

“Why do you have to do that?”

“The Lord said He will pass through the land of Egypt about midnight and He will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and animals; and the blood will be a sign upon the house. And when God sees the blood, He will pass over our home.”

“What are you doing with that bunch of hyssop?”

“Son, the blood must be applied. God said to apply it to the door posts and lintel. And we must remain in the house.”

“Daddy?”

“Yes son?”

“I’m your only son right now, ain’t I?”

“Yes son, you are.”

“Then....that must mean I’m your firstborn son, doesn’t it?”

“Yes son, you are.”

“Daddy, I sure am glad you listen to God.”

Perhaps some Egyptian boys came by, making fun of what they were doing. “My daddy’s doing exactly what God told us to do, and that tonight Pharaoh will let us go.”

“Ah, Pharaoh will never let you go; you’ll die in Egypt.”

“That’s what you think. If the Lord said he will, then he will. God is coming through about midnight and bringing judgment upon the land of Egypt, and smiting all the firstborn, both man and animals. But God will pass over any home where the blood is applied, and the firstborn will be spared. My daddy is doing all of this because he believes God and to spare my life.”

“Son, it’s time to go in now. This will be a night to remember. In fact, God has said this will be the beginning of a new year for us. Through God setting us free, we are beginning a new life. This night is so important that it is to be kept as a feast every year; so that we, and your children, and your children’s children, will know it is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And that with a strong hand the Lord brought us up out of Egypt.”

“Daddy?”

“Yes son.”

“Why do we have to eat in such a hurry and why do you have your staff in your hand?”

“Because son, the Lord has told us to get ready to leave. We must prepare when the time comes. It won’t be long now.”

“Daddy?”

“Yes son.”

“The blood of the lamb really must be important to God isn’t it?”

“Yes son, it is.”

“Is that why you didn’t sprinkle any blood at the bottom of the door?”

“Yes son, you see, the blood being applied to our house is what preserves your life. Anything that is as important as that should not be trampled under our feet.”

“Daddy?”

“Yes son.”

“I’m glad we’re under the blood of the lamb, aren’t you?”

“Yes son, I am.”

Approximately 1500 years later, in a large upper room, overlooking the cobblestone streets of Jerusalem, gathered a small group of men (13 in number), to partake of what would be their final Passover. But why would this be the final celebration of the oldest Jewish feast, which God Himself had instituted? Because God Himself had provided a Lamb, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.(Gen. 22:8; Jhn. 1:29) “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” (I Cor. 5:7)

In what ways is Jesus our Passover Lamb?

A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH (Ex. 12:5)

The apostle Peter writes:

Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Pet. 1:18, 19)

Just as Israel was in bondage in Egypt, all people, everywhere, are enslaved to sin. But through becoming our sin-bearer and dying our death, the pure and precious Lamb of God (God's eternal Son) has fully paid our ransom and provided our release from sin's bondage and curse. As believers, He has purchased and reconciled us back to Himself!

THE LAMB DIED IN THE PRIME OF ITS LIFE (Ex. 12:5)

Although they took the life of the innocent lamb and its death was premature, Jesus, at the age of thirty-three and at just the right time (in every respect), freely and obediently laid down his life. (cf. Jhn. 10:18)

It's appropriate here, to mention the words of Isaiah as he describes the humble submission of the Lamb of God:

He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth. (Isa. 53:7)

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, it was customary in his day to slay the Passover lamb about 3:00 p.m. It was on Passover, around 3:00 p.m., and while Jesus our Passover Lamb hung on the cross, spoke these words: "It is finished!" and "Father into Your hands I commit My spirit." (Jhn. 19:30; Lke. 23:44-46)

NOT A BONE WAS TO BE BROKEN IN ITS BODY (Ex. 12:46b; Num. 9:12; Ps. 34:20)

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day [Sabbath of Passover week]), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." (Jhn. 19:31-36)

There were absolutely no flaws and no fault in the Lamb of God. There was nothing at all about Him that would disqualify Jesus from being the Passover Lamb; the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

In Genesis we see ruin through the sin of man; in Exodus we discover redemption through the blood of the Lamb. At Passover we see one lamb dying for a family. On the Day of Atonement we see one lamb dying for a nation. But at Calvary, we see One Lamb dying for the world!