

## The Precious Blood of Christ

### Exodus 12:1-13

In the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, Netherlands, there is an ancient Egyptian document called *The Admonitions of Ipuwer*. This document was written by a man named Ipuwer, who lived during the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty of Egypt (around 1445 B.C.). In this document, Ipuwer described a nation that was in utter chaos. He said that there was no longer an intact police force, and that “The mayor of the city goes unescorted.” “Foreigners,” he said, had “become people everywhere,” and had filled the Delta region (what the Bible calls “Goshen”). “Poor men,” Ipuwer complained, “have become men of wealth...Gold, lapis lazuli, silver and turquoise...are strung on the necks of **female slaves**.” (Female slaves wearing their mistresses’ jewellery? That sounds exactly like what the Bible says! The Egyptians willingly gave the Israelite slaves their jewellery, so that they would leave their land.) Ipuwer said that “There is blood everywhere, no shortage of death.” In fact, Ipuwer reported that “Many dead are buried in the river.” (Apparently, so many people were dying, that they didn’t have time to bury them. They simply threw their bodies in the river.) He said that grain was exhausted, “trees are felled, branches stripped,” “food is lacking,” “great hunger and suffering,” “storehouses are bare.” Even the upper classes, Ipuwer said, were in utter disarray. He reported that “The noblewomen go hungry,” and that “All the ranks, they are not in their place, like a herd that roams without a herdsman.” In fact, Ipuwer said that “the land is deprived of **kingship**.” (That’s strange! Did the king of Egypt have no power anymore? What happened? Had he been humiliated by the God of slaves?) Ipuwer was so perplexed, that he lamented, “If I knew where god is, I would serve him.” (Again, this is a strange statement! The Egyptians served *many* gods, not one God: and they knew exactly where their so-called “gods” were—in their temples. It seems that Ipuwer was questioning the existence of his Egyptian gods, and was seeking to know an invisible God—a God of another people.) Lastly, Ipuwer reported that “**the river is blood**.”<sup>1</sup>

Needless to say, you will *not* hear about this document on National Geographic, or on the Discovery Channel, or in a BBC documentary. The Bible-denying academics who rule our society do not want you to hear about this, because it affirms the Bible! Obviously, Ipuwer lived in the time of Moses. He saw Egypt’s crops destroyed by hail, locusts, and fire. He saw the cattle wiped out by a terrible plague. He saw the Nile River turned to blood. People were dying of starvation and disease. Many had died in the fields from enormous hailstones, which had knocked down their trees and crops, and had killed whatever cattle were left. Last of all, he had seen the firstborn of every Egyptian household die in one night.

That last night of Israel’s bondage in Egypt was a night of horrible judgment. As Ipuwer stressed, blood was everywhere. However, as we have seen in **Exodus 12** over the last several weeks, it was not merely the blood of the Egyptians that filled the land. On the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, while God was passing over the houses of Egypt, and slaying the firstborn in every Egyptian house, blood was found on the doorposts of hundreds of thousands of Hebrew slaves: and this blood was the **blood of lambs**. God had warned the children of Israel that in order to avoid the death of their *own* firstborn, each household was to take a perfect, spotless lamb, slay it, and put its blood on the doorposts of their houses: and God promised that “**When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.**” This morning, we will talk about the blood of the Lamb of God, and about its power to save from death. The title of this message is ***The Precious Blood of Christ***.

### Exodus 12:1-13, 29-31

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Lennart Möller, *The Exodus Case* (Strängnäs, Sweden: Scandinavia Publishing House, 2000), pp. 153-158.

## I. The nature of the Lamb

Over the last three weeks, we have learned about the food that the children of Israel were to eat on Passover night. They were to eat lamb roasted over fire; unleavened bread; and bitter herbs. We have seen how all these foods were prophetic pictures of Jesus Christ. The spotless lamb and the unleavened bread picture Christ as the sinless Son of God. The Israelites' *eating* of the lamb, and their *eating* of the unleavened bread, illustrate how Christ gives eternal life to all who "eat" Him (receive Him by faith). The bitter herbs picture the bitterness of our bondage to sin; and they point to Jesus Christ as the one who would take our sins upon Himself on the cross, and go through the bitterness of God's judgment, so that we might be freed from sin. All these things are very serious and sober pictures of salvation through Jesus Christ.

However, the most sobering part of this night was the "Passover" itself. The Jewish people call this night *Pesach* ("Passover") because on that night, God Himself literally passed over every house in Egypt; and it was the blood of the lamb on their doorposts that spared them from death. The lamb is, by far, the most outstanding feature of the Passover feast. It points to Jesus as the Lamb of God. After 1,400 years of having the image of the Passover lamb graven into their minds and hearts, the people of Israel were well prepared to hear the truth this Jesus is "the Lamb of God." When Jesus began His ministry on earth, John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him while he was baptising; and John pointed to Jesus and said, "***Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world***" (John 1:29).

There are several ways in which the Passover lamb points to Jesus Christ. First of all, God commanded that a *male* lamb (not a female lamb) was to be slain. This speaks of the fact that Jesus came down from heaven to become a **Man**. Remember, Jesus is the eternal God; and God is *not* female in character: He is masculine, and patriarchal. Now, the Bible clearly says, in **Numbers 23:19**, that "***God is not a man.***" However, the rest of the statement is, "***God is not a man, that he should lie.***" God is not denying that He is patriarchal in character: He is saying that, unlike sinful men, who change their minds and tell lies, He never changes His mind, nor lies. By the way, the verse goes on to say, "***God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent.***" Who is this "son of man"? The verse clearly implies that "son of man" is a title for God Himself! There is only one Man who can fit that description—the Lord Jesus Christ! He is the God who took on flesh, and became a Man.

Our God is masculine and patriarchal in character. Not once in the Bible does God refer to Himself as "she" or "her": He always refers to Himself in the masculine. Yes, the Bible says that "***God is a Spirit***" (John 4:24); but as a Spirit, God is not an "it." He is *not* a gender-neutral God, who can be thought of either as "he" or "she."

Now, the Greek word for "spirit" (the word *pneuma*), is neuter. That is simply how it works in the Greek language. However, there were many times when the Lord broke the rules of Greek grammar just to make the point that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but a *personal* God—and that He is masculine in character! In **John 14:26**, **15:26**, and **16:13-14**, Jesus used the Greek pronoun *ekeinós* ("He") to refer to the Holy Spirit, even though it was grammatically incorrect. The Father is a "He": the Holy Spirit is a "He"; and the Son is a "He." Whenever one of God's prophets saw God in a vision, God *always* appeared in the form of a man. When Ezekiel saw God, he said that he saw "***the likeness as the appearance of a man***" upon the throne (**Ezekiel 1:26**). Whenever God appeared to His people in bodily form in Old Testament times, He always appeared as a Man. And when the second Person of the Godhead came to earth to purchase our salvation, He was born as a Man.

Now, this is not a popular message in a world which is saturated with feminism, LGBTQ, and moral confusion and insanity of every kind. Apostate “theologians” of all stripes now openly say that it is O.K. to refer to God as our “mother,” or with feminine gender pronouns. This is blasphemy of the grossest kind! As God, Jesus is a “He”; and as a Man, Jesus is a “He.” That is why God commanded that the children of Israel kill a *male* lamb.

Secondly, God commanded the children of Israel to slay a “lamb.” The word “lamb” (*seh*) implies a *young* sheep. God specifically said that it was to be a lamb “**of the first year**” (no more than a year old). This is a prophetic picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, in two ways. First of all, it pictures the fact that Jesus would die as a *young* man. At age 33, Jesus was in the prime of life. Because of their cleanliness and healthy diet, the Jewish people lived long lives. To the Jews, thirty-three was young. Jesus did not die at an age at which He was approaching the end of life, anyway: He died prematurely. This is exactly what was prophesied of Him. In **Isaiah 53:8**, Isaiah said of Jesus, “**Who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living.**” **Daniel 9:26** also prophesied that Messiah would be “**cut off.**” In other words, He would die a premature, untimely death.

What else does the lamb’s being “**of the first year**” picture? It pictures the fact that Jesus would die *without resistance*. Sheep are about the most defenceless animals that there are; but a *lamb* is the most defenceless of all. A male lamb of less than a year old has small horns, and small teeth. Even its horns are shaped in such a way that it is easy to catch onto the horns (like “handles”), and manipulate his body. Sheep barely even put up resistance as they are going to the slaughter. This is exactly why Isaiah prophesied, “**He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so openeth he not his mouth**” (**Isaiah 53:7**). When Jesus was arrested, He didn’t struggle, or curse anyone; He let them lead Him to death. Now, Jesus was not defenceless. As God, He could have destroyed His enemies instantly. Even the angels could have done the job for Him. When Peter took out his sword to defend Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told Peter, “**Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?**” (**Matthew 26:52-53**). Like a lamb, Jesus barely opened his mouth as He stood before Pilate; and as He stood before Herod, He said absolutely nothing at all. He went as a lamb to the slaughter.

The *male* lamb pictures Jesus. The *young* lamb pictures Jesus. The lamb’s *lack of resistance* pictures Jesus. However, the most striking way in which the lamb pictures Jesus is in the fact that it was to be “**without blemish.**” The lamb could be no ugly mark, or deformity, on its body. It could not be sickly, or diseased. It had to be a perfect, healthy lamb. In the same way, Jesus Christ is “**without blemish, and without spot.**” In other words, He is without sin. There is absolutely no flaw in Jesus’ character. He never broke God’s law even once.

From the moment that Jesus was conceived in the womb, He had no sin in Him. Paul said in **Hebrews 7:26**, “**For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.**” Now, I must confess that I don’t know what a sinless baby would be like! I suppose Jesus lightly cried to let His mommy know He was hungry, as other babies do; but He probably didn’t wail and scream, because there was no selfishness in Him. As Jesus grew into manhood, He still did nothing wrong. He never disobeyed His mother Mary, or Joseph. Now, remember, Joseph was not His actual father. (Jesus had no earthly father.) Yet, Jesus obeyed Joseph with a good attitude, just as though he *were* His father.

But that’s not all. Jesus also obeyed His Heavenly Father, all the time. Even though Jesus is *equal* to His Father in every way, He always submitted to the Father, and obeyed Him. He never went off and did His “own thing.” Jesus said, “**For I came down from heaven, not to**

***do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38).*** Jesus always did exactly what the Father told Him to do. Even when His heavenly Father’s will was at odds with his foster father’s will, Jesus always obeyed His Father, yet submitted to Joseph respectfully.

### **Luke 2:41-52**

Jesus is the Lamb of God. However, Christ’s *being* the Lamb of God would have done nothing for us if He had not *died* as a lamb. The *blood* of the lamb was needed for the Israelites to escape death; and the blood of the Lamb of God is needed for *us* to escape death.

## **II. The blood of the Lamb**

As we saw in **Exodus 12**, the children of Israel were to pick out a lamb from their flock on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, and inspect it. Likewise, Jesus came into Jerusalem on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, and was vigorously “inspected” by the rulers of Israel over the next four days. No matter how hard they tried to find fault in Jesus, they could not. He was without blemish.

But then, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, they were to *slay* the lamb. **Exodus 12:6** says that they were to kill the lamb ***“in the evening.”*** “Evening,” for the Jews, begins at about 3 p.m., and continues until 6 p.m., when the day ends. Is it any coincidence, then, that Jesus died at exactly 3 p.m.—at the very time when the Jews were beginning to slay their Passover lambs? For 1,400 years, the Passover was literally a “dress rehearsal” for when the *real* Lamb of God would be slain. Even the *timing* of everything was spot on!

But the **blood** of the lamb was the main part of the dress rehearsal. God commanded the children of Israel to put the blood of the lamb in a basin; and then, they were to take branches of hyssop (a little shrub), dip it in the lamb’s blood, and strike the blood on the top and two side posts of the door. God promised Israel that during that night of Passover, He would pass over all the houses in the land of Egypt to slay their firstborn; but, He said, ***“When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”***

### **Hebrews 11:24-27**

The blood of the lamb was of inestimable importance! Without it, there could be no deliverance on that fateful Passover night, even for the children of Israel. So it is with the blood of Christ. There is no salvation without the blood of Christ. **Colossians 1:20** says, ***“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself.”*** **Ephesians 1:7** says, ***“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.”*** **Hebrews 9:22** says, ***“Without shedding of blood is no remission.”***

All over Egypt on that fateful night, Egyptian people were awaking to the horrible realisation that someone in their house was dead. No matter what rank or station they were, there was no exception: someone in the house was dead. The King of Egypt himself awoke to find that his firstborn son was dead. So it will be on the day of the Great White Throne judgment, at the end of the world. *Every* soul, no matter what rank or station he or she may have had on earth, will stand before God to be judged. **Revelation 20:12 & 15** says, ***“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books....and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*** No one who stands in this awful judgment will enter the gates of heaven. Now, the saved will have already been judged much earlier, to give an account of what they did for God; but not one of them will have his sins held against him. Not one saved soul will be sentenced

to the Lake of Fire. Why? Because they had the blood of Jesus over the doors of their hearts. They chose to put their trust in the Lamb of God. Those who pass out of this life *without* having believed on Jesus be doomed. Without the blood of Jesus on their heart's door, they will be judged by their works, and sentenced to eternal death in the Lake of Fire.

My friend, there is no escaping it: we will *all* stand before Jesus Christ some day. The question is not *if* you will stand before Jesus Christ: the question is, "In *which* judgment will you stand before Christ?" Will you stand before Christ in the judgment of the saved—or in the judgment of the lost? If you desire to stand in the judgment of the saved, and enter into the joy of heaven for eternity, you *must* have the blood of Jesus over your heart's door.

God has already done everything that is necessary for you to be saved. He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth, to become a Man, so that He might die on the cross for your sins. Jesus paid the price for every single sin you've ever done, or ever will do. Your sins were laid on Jesus, as though He had done them Himself. God the Father took the judgment that *we* deserve for our sin, and poured it out on His Son. The blood of the Lamb of God *had* to be spilt.

On the last night before Jesus died, He ate one last Passover meal with His disciples. They ate lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs. But there was something else that they had at this meal. They all drank grape juice. (The Bible never calls it "wine." In all four Gospels, it is called "***the fruit of the vine,***" so that there is no question that it was freshly-pressed grape juice, and not alcohol!) Now, God never commanded the children of Israel to drink grape juice during the Passover meal. However, by the time Jesus was on earth, the Jews had added the drinking of grape juice to the meal; and Jesus accepted this practice. In fact, the Jewish people drink *four* cups of grape juice. Each one of these four cups reminds the Jews of something having to do with their deliverance from the land of Egypt. These cups are called the cup of **Sanctification**; the cup of **Judgment**; the cup of **Redemption**; and the cup of **Restoration**. These cups do not merely point backward in history: they point *forward*, to the cross of Christ. In order that Christ might **sanctify** a people unto Himself, He took the **judgment** of our sin upon Himself; and by taking our judgment, Jesus purchased **redemption** for us; and He has **restored** us unto God. One day, that restoration will be complete, when God gives His redeemed ones new, resurrected, sinless, glorified bodies, fit for heaven.

Now, while the disciples were drinking these cups of grape juice, the Bible says that Jesus took the cup, and said something very important. Jesus said, "***Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me***" (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:25). Jesus wasn't saying that the grape juice was *actually* His blood, as the Catholic Church blasphemously teaches. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus shed His blood only once, never to shed it again. What Jesus was saying was that the grape juice *reminds* us of His blood. It is a memorial. To this day, churches all over the world have the Lord's Supper. Whenever this church takes the Lord's Supper, the grape juice reminds us that we have received eternal life through the blood of Christ.

### **John 6:51-56, 63**

Jesus Christ is the *true* Passover Lamb. The lambs that the children of Israel killed every Passover couldn't actually take away their sins; but *Jesus* can take away our sins. Every time the children of Israel struck the blood over the doorpost, God was giving them a little picture of what Jesus would do one day on the cross. In fact, God was *literally* giving them a picture of a cross! God told the Israelites that the blood had to be struck on the *top* doorpost, and on the two side posts. What does that form? It forms a cross! For 1,400 years before Jesus was born, the children of Israel were forming a cross on their doorposts. It was on the cross that

Christ purchased our redemption. **However**, the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross does no good for the sinner if it be not *received*. This brings us to our last point.

### III. The personal application of the blood of the Lamb

Everyone in this room has heard that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. However, merely *knowing* that Jesus paid for your sins doesn't make you saved. In order to make it into heaven, *you* have a personal decision to make. "What do I have to do, Pastor Finley? Do I have to try to be good, and clean up my life?" No! That will *not* take away your sin! The Bible says in **Isaiah 64:6**, "***But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.***" You may try as hard as you can to be good; but in God's eyes, all the good things you do are like a pile of old, filthy rags! God *cannot* accept them as payment for your sin.

Not one of us can possibly be good enough to get to heaven. That is why Jesus died to pay for our sins. If we could make it to heaven on our own, there would have been no need for Christ to die for us, because we could have done it ourselves, by our own righteousness. But such is not the case. The Bible says, "***Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us***" (**Titus 3:5**). Salvation is a free gift from God, which He offers to each of us. However, you *do* have one decision to make: to receive the gift! How do you receive it? By simple faith in Christ! You must choose to *believe* on Jesus. You must choose to *trust* in Him. In your heart, you must ask Him to save you, with the full confidence that the blood He shed is truly all you need. You must be humble enough to admit that you can't do anything good enough to get to heaven—that only what *Jesus* did for you is enough.

This is where the hyssop comes into the picture. Remember the hyssop—that little shrub that the Israelites used to put the blood on the door? Let's go back to **Exodus** and read about it.

#### **Exodus 12:21-23**

Like everything else in the Passover, the hyssop is a picture of something. It is a picture of **faith**, or **trust**. Faith is the means by which the blood of Christ is applied to your heart's door. It is by *faith* that we receive the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Quote John 1:12.**) The fact that Jesus shed His blood does you no good if you do not apply His blood to your life by simple faith in Him, and His sacrifice. You must stop trusting in saints, priests, and popes. You must stop trusting in the priests of humanism, who tell you that you need to love yourself, and have self-esteem. You must stop trusting in images, relics, beads, and candles. You must stop trusting in religious ceremonies, rituals, sacraments, pilgrimages, baptism, confirmation, Eucharists, and penances. You must stop trusting in your good deeds. You must stop trusting in your coming to church (even to *this* church), your putting money in an offering plate, your giving to charities, or your helping a neighbour. *None* of these things will wash away your sin! You *must* trust in Christ. You *must* take up the "hyssop" of faith, dip it in the blood of Jesus, and strike it over *your* heart's door. By the way, let's see what else the Bible says about hyssop.

#### **Leviticus 14:1-7**

In this passage, God told the priests what they were to do for those who had been cured of leprosy. Now, obviously, this could happen only by a *miracle*. Leprosy is incurable, and deadly! For 1,400 years, no priest ever had to follow these instructions, because no Jew was ever healed of leprosy—that is, not until *Jesus* came. All of a sudden, the priests had to look up **Leviticus 14**, to see what they had to do for these lepers whom Jesus was healing! Now, *why* did they have to do all this? Why did a bird have to die? Why did a living bird have to be dipped in the dead bird's blood? And why did the leper have to be sprinkled with the dead bird's blood (using hyssop) and pronounced "clean"? Because it was all a picture of salvation!

The leper is a picture of a sinner. The bird that died and shed its blood is a picture of Christ. The bird that was dipped in the dead bird's blood, and was set free, is a picture of the sinner who is cured of his sin by the blood of Jesus, and set free. And the hyssop that was used to sprinkle the leper is a picture of that sinner's *faith in Christ*. Let's look at one more Scripture.

### **Psalm 51:1-7**

King David wrote this Psalm after he had committed the most heinous sin in his life—the sin of adultery with Bathsheba. Now, David was already a saved man. He had been justified before God by placing his faith in Jehovah, and in the coming Messiah. However, he knew that his *fellowship* with the Lord had come to a halt because of his sin. He knew that in order to have a close walk with God again, he needed cleansing. And so, what did he need? He said that he needed to be purged with hyssop! He said, **“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”** Clearly, David understood the meaning of hyssop. He knew that hyssop was a picture of faith. He knew that in order for him, as an already saved man, to have a close walk with the Lord again, he needed to be cleansed from his sin; and it was by *faith* that the blood of Christ was applied. In **1 John 1:7**, John wrote to believers, **“But if we walk in the light, as he (God) is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”**

In closing, I would ask you this question: “Have you been saved? Has the blood of Jesus been applied to *your* heart's door?” I'm not asking if you are from a religious home. I'm asking, “Have you admitted your personal need of Jesus, and asked Him to save you?” Think about the children of Israel in Egypt. What if some of the Israelites had said, “Well, I'm an Israelite. I'm not an Egyptian. I'm special. God won't smite *my* family. I don't have to put blood on *my* doorpost. I'll eat the Passover meal; but I'm not going to put any blood over *my* nice doorpost! That's just too gross.”

What would have happened if some Israelites had chosen *not* to put the blood over their doors? Their firstborn would have died. God made no exceptions. They *had* to put the blood on their doorpost, or else death would come to their family. In fact, the Israelites were to *stay inside their houses* that night while the LORD was passing over Egypt. As long as they were in their house, and the blood was over the door of their house, they were safe. In the same way, you must be *in Christ*, and have *His* blood over your heart's door in order to be saved from God's judgment. You must be trusting in Christ, and in His blood. It is by *faith* that we are saved! Scripture says, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

**Conclusion:** Have you kept the Passover? I'm not talking about literally keeping the feast of Passover. I'm not talking about slaying a lamb, and putting its blood on the doorpost of your house. I'm talking about trusting in the blood of Jesus, and *only* in the blood of Jesus, to save you from your sin. Perhaps you've never thought that your sin was bad enough to earn you eternity in the Lake of Fire. Perhaps you've always thought that you were a pretty good guy, or gal. If so, repent! Change your way of thinking! Turn your heart to Christ, and away from your sin and self-righteousness, so that you might be saved! And, Christian, I would ask you: **Are you walking daily by the Saviour's side?** You've already applied the blood of Christ to your heart's door, and you are saved for eternity; but are you going to Him for cleansing from sin in your daily life, so that you can have close fellowship with Him? If not, the blood of Christ is still there! Ask Him to purge you with hyssop, so that you might be whiter than snow.