

# The Passover Lamb

## Lesson for Sunday, March 26, 2023

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Our weekly review: *(Starting to be a long list!)*
  - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
  - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God’s image.
  - Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
  - Genesis 3:15 – God’s promise of redemption
  - Genesis 12:2-3 – The Seed of Abraham
  - Genesis 49:10 – Judah’s Royal Seed
- ⇒ We finally made it out of Genesis, and the pace is about to really pick up!
- ⇒ As we work through the material, look for takeaways that apply to us today.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Where Are We
  - a. At the end of Genesis, Joseph is in control of Egypt and has been reunited with his family (Genesis 50:22).
  - b. In just one turn of the page in our Bibles, we span 400 years and are introduced to a verse that indicates much has changed (read Exodus 1:8).
    - i. In these 400 years, Jacob’s family grew from around 70 people to probably close to two million. This didn’t escape the notice of the Egyptian leadership (1:9).
    - ii. The result was the enslavement of God’s people, the Israelites (1:10).
  - c. But it gets worse! Pharaoh plots the extinction of Israel by ordering the death of all their new baby boys (see 1:15-15, 22). This was another attempt by the Serpent’s seed to reverse the curse!
  - d. So, here is where we are:
    - i. Quite a bit of time has passed since God covenanted with Abraham, and even longer since God promised Adam and Eve that the woman’s seed would come to crush the head of the Serpent.
    - ii. But Israel was not in the Promised Land, they were prisoners in Egypt.
2. But God...
  - a. Even in the midst of these difficult circumstances, God was still at work.\*
  - b. While Pharaoh was trying to murder all the baby boys, one was spared, and is a wonderful reminder that God is always in control and always working His plan.
    - i. Moses was a Hebrew baby boy that was spared from Pharaoh’s plan.
    - ii. God not only spared Moses’s life, he put him in Moses’s house to be raised by Pharaoh’s own family!\*
  - c. God remembered His covenant with Abraham and the groaning of His people under the bondage of Egyptian slavery (see Ex. 2:24), and God sent Moses to confront Pharaoh.
  - d. God rescued His people by showing His power through a series of ten plagues. *If time, see if your class can list them all!*
  - e. On the night that God would finally rescue His people, we are introduced to an important concept we will see throughout the Old Testament.
3. The Passover Lamb *(this is the emphasis of this lesson)*
  - a. On that incredible night, God commanded each Israelite family to sacrifice a lamb and spread its blood over the top of their door & the doorposts on each side (Ex. 12:21-22).
  - b. Read Exodus 12:23. In a very direct way, God rescued His people with the blood of the Passover lambs. Because the lambs were sacrificed, the people did not have to die. Because the blood of the lambs was spilt, the firstborn sons in Abraham’s family were safe.

- c. Have you ever asked yourself, why did the Israelites have to do this? Didn't the rest of the plagues only impact the Egyptians? Why was this plague different?
  - i. The Egyptians were not the only ones under a death sentence. The Israelites were guilty, too.\*
  - ii. The Israelites were guilty of worshiping other gods (ref. Ezekiel 20:2-9) and of doubting God's promises to save them (Exodus 2:21).\*
  - iii. Like Adam and Eve, they doubted that God's words were true.
- 4. What Happened Next
  - a. God's providing this way of escape laid the foundation for the law He was about to give them beginning in Exodus 20.
  - b. The Passover is one of the earliest clear examples of the important biblical principle of substitution.
    - i. The sacrificed lambs were substitutes for the firstborn of Israel, and it was a sufficient sacrifice to save them from judgment that night.
    - ii. But there was one problem with the sacrifice – the people would soon need another one.
    - iii. It would not take the Israelites long to sin again and again. In order to point them to their constant failure to trust that God's words were true and their constant need for forgiveness, He gave them the law.
  - c. The backbone of the law was the sacrificial system. Every year, the priests would need to offer hundreds and hundreds of sacrifices. The message that was sent with each sacrifice was: "You deserve this. This should be your blood."
  - d. Put yourself in the place of an Israelite at that time. If you were understanding these sacrifices, you would think: "The consequences for sin is death, but in the garden, God promised to overcome the effects of sin and finally defeat the Serpent. But these sacrifices have to be continually repeated! So they can't actually be defeating sin. In fact, when I offer a sacrifice, I am admitting that I deserve death. Unless something or someone greater comes, all I am doing is delaying the inevitable. I need a greater sacrifice!"
  - e. This is one of the greatest purposes of the law – to point mankind to their need for a greater sacrifice still to come.
  - f. God redeemed His people from slavery by means of a substitute. In the first Passover, we see the pattern that God established in the law. It points us to the Greater Seed.
  - g. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, God in His grace led them into the Promised Land. (Read Joshua's testimony in Joshua 23:14).
  - h. Things were looking up! It looked like God's promise was coming to fruition! Or was it? We will pick up here next week...

#### DISCUSSION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
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- ⇒ Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
- ⇒ Genesis 3:15 – God's promise of redemption
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- ⇒ Exodus 12:23 – The Passover Lamb

#### TAKEAWAYS:

- ⇒ God is always working.
- ⇒ God works in amazing ways when we don't think He is working at all.
- ⇒ We are guilty and in need of the blood of the Lamb.
- ⇒ We are not much different than Israel!