

There is nothing like the Word of God to feed the soul. We aren't interested in the philosophies of men or the latest theological trends; we just want to see what the Lord has to say to us.

Exodus chapter 12 is a landmark chapter. This is the pivot point of history for the nation of Israel, but more importantly, it is a glorious "type" or picture of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

A New Beginning

In the first two verses, the Lord tells Moses and Aaron that this month—the month of *Abib* or *Nisan*—is to be the "beginning of months" for them. Now, we know they had a civil calendar that started later in the year, but God says, "From now on, your religious life, your walk with Me, starts right here."

Isn't that beautiful? When you come to Jesus Christ, your life starts over. You might be twenty, forty, sixty, or eighty years old, but the day you surrender to Him is your true "Day One." The past is washed away. Paul said he counted all his previous pedigree and accomplishments as "refuse" that he might win Christ (Philippians 3:8). If you are in Christ today, you are a new creation. Your life doesn't start until you meet the Author of Life.

The Lamb and the Blood

Starting in verse 3, God gives the instructions for the Passover. Every household was to take a lamb. Notice the progression in Scripture: it starts as "a lamb" (verse 3), then it becomes "the lamb" (verse 4), and finally "your lamb" (verse 5). It's not enough to know there *is* a Savior, or even that He is *the* Savior; He must become *your* Savior.

This lamb had to be without blemish. It was inspected for four days to ensure there was no spot or sickness. This points directly to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sinless, perfect, and holy.

Then, the instruction in verse 7: they were to take the blood and strike it on the two side posts and the upper doorpost. But notice: never on the threshold. Why? Because the blood of Christ is never to be trampled underfoot and taken for granted. As the writer of Hebrews warns, there is a "sorer punishment" for those who have "trampled the Son of God underfoot" and counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing (Hebrews 10:29).

The Simple Obedience of Faith

In verse 13, God gives the promise: "And when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

I want you to see the simplicity of this. It wasn't about how good the people inside the house were. It wasn't about their education, their lineage, or how hard they worked that day. The only thing that mattered was: Is the blood applied?

From a human standpoint, putting blood on a doorpost to save a child doesn't make "intellectual" sense. But that's where faith comes in. We don't argue with the Potter; we simply obey the Word. There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

The Application for Us

When the Lord looks at your life, does He see the blood of His Son? Jesus saved us when He shed His precious blood on that cross as our substitute. He took the judgment we deserved so that we could have the life He deserves. And the resurrection? That is the Father's "Amen!" to the Son's "It is finished!" It declares forever that Jesus is God, Savior, and Lord.

A Challenge for the Believer: Are you "abiding" in the house? In verse 22, they were told not to go out of the door until morning. Our safety is in our relationship with Jesus. Don't rely on a "decision" you made twenty years ago if you aren't walking with Him today. John 15:4 tells us to "Abide in Me." Let your life be saturated with His Word and His presence.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever: Maybe you've been running. Maybe you've been "striving with your Maker," as Isaiah says (Isaiah 45:9). That is a battle you will never win, and honestly, you don't want to. God is trying to draw you to Himself because He loves you.

The "destroyer" of sin and death is real, but there is a hiding place. If you will turn from your sin today and ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord—trusting that His blood covers your debt—He will pass you from death into life. You won't just "go to heaven" when you die; you will begin *living* right now.

THE PASSOVER

It's a powerful thing to see how God weaves these "pictures" through the Old Testament to prepare our hearts for the reality of Jesus Christ. When we look at the Passover, we aren't just looking at an ancient Jewish ritual; we are looking at a shadow of the Cross.

Two of the most significant elements in this feast are the Unleavened Bread and the Hyssop. Let's look at why these matter for our walk with the Lord today.

1. The Unleavened Bread: Purity and the Bread of Life

In Exodus 12:15, God commanded that for seven days, they were to eat bread without leaven. In fact, they had to "put away leaven" out of their houses entirely.

Now, why is that? In the Bible, leaven (yeast) is almost always a type, or a picture, of sin. Think about how yeast works:

- **It permeates:** A tiny bit of yeast eventually affects the whole lump of dough.
- **It puffs up:** It creates air pockets, making the bread look bigger than it actually is.
- **It is a process of fermentation:** It is essentially the beginning of decay.

When Jesus said in John 6:35, "*I am the bread of life*," He was identifying Himself with that Passover bread. But notice: He is the *unleavened* bread. He was without sin, without decay, and without the "puffing up" of pride.

The Practical Application: In the Jewish tradition, the father would lead a search through the house with a candle to find any hidden crumb of leaven. As believers, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to shine His light into the "closets" of our hearts. Is there a "little bit" of bitterness, or a "little bit" of compromise that is starting to permeate your whole life? The challenge for us is to live an "unleavened" life—one of sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:8).

2. The Hyssop: The Instrument of Faith

In Exodus 12:22, they were told to take a "bunch of hyssop" to apply the blood. Hyssop was a common, humble little scrub bush that grew in the cracks of walls or in the desert.

It wasn't a golden wand or a royal scepter; it was a lowly weed. This is so important: The blood of the lamb was useless as long as it remained in the basin. It had to be *applied* to the doorposts. And God chose the most common, humble plant to do the job.

This is a picture of faith. Faith is the "hyssop" of the soul. Faith isn't some great, complex work that only "religious" people can do. It's a simple, humble act of taking what God has provided (the blood of Jesus) and applying it to your own life.

The Invitation for You: You might say, "My faith is so small. It's like a little weed." It's not the *size* of your faith that saves you; it's the *Object* of your faith. If you use your "hyssop"—your simple, humble

trust—to apply the blood of Jesus to your heart today, the Destroyer cannot touch you. You are safe in Him.

3. The Broken Matzah and the Resurrection

In the Passover Seder, there is a beautiful tradition involving three pieces of unleavened bread (Matzah). They take the **middle** piece, break it, wrap it in a white linen cloth, and "bury" it (hide it), only for the children to "find" it later with great joy.

They've been doing this for centuries, often without realizing it's a perfect picture of the Gospel!

- **The Middle Piece:** Jesus, the second person of the Trinity.
- **Broken:** His body broken for us on the cross.
- **Wrapped in Linen:** His burial in the tomb.
- **Found with Joy:** The Resurrection!

The resurrection is the ultimate declaration that Jesus is exactly who He said He is—the Lord of Glory. Because He lives, we shall live also.