

Exodus 12:21-31 A Lamb for Captive Israel 2nd Wed. in Lent Mar. 1, 2023
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INTRO: 16th century Dutch sought independence from Spanish who controlled Rotterdam; soldiers house-to-house killing Dutch and dragging corpses into street. One house heard them coming; residents hiding, killed goat, swept blood under door w/broom. Soldiers saw it. "This one's already done," and moved on, saving people inside. Goat died; its blood saved the people.

I. BLOOD EVOKES FEELINGS

A. Adverse feelings, sometimes

1. some people faint at the sight, especially one's own blood
2. many dislike bloody movies; surgery on TV; Elizabeth in Mayo Clinic O.R.

B. But sometimes, also evoking good feelings

1. as with goat's blood mentioned above at Rotterdam
2. or blood **transfusion** after surgery or accident

C. For some, blood evokes feelings about eternal life

1. 1 John 1:7...blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin
2. that cleansing blood of Jesus, shed on Calvary for the whole world
3. Luther: for where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation
4. Jesus celebrated a ceremony about blood; instituted another, replacement
5. reaching way back in Israel's history

II. THE EGYPT EXODUS INVOLVED A LAMB'S SHED BLOOD

A. 1500 years before Jesus; Jacob's descendants, Joseph's providence

1. evil Egyptian masters sought to work Israelites to death; long before 1619
2. killed male babies (Moses in reeds)(we kill before, they killed after birth)
3. people cried to God; He called Moses via burning bush on Sinai

B. God used Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh

1. first merely asking; Aaron's staff/snake, swallowed; heart grew hard; no deal
2. bloody river plague; Pharaoh OK's departure; plague removed, he reneges

3. repeated nine times; how stubborn can one man be! (excursus: plagues 1-5 Pharaoh hardened his heart ; plagues 6-10 **God** hardened Pharaoh's heart; cp. Rom. 1:26 ...God gave them up to...")
4. Moses warns, last chance; see me no more; firstborn of man/beast be killed

D. God provide a means to save anyone who will obey Him

1. God promises to **pass over** marked doorways
2. on 10th day of month Nisan, set aside a spotless, perfect lamb
3. kill lamb, blood on posts and lintel of door with hyssop branch
4. angel of death passed over blood-marked doors; killed firstborn in others
5. prompting Pharaoh and Egyptians to say 'get out of our country'
6. perfect lamb died as **substitute** so first-born could live (1st-born sermon...)
7. God commands Passover to be annual remembrance of His saving act

III. SHEDDING OF BLOOD WAS COMPLETED BY CHRIST JESUS

A. At Jerusalem in an Upper Room, Jesus kept Passover

1. fulfilling Old Testament laws; remember His ancestors' deliverance
2. Lamb of God perfectly obeyed His Father; whole law fulfilled
3. in anticipation of shedding His own blood on the next day
4. His blood on a 'post' and 'lintel' of a cross

B. Asking us to remember

1. Passover lambs pointed to Christ, per John Baptist
2. now that Christ has come, no more need for Passover lambs
3. Lamb of God shed blood to save others; no more substitute lambs
4. a **new** covenant: Drink...My blood of the new covenant shed for you, for the forgiveness of sins
5. do this in remembrance of **Me** (substitutes Lord's Supper for Passover)

C. We need to be rescued, saved, as surely as enslaved Israel

1. we show more in common with Pharaoh than with Jesus
2. also, like Israel, we turn to God **only** when we're desperate
3. and like Egyptians, more inclined to take advantage, than to help others
4. if not oppressing others, at least speaking ill of them

5. quite unmoved by suffering and oppressions around us
6. placing our desires and goals above God's will
7. deserving death and drowning in the Red Sea, just like Pharaoh

D. But we are saved; we are God's 'Israel'

1. because one Lamb of God was slain as our Substitute; once for all
2. no more sacrifice for sin; it is finished
3. Father sees blood of His Son Jesus over our 'doors'
4. evil angel of eternal death **must** pass over us
5. we are marked with the blood of Christ, our Substitute

CONCLUSION: In 1927, a blood specimen was taken by Adrian Stokes from a West African man named Asibi who was sick with yellow fever; it was made into a culture, then a vaccine for yellow fever. All yellow fever since 1927 is derived from this one man, multiplied over and over in labs. Millions are now saved from yellow fever by a blood sample from one man, Asibi. How much more does the blood of One Man, True God, afford **eternal** salvation for the whole world. As you apply the blood of Christ to yourself by trusting His promises, you have eternal life. Amen.