

THE FIRST PASSOVER
The Old Testament Today
Banska Bystrica, 25th April 2021

וְהָיָה הַדָּם לְכֶם לְאֹת עַל הַבָּתִּים אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם שָׁם
וְרָאִיתִי אֶת-הַדָּם וּפָסַחְתִּי עֲלֵיכֶם וְלֹא-יְהִיָּה בְכֶם נֶגֶף
לְמַשְׁחִית בְּהַכְתִּי בָאָרֶץ מִצְרָיִם

Exodus 12:13 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

ταῦτα ἐν Βηθανίᾳ ἐγένετο πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, ὅπου ἦν ὁ Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων. ²⁹ Τῇ ἐπαύριον βλέπει τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει· Ἴδε ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου

John 1:28-29 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. ²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

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0. INTRODUCTION

- defining event in the History of Redemption [~Abraham] → a model of the salvation of God;
- Egypt → the world; slavery → **Mat 11:28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden...

0.1. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- [Matthew HENRY] Not one of all the ordinances of the Jewish church was more eminent than that of the passover, nor is any one more frequently mentioned in the New Testament;
- [LACOSTE] (EVOLUTIONARY) Originally, the Passover was a celebration for shepherds, whose flocks were their most important and most precious resource. → [CHILDS *Exodus*] ...common

laws governed the development of religious practice from primitive to higher forms was shortly applied to the Bible, particularly to the rite of passover and first-born.

- Mosaic institution and Jewish customs → Did Jesus follow the Jewish traditions?

0.2. THE WORD “PASCHA”

- [TWOT] It is debated whether or not there are two distinct verbs in biblical Hebrew with the consonants psh. (**Exodus 12:27** וַאֲמַרְתֶּם זִבְחַ־פֶּסַח הוּא לַיהוָה אֲשֶׁר פֶּסַח עַל־בְּתֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל)
- [KOEHLER&BAUMGARTNER] on the etymology, any connection between the substantive (פֶּסַח) and the verb (פָּסַח) is uncertain and disputed
- [CHILDS *Exodus* p. 183] (פֶּסַח)'passover'. The etymology of the word and its meaning is much disputed. The noun designates both the animal offered (Ex. 13:2 1) and the festival itself (Deut. 16:1) . The verb occurs very infrequently outside of Ex 12. It appears in Isa 31:5 with the connotation 'to protect'. In the remaining passages the verb means 'to limp' (II Sam 4:4; I Kings 18:21, 26) which causes BDB to distinguish its root from that of the first. The attempt to derive all the meanings from a form of limping has not been successful.

0.3. HISTORY

- [Matthew HENRY] B.C. 1491
- [Cassuto] ...the preceding section disappears, as it were, from our sight. The epic now has its centre in the midst of the people of Israel, and the commands given to Moses and Aaron are directed towards the Israelites, What has to be done visavis Pharaoh, the Lord will do. Moses and Aaron must concern themselves only with their people.
- [CASSUTO] ...the directives given at first (vv. 2-13) were only of a temporary character, valid only in Egypt, at that particular time, and not for later generations. Only thereafter, in vv. 14-20, are regulations laid down for the observance of the festival of Passover for all time.

0.4. NT SYMBOLISM

[Matthew HENRY *Concise*] Observe, 1. The paschal lamb was typical. Christ is our passover, 1Co 5:7. Christ is the Lamb of God, Joh 1:29; often in the Revelation he is called the Lamb. (1) It was to be in its prime; Christ offered up himself in the midst of his days, not when a babe at Bethlehem. (2) It was to be without blemish; the Lord Jesus was a Lamb without spot: the judge who condemned Christ declared him innocent. (3) It was to be set apart four days before, denoting the marking out of the Lord Jesus to be a Saviour, both in the purpose and in the promise. (4) It was to be slain, and roasted with fire, denoting the painful sufferings of the Lord Jesus, even unto death, the death of the cross. The wrath of God is as fire, and Christ was made a curse for us. ... (5) It was to be sprinkled on the door-posts, denoting the open profession we are to make of faith in Christ. It was not to be sprinkled upon the threshold; which cautions us to take heed of trampling under foot the blood of the covenant. It is precious blood, and must be precious to us. ... 3. The solemn eating of the lamb was typical of our gospel duty to Christ. ... It was all to be eaten; those who by faith feed upon Christ, must feed upon a whole Christ; they must take Christ and his yoke, Christ and his cross, as well as Christ and his crown. (6) It was to be eaten at once, not put by till morning. To-day Christ is offered, and is to be accepted while it is called to-day, before we sleep the sleep of death. (7) It was to be eaten with bitter herbs, in remembrance of the bitterness of their bondage in Egypt; we must feed upon Christ with sorrow and brokenness of heart, in remembrance of sin. Christ will be sweet to us, if sin be bitter. (8) It was to be eaten standing, with their staves in their hands, as being ready to depart. When we feed upon Christ by faith, we must forsake the rule and the dominion of sin; ... 4. The feast of unleavened bread was typical of the Christian life, 1Co 5:7,8. Having received Christ Jesus the Lord, we must continually delight ourselves in Christ Jesus. No manner of work must be done, that is, no care admitted and indulged, which does not agree with, or would lessen this holy joy. The Jews were very strict as to the passover, so that no leaven should be found in their houses. It must be a feast kept in charity, without the leaven of malice; and in sincerity, without the leaven of hypocrisy.

1. SALVATION & JUDGMENT

[CHAMBERS, *He Shall Glorify Me*] The distinctive thing about Christianity is forgiveness, not sanctification or my holiness, but forgiveness—the greatest miracle God ever performs through the Redemption. Forgiveness

means not merely that a man is saved from sin and made right for heaven—no man would accept forgiveness on such a level; forgiveness means that I am saved from sinning and put into the Redeemer to grow up into His image.

- **1Cor 5:7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1.1. A THREAT ALSO TO THE FIRSTBORNS OF ISRAEL

- THE WRATH OF GOD → unpopular doctrine today → the need for protection
- **1 Peter 4:17** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- **Pro 11:31** If the righteous is repaid (צַדִּיק בְּאֵרֶץ יִשְׁלָם) on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

1.2. THE LAMB KILLED

- the doctrine of penal substitution (PROVIDED BY GOD) → (1) in our place, (2) satisfying the law of God
- false theories (LLOYD-JONES): *moral influence*; *commercial theory* (ANSELM); *the death of Christ is just an example*; *the governmental theory* (GROTIUS); *the mystical theory* (IRVING); *the vicarious repentance*;
- **Romans 3:23-25** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption (διὰ τῆς ἀπολυτρόσεως) that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood (ἱλαστήριον διὰ [τῆς] πίστεως ἐν τῷ αὐτοῦ αἵματι), to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

2. THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

- **Exodus 12:13** The blood shall be a sign for you (לָאֵת עַל הַבְּחִים), on the houses where you are.

2.1. THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

- (**Exodus 24:8** הִנֵּה דָם הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת יְהוָה עִמָּכֶם)
- **Acts 20:28** ...the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- **Eph 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- **Col 1:20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- **Heb 10:19** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus...
- **Heb 13:20-21** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2.2. ON THE DOOR POSTS

- → for testimony
- faith: both *individual* (eating) and *communal* (gathering behind the door)
- **Romans 10:9-10** ...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
- **Heb 9:14** ...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God

3. RECEIVING SALVATION

3.1. EATING → IDENTIFICATION

- [SPURGEON] THE paschal lamb was not killed in order to be looked at only, but to be eaten.
- → John 6
- **John 6:54-56** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.
- [SPURGEON No. 2727] This is, of course, a figure, meaning that Christ must be food to your minds and nutriment to your hearts. You must love Him, trust Him and endeavor to know more and more concerning Him. Your hearts must stay themselves upon Him as your Brother, having taken your nature, and as your Savior, having put away your sin.
- **1 Corinthians 5:7-8** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth

3.2. UNLEAVENED

- → saved from *SIN* (Yeshua), not just *PUNISHMENT* for it
- Unleavened bread → **1Cor 5:7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

3.3. IN HASTE

- decisive → later may come “second thoughts” (hesitation tragedies)
- **Luke 9:62** Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

3.4. ALL OF IT

- no excuses / reservations (TOLSTOY; liberal theology; religions)
- Jesus' (1) teaching, (2) life, (3) substitution, (4) resurrection-life, (5) the Holy Spirit...
- **Phil 3:18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

3.5. BITTER HERBS

- sorrowful repentance. distaste for the things in which we once took pleasure, holy anxiety, sense of my own unworthiness,

3.6. A NEW CREATION

- [Exodus 12:2 ...the beginning of months...] → **2Cor 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come
- **Gal 6:15** For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.
- **John 3:3, 5** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ... ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God

4. TO REMEMBER

- The justice of God is absolutely impartial → requires perfection in all.
- Forgiveness without expiation is impossible. Christ identified with humanity to take the punishment of the world on himself.
- Faith in forgiveness means identification with Jesus in all aspects of his life, teaching and requirements.