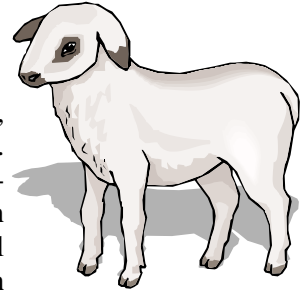


Jesus, Our Passover Lamb

(Ex. 12: 21-23; I Cor. 5:7)



Why would God the Father choose a lamb to be our **Passover**? Why not a cow, horse, cat, camel, or some other animal. The answer is simple! Sheep are completely helpless. They are prone to contract various diseases, get pneumonia, and experience hypothermia in the winter. They contract scabies in the summer, stick their heads through fences and get stuck, climb trees and get stuck, gorge themselves and fall down, as well as other seemingly foolish things. Even when they see green grass only two feet in front of them, they will wait for the shepherd to guide them, lest they starve to death.

As you can see from this description, we are like sheep. The prophet said, “We like sheep have gone astray.” Yes, sheep go astray, get lost, and depend on the shepherd to rescue them. Because of their helpless nature, only in God’s kingdom could a lamb be a type of Christ. Jesus was the “Lamb of God” chosen from the foundation of the world to be a sin sacrifice, while not actually becoming sin. When He was the most helpless, He was the strongest. Before He went to the cross, He spent much of His time in prayer and agony talking to the Father. And because of His time spent in prayer, He was energized to handle what lay before Him.

THERE ARE FOUR THINGS I WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS

Jesus is a “Sinless Lamb”

As I formerly stated, lambs are prone to many diseases, thus it wasn’t easy to find one without blemishes. In order for Jesus to be “**the Passover Lamb**,” He had to be perfect, without spot or blemish. Justification is typified in the Book of Exodus as we read that Jehovah (i.e., Yahweh) passed over the Israelite homes in Egypt that had the lamb’s blood applied (smeared) on the doorways. Remember God will pass over you, giving you compassion, mercy, and salvation when He sees you covered with the blood of Jesus. You will be justified (given right standing—an OT term, whereas it should be translated *made* righteous in the NT) before God when He sees the blood of Jesus. Is your heart pure and clean before God today? Is the blood of Jesus covering you today? Jesus had no sin. Therefore, He is able to forgive you of ALL your sins!

How was the lamb to be eaten? God, through Moses and Aaron, commanded the people to roast the lamb whole, without breaking a single bone, and to eat it the same night with bitter herbs (typifying affliction-pain of sin) and unleavened bread (affliction-bondage) by the entire family (that is, the family of believers).

Were all people invited to supper? No. Those levitically unclean were excluded, because anyone levitically unclean was considered to be a type of “sin.” Those declared unclean (that is, “sinners”) were not allowed to enjoy the blessings of God, and Jewish leaders believed “unclean people” were cursed by God. In the New Testament way of thinking, when we take communion as believers, we become brothers and sisters in the Church of Christ. Thus, we enjoy all the blessings and promises of Scripture. This is why people must never take communion (that is, the Lord’s Supper) without first examining themselves. Those estranged from God should not take communion because they are living under the “curse of sin.” Until the blood is applied to the door-posts of their hearts, their sins are not forgiven.

Jesus is a “Saving Lamb”

John the Baptist understood the role of Messiah. John said at the River Jordan, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29)

Each year the “Passover Lamb” was selected by the entire family four days before He was to be slain. In the same respect, Jesus was selected by the Father to be the “Passover Lamb.” I also believe the four days to be a sign (or type) of the Kingdom of God; the study of numerology has taught me this. By selecting the lamb in advance of the time of sacrifice, the family had time to think about the Holy Sacrifice that was soon to come. Of course, there were many other sacrifices observed by the Israelites, but this one closely resembles the Peace-offering. Notice the death of Jesus made Him “The saving Lamb” sacrificed for our sins. This eliminated the enmity that existed between God and mankind and brought peace. Hence, as the “**Saving Lamb**,” Jesus is our peace.

Jesus is a “Slain Lamb”

The Old Testament foretold that Jesus was the “Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.” It was God’s determinate purpose to send His Son to die on the cross as the **Slain Lamb**; this was not the work of the devil, as some believe. If the devil had sent Jesus to the cross, then he would have helped procure salvation for mankind. The instructions for the Passover were to select a lamb on the tenth day of the month of Nisan (March or April). On the 14th Day of Nisan, the lamb was slain “between the two evenings.” Josephus, the Jewish historian, said this is “between 3 and 5pm.” As we consider the night before Jesus was crucified, we see there was a “Last Supper.” Some interpreters believe this was a “Passover meal,” while others say it was not a Passover Meal, but a new type of meal introduced by Jesus. The “Last Supper” ended with the singing (chanting) of a hymn, which would have been the second half of the “Passover Hallel.” As was His habit, Jesus would have spent the night with Lazarus, Mary and Martha at Bethany; yet He spent this night on the Mount of Olives instead. The Law prescribed that no one could leave Jerusalem during Passover, and that anyone who opposed the Priests and Judges would be slain. Furthermore, Jewish Law stated that a rebellious teacher of the Law could be executed on a feast day. Did this apply to Jesus? I would say that it did.

Jesus is a “Seated Lamb”

Jesus is seated at the right side of God the Father, interceding for you and me every second, every minute, every hour, and every month of every year. Thus, when we pray, we conclude by saying, “In the Name of Jesus.” The name of Jesus is not a magical name, but represents His authority and power. When Jesus ascended to His Father, He entered into His rest. Now we, like Jesus, have entered into His rest in a spiritual sense and enjoy the blessings He procured for us. However, this only happens when we have peace with God the Father.

Luke 22:29- “From now on, the Son of Man will be **seated** at the right hand of God.”

Ephesians 1:20- Paul, speaking about the marvelous power and strength of God, said: “God raised us up with Christ and **seated** us with Him in heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

Revelation 14:14- One day we will look upon Him, the Alpha and Omega. This is probably what John the Revelator experienced when he said, “I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and **seated** on the cloud was one like the Son of Man with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.”

Revelation 20:11- John the Revelator also tells us about Jesus judging the dead, both great and small. All peoples of the earth, those with big names and little names, will come before the Great White Throne Judgment. John said, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him (Jesus) who was **seated** on it ...”

At this time of year we are especially thankful that “Jesus is our Passover.” He is the One who died on the cross for our sins and rose again victoriously. When we confess our sins with our mouths, repent, and turn

from our sinful ways, He forgives us and **seats** us [positionally] alongside Him in heavenly places (Romans 10:9; Eph. 1:3, 20; 2:60). ***Aren't you glad that you have a place beside Jesus?***

If you have strayed from the will of God, or need your sins forgiven, then ask the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you. Do you want to be SEATED with Jesus in heavenly places? You can be SEATED with Him today and find the peace that surpasses all human understanding.

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