

The Greatest Story (Part 5):

The Blood That Saves

Exodus 12 & 24

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:18-19

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

MANUSCRIPT

The greatest story is God's story. The story of the redemption of mankind through His covenant promises to bless the entire world. These past four weeks, we've been looking at the attributes of God which frame the story and open our eyes to our depravity and need for his mercy. He is the glorious God of creation and fall. The gracious God of covenant and faith. The good God of providence and pain. And as we saw last week... he is the Great I Am. Our memory verse for last week; **Exodus 3:14** tells us His name. He is holy, merciful, ever-present, all-powerful, and sovereign over all. How could we not worship such a God?

After Moses was confronted by God in the form of the burning bush, he obeyed God and went to Pharaoh demanding that he let God's people go. Let my people go. But Pharaoh was a very stubborn man and the Israelites had become wonderful slaves. He wasn't about to just let them all go. So God brought 9 plagues upon Egypt which we talked about last week. He turned the Nile to blood, he sent frogs, gnats, flies, and locusts. He killed the Egyptians livestock, he gave them boils, and he turned their land to complete darkness for three days... and still Pharaoh's heart was hardened and would not let them leave.

And that brings us to where we are today. You see, God told Moses that there would be one more plague, far worse than all the others. Look at Exodus 11:6. This plague would be so bad that the cries of Egypt would be worse than anything they'd ever seen or ever would see again. And the plague was such... that God would strike down all of the first born children, both of animals and of men. Listen, Pharaoh, God will get your attention one way or another. Regardless of how hard your heart is... God will find a way to break it.

I have a daughter... and some times she has a very hard heart. Especially when it comes to eating her dinner. Just the other day we had some pot roast and vegetables and she drew her line in the sand and would not eat them. Vera, if you don't eat them you will not be able to eat anything else for the rest of the night... and the next thing you will eat, whether it be tomorrow morning, will be this food right here. But if you eat it now you can have desert. She knows that if she doesn't eat her

dinner that there will be consequences. But if she eats her food she will be rewarded.

You see, God always provides a way of escape from punishment. It is possible to escape his wrath. Just as we always allow a way for Vera to escape the consequences of no desert & pot roast for breakfast, God has provided a way for each of us to escape the punishment we deserve.

For Adam & Eve he gave them everything except the tree of God and evil and even warned them to not eat of it. For Cain he warned him to not let his anger turn to murder. For Noah he provided the Ark. For Abraham he provided the covenant and the ram in the thicket. For Joseph he provided perseverance and blessing. And, for Moses he provided the Burning Bush.

God has also provided a way of escape for Pharaoh, Egypt, and the rest of us. When it comes to God's wrath, we have two choices, we can either harden our hearts towards God and his plan or we can obey him by faith. And this morning we will see that God's plan is the blood of the lamb.

The Blood of the Lamb is the only Escape Plan

Look with me and lets read **Exodus 12:21-32** and lets see how we escape the wrath of God through the Blood that saves.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing see here is that... **God's Plan To Deliver The Captive Israelites Was The Blood of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)**. Once again, we recognize that God works his plan through painful circumstances. Look back at **Exodus 11:1**. Look at this phrase "he will let you go this time." Meaning... that God knew that Pharaoh would eventually relent, in God's timing. All of this is part of God's sovereign plan. The 9 plagues was to show the world his power. The passover was to show his salvation. Remember that this is God's story of the redemption of mankind. This is his story of his covenant promises, which he fulfills in his timing. Through 400 years of slavery one could easily begin to believe that God had forgotten his promises to save and bless the world. But be assured, God always comes through. It was his plan all along to continue Abraham's lineage through the Israelite people and to eventually bring them out of bondage and make them into a powerful nation... and the way he would do that would be through the blood of the passover lamb.

Here we see two portraits of God. First we see him as the Holy Judge who must punish sin. In **Exodus 12:12** he must execute his judgements. In **verse 23** it is God who brings the destroyer and the angel of death. And get this... he doesn't just bring him upon the Egyptians but upon everyone, Egyptian and Hebrew alike. He will visit every house. Get this... everyone has sinned, everyone deserves death.

The judgement of God is consistent. Adam and Eve were cursed

because of their sinfulness and would eventually die. Cain was cursed and sent out into the world, forced to contend with a cursed earth as he worked the land because of his sin. The entire world except for Noah and his family, was sentenced to death by flood because of their evil wickedness. The entire world was scattered at the tower of Babel because of their arrogance. Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed because God couldn't even find 10 righteous people. The story is always the same... God must bring the destroyer upon the sinful. And we are no different. **Romans 3:23** tells us that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We all deserve the wrath of God.

But thank God we see another portrait of God in this story. Not only do we see God the Holy Judge, but we see God the Merciful Deliverer. Look carefully at **12:13**. God provides a way of escape. In his mercy he provides a way for the plague of death to pass over the Israelites. Get this... God is always trying to aim his just wrath at something other than you. Instead of his wrath landing on the Israelites, he provides something else to satisfy his wrath. He provides a substitute. In fact, in a large way, the entire Old Testament is about God providing a substitute to satisfy his wrath other than destroying his chosen people. This is huge. **The mercy of God wants to aim the wrath of God away from you and onto something else.** It wasn't because the Israelites had done something to earn God's love or that the Egyptians alone had done evil... they were all evil. But God showed Israel a way out if they would trust his plan and that plan was the blood of a lamb.

God had some rules for the lamb. It had to be a spotless perfect lamb. It had to be brought into the house for 4 days. And then it had to be slaughtered and eaten. Finally it's blood had to be put on the doorposts of the house. Only then would the plague of death pass over the house. Now I want you to imagine this, especially if you have kids. You bring a lamb into your house, the kids think you've gotten them a new pet. For four days they love the lamb, feed the lamb, play with the lamb. But then dad kills the lamb and feeds it to you for supper. At that point you can just feel the pain of these children. Why dad, why did you have to do that? And then dad looks at them and says... if I hadn't done that then one of you would have had to die instead. It is this lamb that saved our lives. You see my sweet child... the blood is what represents life. And life is what satisfies the wrath of God. And instead of your life, he has provided the lamb as a substitute. The blood of the lamb has saved your life. Now we must trust in this blood and God will spare us.

It is through the faith in the blood of the lamb that the wrath of God was satisfied. They put their faith in the prescribed sacrifice of God and they were saved. So... the Hebrews knew... **faith in God's Lamb protects you from the wrath of God's hand.** And as we see in – **12:30-32** Not only did God spare their physical lives, he also delivered

them and set them free from their captivity in Egypt. **The Blood of the Lamb is the only Escape Plan**

But I want you to see something else here. I want you to see that **God's Covenant With The Redeemed Israelites Was Through The Blood Of Sacrifices (Exodus 24).** So the Israelites flee Egypt to God's mountain. Remember back in **Exodus 3** when God was speaking to Moses through the bush, he told him that his sign of his power would be that he would bring them back to this mountain. In **Ex. 20** they arrive at the mountain and receive the 10 commandments. In Chapters **21-23** they receive the rest of the mosaic law. And then in **Exodus 24:1-11** we see God making his covenant with his chosen people, the nation of Israel. Abraham's Covenant was a covenant to bless the world through his lineage. Moses' Covenant is a covenant to set the nation of Israel apart as a chosen people. Abraham's covenant was marked by circumcision, Moses' covenant was marked by the law.

What we see here is really the first corporate worship service mentioned in the Bible, and we have all the elements here. The word of God is spoken, the people are given a time of response where they commit to obeying God's law. That's what the covenant was... God gives his law and we give our obedience through faith. But every time worship is given to God there must be a sacrifice, there must be a symbol of our obedience. Sinful man cannot come before a Holy God on his own merit. We need a substitute to shield us from the wrath of God. So we see that Moses has some animals sacrificed. He then takes some of the blood of the sacrifice and he puts it on the altar. This is to satisfy the wrath of God in bring the people into worship with him. This blood represents forgiveness for their sins through the paid sacrifice of the animals.

But then he takes some of the blood and throws it on the people. Aren't you glad we don't do that in our worship services? That wouldn't be to seeker sensitive. Not a lot of people coming next week if you are going to throw blood on them. But Moses does this to show the people that the blood of the sacrifice covers them and saves them from their sins. Get this... **it's blood that reconciles man to God and makes worship to God possible.** Because look what happens next in **24:9-10**. They went up and saw God. They were allowed to enter into his presence because they were covered by the blood. They were allowed to gaze upon his glory. And get this... in **vs.11** they even were able to eat with him. They ate at the table of the Lord because they were accepted into his presence by the blood of the sacrifice. It is the blood that brings us into covenant with God.

Which logically brings us to our last point... **God's Salvation For Us Is Through The Blood Of Jesus**. How can a holy and just God forgive the sins of rebellious people who deserve his wrath? Look at **1 Peter 1:18-21**. If

God is just he must meet sin with wrath. He must bring the destroyer to take the lives of the sinful. Even a loving God cannot condone our sinfulness. But if he has a substitute by which he can both love us but also pour out his wrath... then he can be both just and merciful. Jesus Christ is our substitute. Look again at our memory verse for the week. **1 Peter 1:18-19**, which says; “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” The passover lamb was a clear picture of what was expected from Jesus and what he would eventually have to do for us. Remember everything points towards Jesus. It is only through the blood of Jesus Christ that we can be redeemed to worship God again. **The blood of the lamb of God satisfies the wrath of God and saves the children of God.** Now we can come into his presence, now we can worship him (**Exodus 24:9-11**) and eat with him.

Application (Resolution, You)

The message is clear today. God has made the final sacrifice for you to have a relationship with him again. You can come boldly before the throne again and worship God because Jesus has paid it all.

So... have you placed your trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ to passover you, cover your sins and bring you into the presence of God?

Conclusion

This morning, in a few moments we are going to eat at the table of the Lord, just as we saw in Exodus 24. We are going to recognize and remember the blood of Jesus that covers our sins through communion. And as we prepare to take of the elements we confess our sins and place our trust in God to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The sacrifice that God sees as we worship is the sacrifice of his son.

And as we take communion this morning I want you to see something interesting. In **Ex. 24:8** we see Moses say, “Behold the blood of the covenant.” These are the same words that Jesus uses at the last supper when giving communion to his disciples, except for one small but significant change. Where Moses said “the blood” in **Mt. 26:28**, Jesus says this is my blood of the covenant.” it is his blood that fulfills all of the covenant promises of God.