

Names of God from the Bible

56 – The Passover Lamb

All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still The Passover Lamb for us today.

Reading: Exodus 12:1-30

The account of the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt is one of the most dramatic found anywhere throughout the history of the world. The Hebrews were suffering from captivity and oppression. Moses had been selected by God to spearhead the Exodus and yet Pharaoh was determined to thwart God's plans.

Despite being asked many times, Pharaoh kept changing his mind and refused to let the people go free. Eventually, God's mercy was exhausted and His judgment unrestrained. The Divine sentence was passed. It was unalterable. In many ways, it was impartial. The effect would be devastating on every family in Egypt – the death of the firstborn male child, servant and livestock.

Nevertheless, Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, would give His people a way of escape. However, the people could not just do what they liked; they would have to follow to the letter the instructions given through Moses. God demanded the sacrifice of a perfect lamb; its roasted flesh was to be eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. Some of the lamb's life-blood was to be collected and then incredulously, with the use of a herb, called hyssop, sprinkled on the doorframes and lintel of their home.

On the designated night for eating the special meal, all the Israelites had to be in their home and dressed, ready to leave the land of their captivity. During the meal, the Angel of Death would fly throughout Egypt and kill the firstborn of every family. The only way of escaping the fateful sentence was for the people to be inside their home that had the lamb's blood sprinkled on the doorframes and lintel.

Just because they had been born an Israelite, just because they were inside their house, just because they were eating the roast lamb, just because they had removed all leaven from their home did not mean they would be safe. If they had not put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintel, their firstborn would still die.

The way of escape was designed and determined by God, not by the Hebrews. The blood was the sign that the Angel of Death would be looking for – nothing more, nothing less. The Blood of the Lamb became the way of escape – it would cause the Angel to 'pass over' their house in peace. It was the Blood of the Passover Lamb.

God's character hasn't changed. He longs to set His people free. Yet, the Divine unalterable sentence has been handed down upon everyone who sins, those who fail to meet the standard set by a Holy God. However, God has also made a way of escape for everyone. His way of escape for us is called The Passover Lamb – we call Him, Jesus.

Jesus saw our plight and offered to become the Saviour of the world. He would die in our place. Father agreed with the plan and sent Jesus into our world to pay the price and become our spotless Sacrifice. As John prophesied when Jesus walked by: *"Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."*

The earth-shattering sentence pronounced from Heaven is that the Wrath of God will be poured

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out upon the earth, against all who reject God's offer of salvation. There is only one way to life and that is to accept the Way of Escape. As with the Passover lamb of the Hebrews, we have to be 'covered' by the Blood of the Lamb of God.

The Wrath of God will not 'look' for good people, worldly achievement, academic success, charitable works, social action, tolerance or even integrity. God's Wrath will be poured out against everyone who has not personally accepted the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. His Blood was shed to wash us clean from our sins. It is the only remedy available for us. We may not like it, but it is God's only way of escape. That is why Jesus is called our Passover Lamb.

What does that name mean for us today

God's demands for the atonement for sin remains the same. We all need to be forgiven and we all need a Saviour. Only the Sacrifice of Jesus is sufficient for us; however, it is totally efficacious for the present and the future.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I worship You and thank You so much for dying in my place and for being my Passover Lamb. Thank You that Your sacrifice is eternally sufficient for me. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Isaiah 53:1-12
- Mark 14:12-25
- 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
- 1 Peter 1:19

Questions

1. Why do we still need a sacrificial Lamb?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?