

Sermon for September 6, 2026
"The Lamb of God"

Exodus 12:1-14

The children of Israel had been slaves in Egypt for over 400 years. So God heard their cry and called Moses to lead them out of slavery. Moses went to Pharaoh and said "Let my people go." When Pharaoh refused God sent a series of plagues against Egypt. Each plague was worse than the last, yet Pharaoh refused to let the people go. The last plague would be the worst and would be the one that would break Pharaoh's will so that he would release the Israelites.

This was to be a plague upon the firstborn of all Egypt. God would take the first born of all of the Egyptian families but would not touch the Israelites. This was the pattern God had followed with the other plagues. When darkness came on Egypt there was light in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were. When hail had fallen on Egypt there was none in Goshen where the Israelites were.

The difference this time was that God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb. They would place the blood of that lamb on the doorposts and they would feast on that lamb roasted. The blood would be a sign that they were God's people, and God would pass over their houses and spare their firstborn.

But why did they need to give a sign? I mean God knew where they were. It's not like God needed something to tell him who were Israelites and who were Egyptians. God had already numbered the hairs on their heads. So why the sacrifice?

One reason could be that the people needed to demonstrate their dedication to God. It was more a sign and a reminder to the Israelites that they were God's people. It was also a sign and a reminder of what God had done for them.

God had made great sacrifices for them. After all God loved the Egyptians. God had created them and allowed Pharaoh to rise to power. Of course the Egyptians had made bad choices when they chose to enslave their sister and brother Israelites. Then they compounded that sin by attempting genocide. It hurt God to send the plagues on them.

God called the Israelites to make a sacrifice. To take the best and most valuable of their lambs and sacrifice it. Then to display its blood to remember the sacrifice that God made.

Why did God tell the Israelites to sacrifice the lambs and place the blood on their doorposts? As a reminder that they had been redeemed, bought out of slavery. God was setting them free. Their blood had been shed by centuries of

slavery. The crushing of their spirits and the burn of the slave driver's whip had bled them.

The blood was there to remind them of what they were being delivered from. God was passing over them to save them from slavery. All who were under the blood of the Passover lamb would be delivered.

The blood on the doorposts and lintel was a sign of their worship of God. They placed their faith that God would protect them from the plague, but also that God would deliver them from slavery.

But that was over 3,000 years ago. We live in a different age now. Or do we? People in our age are still slaves. Maybe not to Pharaoh, but they are slaves to sin. We have all sinned and the wages of sin is death. So we are all slaves to death.

But God has heard the human race's cry for help. This was a bigger problem than just one nation of people in economic and political slavery. This time it is a whole world in spiritual slavery to sin and death. So God had to find someone bigger than Moses to lead the people out. That person was his own Son, Jesus the Christ. Jesus said to the Devil "Let my people go!"

But just as the last time there had to be a sacrifice. It had to be a perfect sacrifice. So Jesus gave himself to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He was sacrificed and his blood shed, and his blood was not spread on the doorposts of our houses but on the doorposts of our hearts. Thus showing that our hearts have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb out of slavery to sin and death.

God has made a great sacrifice for us! He gave his only begotten Son. He offered himself as means of saving us. Holy Communion, like the Passover meal still celebrated by Jews today, reminds us of how God redeemed us and freed us. The bread represents his body broken to pay for our sins. The grape juice represents his blood shed to cover us, and when we accept Jesus we are under the blood of the Lamb of God.

Ask Jesus to put his blood on the lintel and doorposts of your heart. Let his love be sign for all that you are a child of God. Let his grace and mercy cover you and set you free.

When you come forward to eat this bread and drink from this cup, remember that you are under the blood of the lamb.