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He Will See the Blood and Pass Over that Doorway
12: 21-28

He will see the blood and pass over the doorway DIG: Why would the lamb be slaughtered in the doorway of their houses? What was the purpose in teaching the exodus story to their children? How long is the Passover to be celebrated? Is it for believers today?

REFLECT: How do you remember the Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:12)? What part do ceremonies, such as communion or the Easter family meal, play in helping you remember what God has done for you, back then and now? How do you, or will you, keep these memories alive in your children?

Moses then gave the elders of Isra'el instructions **(12:21-23)** for **the Passover** similar to those that **God** had given **him** earlier. **Then they were to pass on those instructions to the people. He summoned all the elders** and said to **them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter *Pischeynu,* (our) the Passover lamb" (12:21).**

As a mouthpiece for **God, Moses** continued: **Slaughter the Passover lamb in the** entrance, or **doorway of** your **house (12:22a).** The NIV translates this verse: **Dip some hyssop into the blood in the basin.** The Hebrew word translated **basin** has two distinct meanings. On the one hand, it can be translated as **basin or goblet**, as in **Second Samuel 17:28** and **First Kings 7:50**, but on the other hand, it is more often translated **doorway**, as seen in **Judges 19:27** and **Ezeki'el 43:8.** Because of the context, I believe **doorway** is the better translation here; however, it may be a play on words, **a basin** in **the doorway**. The Septuagint translates it *along the doorway*, and the Vulgate *on the threshold.* It implies that the entire structure of **the doorframe, the top, both sides and the doorway** was covered with **blood.**[209]



Then **they** were instructed to **take** many stalks **of hyssop, and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe (12:22b). Hyssop is a small, bushy plant with thin stalks, and has masses of tiny white flowers. The rabbis teach that a bunch was to consist of three sticks.** The hairy surface of its leaves and branches holds liquids well and makes it suitable as a sprinkling device for ceremonial purification and covering of sin **(**used figuratively in **Psalm 51:7)**, the cleansing of lepers **(Leviticus 14:4-6, 49-52**), and the sacrifice of a red heifer **(Numbers 19: 1-6, 18-19)**.[210] **The hyssop is never found in connection with any of the offerings that point to Jesus Christ Himself. It is only found in the hands of the sinner.**[211]

Therefore, **the blood** was not merely a sign that judgment would **pass over** the home, but it was also a **blood** sacrifice for the purpose of covering **their** sins. **They** were instructed **not** to **go out the door of** their **houses until morning (12:22c). The rabbis teach that as God Himself was to pass through Egypt that night, it would not be proper for any Israelite to catch a glimpse of the Divine manifestation. There is no safety except behind the blood of Christ (Mark 16:16).**[212]

*In **Egypt**, **the Israelites** put **the blood** of a spotless lamb on the doorposts of their homes and the spirit of death passed over them. **The Messiah** is our **Passover Lamb**. Through **His blood**, was pass from death to life*.

When ADONAI goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, He will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and He will not permit the destroyer of the firstborn (Hebrews 11:28) to enter your houses and strike you down (12:23). As **God** began to move through the land of **Egypt**, **the destroyer** was right behind **Him**. As the source of the judgment, **the destroyer** was in obedience to **God**; however, **ADONAI** was **the Protector** of the faithful.

The focus was not simply on the instructions; **the Passover** was to be **a lasting ordinance**, not just a one-time event.[213] **Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants (12:24).** It needed to be taught to **children** so that its meaning and significance would be passed on from generation to generation. Their descendants would benefit most from **the Egyptian Passover**.[214] **Today, the rabbis have adapted many things from the Egyptian Passover. One example is the presence of the shank bone of a lamb. Today, since the roasted lamb can no longer be served at the Passover meal, the shank bone of a lamb is substituted as a remembrance. Sometimes the bone itself is roasted or boiled. The rabbis teach that the shank bone, which is the forearm of the lamb, is used because God brought the Jews out of Egypt with an outstretched arm (6:6b).**

The Land that **God** had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is Canaan, and it was given to Abraham and his descendants many centuries before **(Genesis 12:7). When you enter the Land that ADONAI will give you as He promised, observe this ceremony (12:25).** They were not to forget what **God** had done for them as a people.[215] **But except for the Egyptian Passover, only once did the Israelites keep the Passover in the forty years of wilderness wanderings, and that was in the second year after the exodus (Numbers 9:1-5).**

When **their children** would see the events of **the Passover ceremony, they** would naturally be curious. Parents were to use that teachable moment to share the story of redemption from **Egypt**, and constantly remind them of how **God** bought **them** back from slavery. So it was not merely the story **they** were to share, but more importantly **the children** were to come to know its meaning and significance. **And when your children ask you, "What does this ceremony mean to you?" then tell them, "It is the Passover sacrifice to ADONAI, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when He struck down the Egyptians" (12:26-27a,** also see **13:14-15).**

Then the people, grateful for their soon-to-be deliverance from centuries of slavery, **bowed down and worshiped (12:27b).** The phrase **bowed down and worshiped** is a Hebrew idiom reflecting a scene of worship and praise (also see **4:31**). **The** worship of **God** was soon followed by action. **Israelites did just what ADONAI commanded Moses and Aaron** to do **(12:28)**, obeying their instructions down to the last detail.

Since **the Passover** celebration is to be celebrated throughout history, from one generation to the next, how do we celebrate **the Passover** today? When **Christ** celebrated **the Passover** with **His** disciples on the eve of **His** crucifixion, **He** said: **Do this in remembrance of Me (Luke 22:19).** Every **Passover** meal included two basic elements: wine and unleavened bread. The wine symbolized **the blood of the lamb** that was shed for **the Israelites** to protect them from the avenging angel. **Jesus** reinterpreted those two elements and pronounces **the Passover** event a type of **Himself** and **His** ministry. Then **Yeshua** declared: **Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty . . . I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world (John 6:35, 48-51). Our Lord** was emphasizing the importance of a living vital relationship. **Matthew 26:26-28**, **Messiah** says that **the wine** is a figure of **the blood** of **Christ** that takes away the sins of **His** people, and **the bread** is a figure of **His body** that was hung on the cross for sinners. In short, **Jesus** proclaimed that **He** is **the Passover Lamb**, who by the shedding of **His blood** is a substitute for **His** people, protecting them from the wrath and judgment of **ADONAI**. **As the blood of the Passover lamb covers Isra'el, so the blood of Christ, the Messiah, covers the New Covenant believer (John 1:29; First Peter 1:19; First Corinthians 5:7).**

The fact of the matter is that when believers celebrate **the Lord's** Supper today they are keeping **the Passover** that **ADONAI** commanded **His** people to honor forever. It reminds them of the work of **Christ** in paying the ransom and delivering them from death and darkness. It is also a sign that believers are the people of **God** and **He** dwells in their midst. And, finally, it is a sign of the continuity from the righteous of the TaNaKh to the believers of the B'rit Chadashah.[216]