

## **The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:21-23 & John 19:16-42) Good Friday 2017**

Please have your Bibles opened up to firstly Exodus 12 in the OT and then secondly at John chapter 19 starting at verse 16. There's an outline to take notes if that helps you concentrate.

Let's ask God for His help in the understanding of His Holy Word, this morning.

Let's pray...

### **Intro/Looking for a Sign?**

There's the story of a Christian man who'd prayed this prayer every morning:

*"Lord, if you want me to witness to someone about Jesus today, please give me a sign to show me who it is."*

One day the Christian man found himself on a bus when a big, burly man sat next to him. The bus was nearly empty but this guy sat next to our praying friend.

The timid Christian anxiously waited for his stop so he could exit the bus. But before he could get very nervous about the man next to him, the big burly man burst into tears and began to weep. He then cried out with a loud voice, *"I need to be saved. I'm a lost sinner and I need the Lord. Won't somebody tell me how to be saved?"* He turned to the Christian man and pleaded, *"Can you show me how to be saved?"*

The Christian man immediately bowed his head and prayed, *"Lord, is this a sign?"*  
(pause)

When it comes to the Bible and the OT - the signs might not be quite as obvious as that - but they are there - nonetheless

And all the OT points to one person - the OT is a sign-post to our Lord Jesus

## [Powerpoint 1-Signpost]

### OT Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:21-23)

Take our OT reading this morning from Exodus 12

The Context is that God's people - the Jews - are in slavery in Egypt and Egypt's leader - Pharaoh - has the Jews in a stranglehold of slavery

So God call's Moses to come and lead the Jews out of slavery in Egypt

God sends 10 plagues to loosen Pharaoh's grip on the Jews

The last plague is to destroy the firstborn of each household in Egypt.

So that the Jews are not affected by this plague - God gives instructions to the Jews to kill a lamb and smear the blood of the lamb on their doorframe and doorposts to protect them - here's what Exodus 12 - verses 22 & 23 says:

### [Powerpoint 2-Exodus 12]

<sup>22</sup>Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood [of the lamb] in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. <sup>23</sup>When the LORD 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 to enter your houses and strike you down.

So the blood of the lamb - smeared on the doorframe - protected the Jews - and the destroyer - passed over their house - without killing the firstborn in the house

Which is why the this event is called the Passover

### [Powerpoint 3-Passover Lamb]

At this very first Passover

- An innocent lamb was sacrificed
- The lamb's blood was smeared to protect the people

- The people were saved from the Death Destroyer
- The lamb was a substitute to prevent the people being killed
- God commanded the Jews to remember this Passover event every year by sharing a Passover meal together - to always remember how God had saved them from death
- The survival of the people enabled them to go to the Promised Land [the land promised to Abraham in the OT - for the Jews by God]
- But it didn't fix slavery for good (Israel were eventually exiled again to Babylon many years later) - and it didn't fix the Jews' slavery to sin - they still sinned and rebelled against God many times
- And it didn't permanently fix death either - the people all eventually died as they got older

### **NT Passover Lamb (John 19:16-42)**

But remember I said - the OT points to one person

The Passover Lamb of the OT - is a sign pointing to our Lord Jesus

As we look at our NT passage this morning - turn to John 19, from verse 16.

**[Powerpoint 4-NT Passover Lamb]**

As Jesus is crucified on a cruel Roman cross

The context is the people of Israel [the Jews] are in the middle of celebrating that annual feast of Passover (John 19:14)

And note - the apostle John has already mentioned Jesus is the Lamb of God (back in John 1:29)

And also note - even the apostle Paul calls Jesus our Passover Lamb (in 1 Cor 5:7)

As Jesus carries his cross (v17) He is like a lamb being led to the slaughter and he is crucified - one of the most excruciating ways to die.

And as we look at the actual last moments of his life -

We notice a couple of things -

Firstly v28 - Jesus says - **I am thirsty** - In saying this - Jesus is fulfilling one of those signs from the OT - a prophecy from Psalm 69:21 (cf. Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23)

Which says: **They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.**

And when he is given the vinegar - it's put on a sponge and lifted up to him on a hyssop plant (v29)

Now here's another sign - look at how the blood is smeared on the doorframe in the first Passover - in Exodus 12:22 - by using a bunch of hyssop

Hyssop is mentioned several times in the Bible - and it is always used for cleansing and purification

This is a picture of what Jesus' death on the cross will do

It will cleanse people from their sin and rebellion against God - and purify them - and replace their sin with the purification of forgiveness - if - and only if - a person believes in Jesus

**[Powerpoint 5-NT Passover Lamb continued]**

When Jesus received that drink, he said his last words: **It is finished**

This means his suffering is over and the work His Father had given Him to do is completed - that work was to preach the Good News that Jesus Himself saves

people from their sin and obtains eternal (forever) salvation for His people.

That work is done, accomplished, completed - all those signs in the OT are fulfilled. The debt and punishment for sin - is paid in full - once and for all - by Jesus

That's why Jesus can say - **It is finished!**

And notice even in the midst of His terrible suffering and dying on the cross - Jesus' thoughts are for others - He commits His mother into the care of John one of His disciples (v26-27)

And notice too - at the point of death - when the soldiers come to check if all those who are crucified are actually dead. And if they are not dead they break their legs. But they find Jesus is already dead - so they didn't break his bones as was the custom to speed up death - this fulfils the prophecy from Numbers 9:12 - that says none of His bones will be broken. Instead they pierce his side - and **blood and water** pour out of His side.

This is another sign - the **water** of Baptism - a picturing of washing away sin - and the **blood** of Christ poured out on the cross for the sin of the world - which we remember at the Lord's Supper.

You see the NT church - does not remember Passover as such - but remembers the Passover Lamb - and what He has achieved - by having 2 sacraments - Baptism (water) and Lord's Supper/Communion (blood)

**[Powerpoint 6-Jesus as our Passover Lamb]**

At His death Jesus became the Passover Lamb that the OT Passover was pointing to:

Jesus - the innocent Lamb of God Sacrificed

His Blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins

People are saved from the punishment of sin - which is death - Jesus paid that punishment instead

Jesus is the Lamb who is our substitute for us dying because of our sin

That Passover when Jesus died is remembered - through Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Jesus loving and merciful act enabled people to go to the Promised Land of Heaven

Unlike Passover - slavery is fixed for good - the slavery of sin fixed once and for all

Unlike Passover - death is permanently fixed - because believing in Jesus - means living eternally with God - which we'll look at in more detail on Easter Sunday

## **Applications**

Jesus as the Passover Lamb - requires a response

So how can we apply it to our lives - this morning?

### **[Powerpoint 7a-Application 1]**

Don't be like the soldiers who have Jesus dying on the cross in front of them - and his death means nothing to them - they are too busy gambling for his clothes. Don't let Jesus' death mean nothing to you.

### **[Powerpoint 7b-Application 2]**

Don't be like Joseph of Arimathea who was a secret follower of Jesus or Nicodemus who came to see Jesus at night so no one would know. These men believed in Jesus but were either absent from the Jewish council when Jesus was sentenced to be killed or they remained silent when Jesus was accused and sentenced. Either way - they didn't stand up for Jesus when it mattered. Don't be a silent secret follower of Jesus

### [Powerpoint 7c-Application 3]

It took Jesus' death for Joseph and Nicodemus to be bold and brave - Jesus death had done what His life didn't do - they were no longer afraid. They now believed and know who He is and why He came - and they don't care what trouble they get into in asking for Jesus' body. How will you respond to Jesus' death today - will you be bold and brave - because you believe and know who Jesus is and why He came!

### [Powerpoint 7d-Application 4]

Will you respond to Jesus' death by being a devoted and loving follower like the 4 women and the apostle John who were witnesses at the cross!

### [Powerpoint 7e]

Jesus prophesied on John 12:32 - "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

You see the Power of the Cross - turns cowards into heroes!

## **Conclusion**

## [Powerpoint 8-Conclusion]

To finish up then- over the last few months we've been studying John's Gospel in our Bible studies together

And we've identified three 3 keys that unlock John's Gospel:

Testimony (Evidence) - Belief - and Life

These 3 keys - explain why John wrote his account of Jesus life

Have a look at verse 35:

**35** The man who saw it [that's John] has given **testimony**, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies **so that you also may believe.**

You see John's testimony is an eye witness account - that's the first key

And the reason for this eye witness account is to enable people to Believe - that's the second key

And this leads to the third key - life - which we will look at in more detail on Easter Sunday

But in John 10:18 - Jesus points to that third key:

**18** No one takes it [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

The Bottom line is the whole Bible points to:

Jesus as our Passover Lamb

The One - who fixes slavery to sin - and replaces it with forgiveness

The One - who fixes the broken relationship with God - and replaces our physical and spiritual death - with the hope of eternal life

It's not enough to just know that Jesus' death on the cross is an actual historical fact!

You have to believe Jesus is YOUR PERSONAL Passover Lamb...

And if you do believe - don't keep it a secret like Joseph and Nicodemus - instead be a witness to others like the 4 women and John were - so that many more will believe

Let's pray...