



The Messengers: Moses

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 12:1–14 (NIV)

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire-head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

¹² “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴ “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD -a lasting ordinance.

MAIN TRUTH

Through Moses we learn that forgiveness comes as God’s judgment “passes over” us through the sacrifice of a firstborn male offspring.

The Sign of the Unblemished Lamb is the one sign upon which things such as redemption, salvation, deliverance, divine protection, and inheritance are claimed.

- The sign could not have been circumcision, because most of the Hebrews at this time were almost certainly uncircumcised.

- The sign could not have been Torah observance, because the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) had not yet been revealed.
- The sign could not have been membership in—or even attendance at—a church or synagogue, because no such thing existed.

Every person, Egyptian or Hebrew, who desired to participate in the covenant, **had** to *take* the *lamb*, and smear the blood, or the angel of death would strike the home. If a family—even a family of Hebrews—did not “take” the lamb and apply the blood to the doorposts and lintels of the dwelling, *that family’s firstborn would perish with the firstborn of the Egyptians*. It did not matter if the firstborn was, or was not, circumcised. Or if the firstborn was, or was not, of the *seed of Abraham*. The angel of death did not pass over the sign of circumcision, or the sign of Abrahamic descent. Both of these signs were preparatory, or prophetic if you prefer. They pointed forward to the sign the Holy One would pass over *the blood of the lamb*, and that alone.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

In what are you placing your confidence of salvation today?

Is it in the family you were born into?

Is it that you were dedicated or baptized as a child?

Is it that you live a “good” life?

Is it about your membership or participation in a church?

None of these things will replace what God demands of you: that you personally accept, receive as your own, the substitution of the blood of His beloved Son, in the place of your own blood to pay the debt of sin in your life. The payment required for sin is death, because God is a Holy God. And only the blood of a male without blemish, Jesus, can fully pay the debt you owe, and gain you eternal presence with God. In “Christianspeak” we call this being “saved.” You are saved from eternal separation from God.

Why a Sacrifice?

You see, we were separated from our Holy God when sin entered into the picture in the garden of Eden. Even before man was banished from the place on earth where he could walk and talk with God in person, God had made a way of reconciliation—a way back into fellowship—if man would accept it.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:19–20, John 1:29

- God prepared a lamb slain before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19–20).
- John the Baptist recognized this when he saw Jesus coming to the Jordan river to be baptized, and said prophetically, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Our sin must be eliminated in order to fellowship with a Holy God. The blood of that spotless lamb offers us forgiveness of sins. And it is the only thing.

DISCUSSION

- What are some other ways people try to make themselves holy enough to approach God?
- Identify why those ways won't work.
- What are the benefits of being in fellowship with God?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Turn to Psalm 103. Either personally or in discussion, list the ways this psalm describes your life and what God has done for you. As an example:

- What has He redeemed your life from?
- How does He show you His love?
- How does He show His compassion to you?
- What desires has He satisfied with good things?
- How does your "innermost being" praise Him?