

(Exod. 12:8-10) - As we continue with our study of the Lord's Passover, we have seen how the spotless lamb is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, Who was slain for the sins of His people (God's elect) given to Him before the foundation of the world. They are identified in God's Word as those whose names were written in the Lamb's book of life before the world began, and the Lamb is described as "*the Lamb slain*" (Rev. 13:8), as was the Passover lamb. This sets forth Christ as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people. By His death, the eternal salvation of all for whom He died is assured because in His death, He established a perfect righteousness whereby God has justified all His people. By His blood, their sins are forgiven, and they are declared righteous in God's sight. By His blood, they receive spiritual and eternal life in the new birth whereby they are given faith to believe in Christ and brought to repentance of dead works and idolatry.

Here, the Israelites were commanded to eat the flesh of the lamb roasted with fire. Roasting the lamb with fire could signify the manner of Christ's death. He was crucified, enduring the fire of God's wrath for our sins imputed to Him. When it comes to sin, our God is a consuming fire Who brings the fire of His wrath upon all sinners to whom sin is imputed. Our hope is to be found in Christ, not having our sins imputed to us, but having His righteousness laid to our charge (Rom. 8:33-34; Php. 3:9). Eating the flesh of the lamb is a picture of God's people feeding and living upon Christ by God-given faith (John 6:55-58). We feed upon Christ by feeding upon His Word and living in His light. This is all by God's grace and power, not our own.

They were to eat the lamb with unleavened bread. Later on, we will see that the Israelites were to eat only unleavened bread every year during Passover as a commemoration of the Exodus from Egyptian bondage. Since the children of Israel left Egypt hastily, they did not have time for the bread to rise, so it was made on that very first Passover without leaven, also known as yeast. In describing this bread and why it was eaten, the Bible informs us of the following - "*Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life*" (Deut. 16:3).

In the Bible, leaven is almost always a type of sin and false doctrine (ex. Matt. 16:6-10). Like leaven that permeates a whole lump of dough, sin and false doctrine will spread in a person, a church, or a nation, eventually overwhelming and bringing them into its bondage and eventually to death (Gal. 5:9). As Christ, by Himself, purged our sins, there can be no mixture of His merits with the works of man. Unleavened bread, therefore, can signify that those who come to Christ, the true Passover, are to come to Him ALONE for all salvation, to come in sincerity and truth, and not looking elsewhere for salvation. They are not to bring their dead works or idolatry with them. Salvation is by Christ and His righteousness alone. They were also to eat the lamb with bitter herbs, which probably shows God-given sorrow for sin and repentance in the hearts of those who come to Christ. The Lamb was not to be eaten raw nor saturated with water, that is, not boiled in wine, oil, or water. Christ endured the full wrath and judgment of God for our full justification, and nothing is to be mixed, added, nor joined to Him.

The lamb was to be roasted whole. Not a bone was to be broken, as the Scriptures declare of Christ (John 19:36). Nothing of the lamb was to remain. This says that the whole Christ is to be received and fed upon by faith. Christ in both of His natures, divine and human; Christ in all His offices as prophet, priest, and king; Christ in all His glory as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people.

(Exod. 12:11) - The Israelites were to eat the Passover dressed and ready to move out of Egypt showing their assurance that God would keep His promise - *“It is the LORD’S PASSOVER.”* Christ effectually and powerfully saves His people. The world, as Egypt to Israel, is no longer our home. We are pilgrims, temporarily here but awaiting His call to move out and go to our eternal home.

(Exod. 12:12-13) - The Lord God is faithful both to His promises and to His threats. He most certainly *“will execute judgment.”* We know this because it is His very nature - *“I am the LORD.”* God MUST punish all sinners to whom sin is imputed. This is why, if we are to escape God’s wrath and experience salvation from sin and death, we must be found in Christ - *“WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I WILL PASS OVER YOU.”* When the Lord saw the lamb’s blood on the doors of the Israelites, He passed over them. When the Lord sees the blood judicially and spiritually applied to His people, He passes over them and does not exact His wrath upon them. The blood of Christ is *“the propitiation for our sins”* (1 John 2:2). Propitiation is satisfaction to God’s justice. This could only be accomplished by one who is both God and man in one person - the Lord Jesus Christ. The blood of Christ is the righteousness of God accomplished and established for the justification of His people. God cannot and will not impute our sins to us because He has imputed them to Christ (Rom. 8:1,33-34; Eph. 1:7). In Christ, we are justified before God. And by Christ, His blood is sprinkled on our hearts and brings us spiritual life to receive Him and feed upon Him by God-given faith.

Consider the case of God’s people whom He chose in Christ before the foundation of the world. When did God see the blood as to their salvation? God has always, in eternity past, present, and future, viewed His people as covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. He chose them and justified them in Christ before the world began. He saved all the Old Testament saints based on the blood of Christ before Christ came in time and shed His precious blood on the cross to purge their sins. How could God do this? It was by His promise in Christ upon Whom all His promises were sure and certain to be fulfilled. When did we see the blood? We saw it when the Holy Spirit gave us spiritual life and brought us to faith in Christ and repentance of dead works. God saw the blood long before we saw it, but, if we are saved, we DID see the blood. The Holy Spirit sprinkled the blood of Christ on our hearts and minds, and our song became, *“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing”* (Rev. 5:12).

(Exod. 12:14) - The Lord told Moses that this Passover feast was to be a continual memorial unto the Lord throughout the time of their generation to keep it *“for ever.”* This *“for ever”* does not mean throughout eternity. It means as long as the Old Covenant would be in force for the nation Israel. This was until the Messiah would come and accomplish the spiritual and eternal redemption of His people by the shedding of His blood on the cross. The Lord signified the end of the Old Covenant with all of its types and pictures, including the feast days and the animal sacrifices, by tearing the veil in the temple in two from top to bottom when Christ died on the cross. All the types and pictures gave way to the glory of Christ crucified and risen from the dead. Christ is our Lamb, slain for our sins, and He is our Mediator and Intercessor before God. He pleads the merits of His righteousness on our behalf.