

Place: Lurgan Baptist 16:12:2005

Readings: Exodus 11:1.... 12:7, 12-13

## FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN

### 4. A NIGHT TO BE REMEMBERED !

Thomas Jefferson did many great things during his lifetime, but he wanted only three of them mentioned at his grave for posterity to remember. Number three, was the founding of the University of Virginia. Number two was the authorship of the Virginia statue for religious freedom. And number one was the authorship of the Declaration of Independence. He did not even want it mentioned that he was the President of the United States of America. We know how the Declaration of Independence states this matter of freedom, “ *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are endowed equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.* ” The “ Declaration of Independence, ” for Israel was the Passover. This was a declaration for them of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It meant life because those who were protected by the blood of the lamb were not slain by the Lord. It meant liberty because Israel was delivered from bondage. And it meant the pursuit of happiness because deliverance meant they were on their way to the Promised Land. This was a terrible night for Egypt but it was a memorable one for Israel. Can you picture this never to be forgotten night in Egypt ? ( 12:42 ) When the sun set that evening on Egyptian temple and palace and river and field, Israel was a race of slaves, hugging its chains. When the sun rose the next morning, Israel was a nation, a nation on the march, and ever since that nation has been on the march. But over all Egypt it is night. The April moon sheds its golden light over all the land. Against the clear sky rises the mighty Pyramid of Cheops, and in front of that pyramid the Sphinx stares out over the white moonlit desert with stony, mysterious, gaze. By the banks of the winding Nile and the numerous canals, tall palm trees wave their branches in the soft evening air.

Along the river a thousand villages are asleep. In his marble palace, flanked by columns wound with sculptured serpents and crowned with fierce eagles whose eyes flash with precious stones, Egypt's Pharaoh sleeps. *In the temples of Isis and Osiris the fire has sunk on the altars and the priests and their attendants are*

*asleep.* In the huts and cottages of the peasants the people are asleep. Indeed all Egypt is asleep. The terrible plagues that have vexed the land are past. Pharaoh has hardened his heart. He has said, “ *I will not let the children of Israel go.*” So a tenth and final plague is going to come upon the land and it is through this plague that God teaches the great lesson of how every person who has ever lived can be saved. This 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Book of Exodus has been called, “ **the picture book of Redemption.**” Here we have one of the fullest, clearest, and simplest foreshadowings of salvation by the blood of the Lamb. Now we know and are sure that this lamb speaks of Christ for Paul writes, “ *Christ our Passover lamb is sacrificed for us.*” ( 1 Cor 5:7 ) So we have divine authority for regarding the contents of this chapter as typical of our wonderful Lord. When a film was made of the sinking of the Titanic several years ago, it was entitled, “ ***A Night to be Remembered,***” and this is our topic for this .... ! Indeed this night was so memorable that the Jewish calendar was changed.

( 12:1-2 ) The Jewish civil calendar began in the Autumn of the year, but the Jewish Religious calendar begins in the Spring. Passover meant the beginning of months. What a night it was. Indeed it was a night in which Israel,

### (1) DECIDED UPON THE LAMB

Can you picture an Israelite family going out to the flocks of sheep and selecting a lamb to be slain ? Yet even in their selection they were not left to their own ideas and methods. You see, the Lord gave specific directions for the selection of the lamb. According to God’s Word,

#### (a) ***THE LAMB HAD TO BE PERFECT:***

Look if you will at ( 12:5 ) It was to be the finest of the flock. Indeed if this lamb was broken, blind, bruised, or diseased, it was absolutely no use, you see, nothing but a perfect sacrifice could satisfy the demands of a holy God. ( Lev 22:21 ) In the course of time, Israel flagrantly disobeyed this command, for in Malachi’s day the Lord brought the charge against them, that they offered imperfect animals as sacrifices to God. ( Malachi 1:6 )

What they were doing was this, they were bringing the leftovers to God. My .... is the Lord just coming in for your leftovers ? If you have any time left, after your wheeling and dealing, you’ll give it to God. If you have any money left, after spending so much on self, you’ll tip the Lord. If you have any energy left, you’ll do a wee job for the Lord. Is this how you are treating the Lord ? God requires your best but are you just giving Him the leftovers ? *Now why did God place such emphasis on the perfection of this lamb ?*

Well, surely it was because this lamb was typical of the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world ! In requiring the lamb to be perfect God was anticipating the perfection of His Son ! For had there been one spot in Christ then He would have been incapable of being a sacrifice for sin ! But the New Testament contains extensive and eloquent testimony to the perfection and purity of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul states, “ *He knew no sin.* ” ( 2 Cor 5:21 ) The apostle Peter says,

“ *He did no sin.* ” ( 1 Pet 2:22 ) And the apostle John declares, “ *In Him was no sin.* ” ( 1 Jn 3:5 ) These three testimonies form a united witness to the perfection and purity of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was perfect as the babe of Bethlehem .... perfect as the boy of Nazareth, perfect as the Lamb of God upon the cross. “ *Yea He is altogether lovely.* ” ( S.S. 5:16 )

**“ *No mortal can with Him compare  
Among the sons of men  
Fairer is He than all the fair  
That fill the heavenly train.* ”**

**(b) THE LAMB HAD TO BE PROVEN:**

Look if you will at ( 12:3 ) and compare it with ( 12:6 )

The obvious reason for this arrangement was that the lamb might be carefully examined and tested. This four day period gave ample opportunity to test it and find out a blemish if there was any. Was it not the same with the Lord Jesus ? Was Christ not the selected lamb ? Was He not the one who was singled out, appointed to death, even before the world was ? Was He not the “ *Lamb slain set apart from the foundation of the world ?* ”

( Rev 13:8 ) And the Lamb who was selected in eternity was tested in time. The Lord Jesus was well tested. His life on earth was the testing time. Heaven, hell, and earth tested Him and we have the witness from each that He is the Lamb “ *without blemish.* ” The **Father** testified from heaven, “ *this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.* ” ( Matt 3:17 ) The **demons** cried, “ *I know who Thou art, the Holy One of God.* ” ( Mk 1:24 ) **Man** also testified. Pilate the Roman Governor said, “ *I find in Him no fault at all.* ” ( Jn 18:38 ) Judas, the false disciple confessed that he had betrayed the innocent blood. ( Matt 27:4 ) The centurion who watched His dying agonies acknowledged that He was a “ *righteous man.* ” ( Lk 23:47 ) The dying thief by His side said, that He had “ *done nothing amiss.* ” ( Lk 23:41 ) So the three spheres of the universe, heaven, hell, and earth testify to His sinless-ness and crown Him with the crown of spotless holiness. Oh, precious, perfect, sinless, spotless, stainless Lamb of God is He “ *without blemish and without spot.* ” ( 1 Pet

1:19 ) (a) (b)

**(c) *THE LAMB HAD TO BE PERSONAL:***

Look at the progression of thought here in ( 12:3-5 )  
In ( 12:3 ) it talks about *A lamb*. In ( 12:4 ) it says *The lamb*. In ( 12:5 ) it says *Your lamb*. Don't you like that ? ***A lamb, The Lamb, Your Lamb***. The indefinite has become definite and the impersonal has become personal. A number of years ago while visiting Westminster Abbey, a Christian stopped for a moment to look at the nativity scene as presented in a large glass encased crèche. Quite a number of people were pausing to view the scene, the manger, the Christ child, Mary, the mother and Joseph. Standing at the corner somewhat out of proportion to the other figures was a large white toy lamb. A mother with her little boy stopped nearby. The little fellow became excited as he looked at the various models in the glass case. Back at home he must had a similar toy for breaking the silence of the Abbey he questioned his mother and said, “ *Mummy is that My lamb ?* ” Uncertain in his mind he wanted to make sure that the lamb in the glass case was his. “ *Is that my lamb ?* ” My .... is Christ your lamb ? ***A lamb, the lamb, your lamb !*** Is that not how it was in each of our experiences ? In our unsaved state, Christ appeared to us as nothing more than a Lamb, we saw no beauty in Him that we should desire Him, but when the Holy Spirit awakened us, and tuned our gaze on Christ, we saw Him as the Lamb, and when by faith we received Him as Saviour we were able to “ *your lamb, my lamb, our lamb.* ”

***Isn't it wonderful to know the Lamb Personally !  
Isn't it wonderful to see the Lamb Biblically !***

For the Doctrine of the Lamb pervades the Holy Scriptures. Here is the grand theme of Holy Scripture. Here is the master theme of the Bible. Jonathan Edwards wrote in his “ *A History of the Work of Redemption,* ”  
“ *Christ and His redemption are the subject of the whole Word of God.* ” For example,

***\* In Genesis Ch 22 we have the Lamb Prophesied !***

***\* In Exodus Ch 12 we have the Lamb Typified !***

***\* In Isaiah Ch 53 we have the Lamb Personified !***

***\* In John Ch 1 we have the Lamb Identified !***

***\* In John Ch 19 we have the Lamb Crucified !***

***\* In Revelation Ch 22 we have the Lamb Glorified !***

***Isn't it wonderful to know the Lamb Personally !***  
***Isn't it wonderful to see the Lamb Biblically!***  
***Isn't it wonderful to follow the Lamb Wholeheartedly !***

For speaking of the 144,000 in the Tribulation, John says  
“ *these are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.* ” ( Rev 14:4 ) Is  
that you ? Are you following in His footsteps ? Wholeheartedly ! Enthusiastically !  
(1)

## **(2) DEPENDED UPON THE LAMB**

You see, it was not sufficient for them to select the lamb, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the  
month they had to slay the lamb,  
( 12:6 ) for God required a blood sacrifice. This is something that Steven Spielberg  
learned when he produced, “ *The Prince of Egypt,* ” a film based on the life of  
Moses. The original script had the Lord saying,  
“ *When I see the mark upon the doorframe.* ” However, the religious leaders hired  
to consult with the film studio objected that this was not specific enough. They  
insisted that the mark had to be made of blood. So the line was changed to, “ *When  
I see the blood.* ” Now there are two important stages in the people's dependence  
upon the lamb and these two stages may be summed up in two phrases.

### **(a) *THE BLOOD WAS SHED:***

Look if you will at ( 12:6 ) In other words, ***the death of the Lamb had to be  
Accomplished !*** Its blood was shed. Now this is a most remarkable statement. I  
mean we would expect it to read “ *and the whole congregation of Israel shall kill  
them in the evening.* ” That is, the lambs. But it actually reads “ *shall kill it ....,* ”  
singular as if to impress upon the people of Israel and us the deeper truth that all  
the lambs ( plural ) that were to be slain typified one lamb, the unique and solitary  
Lamb of God. My .... there was only Lamb before God's mind, the Lamb of  
Calvary, and in God's sight there is only person who can effectually die on behalf  
of others and that is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ !

***“ Not all the blood of beasts  
On Jewish altars slain  
Could gave the guilty conscience peace  
Or wash away the stain***

***But Christ the Heavenly Lamb  
Takes all our guilt away  
A sacrifice of nobler worth  
And richer blood than they.”***

*Did you notice that the blood had to be shed by Israel ?*

*“ And the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel,” ( 12:6 )* Not that every particular individual .... man, woman, and child shared in the act itself but they did so representatively, and the fulfilment of this aspect of our type is plainly brought out in the gospels. My .... ever sinner had a hand in the death of Christ, for the world was represented around the cross. ( Acts 4:26-27 ) Here they are representatives of man’s wisdom, and power and religion. They differed in many things, but in this they agreed that the Son of God must die. They all played a part in the death of Jesus Christ, but then so did we ! For was it not my sin and yours that nailed Him to the tree ? ( 1 Pet 2:24 )

***“ I pierced those sacred hands and feet  
That never touched or walked in sin  
I broke the heart that only beat  
The souls of sinful men to win.”***

My .... the blood had t be shed for “ *without shedding of blood is no remission.*” ( Heb 9:18 ) (a)

**(b) *THE BLOOD WAS SPRINKLED:***

Look if you will at ( 12:7 ) ***The death of the lamb had to be Accomplished, but the death of the lamb had to be Appropriated !*** Now with regard to the sprinkling of the shed blood, the nation of Israel were again given specific requirements. Notice for example,

**1. *WHERE the Blood was Sprinkled:***

Look at ( 12:7 ) None of the blood was to be put on the threshold or sprinkled on the floor, it was far to precious for that, it was to costly to be trampled under foot. Rather it was to be above them and around them. Placed between our soul and God the blood secures eternal salvation, trampled under foot, it incurs eternal judgment. ( Heb 10:28-29 )

**2. *HOW the Blood was Sprinkled:***

For it was by means of the hyssop that the blood of this little lamb was applied to the doorposts ! ( 12:21-22 ) In the book of 1 Kings ( 4:33 ) hyssop is contrasted with the great and majestic cedars of Lebanon. It is therefore symbolic of something very small. What does it signify ?

**Faith !** For just as the hyssop was the means which conveyed the blood from the basin to the doorposts, so faith makes the atonement of Christ of personal benefit to us. My .... ***righteousness demands the sacrifice, love provides the sacrifice and faith appropriates the sacrifice.*** Is this not exactly what Paul teaches in the book of Romans ? He tells that a person comes into a right relationship with God through faith in the blood of Christ. ( 3:25 ) Its not good enough that the death of Christ is accomplished, that death must be appropriated.

Have you appropriated it ? Do you see Him as the one who “ *bare your sins in His own body on the tree ?*”

( 1 Pet 2:24 ) Have you made Christ your Saviour ? Can you say with the hymn-writer,

***“ Upon a life I did not live  
Upon a death I did not die  
Another’s life, another’s death  
I stake my whole eternity.”***

### 3. WHY the Blood was Sprinkled:

For God says in ( 12:12-13 ) Now I want to notice that

#### **\* The Ground of our Salvation is the Blood of the Lamb:**

Their salvation depended **on what God saw**, “ *when I see the blood.*” Can you picture that first Passover with the Israelites huddled in their homes ? They were waiting for God to come in judgment. That night God would claim a life from every household in Egypt. All over the land they could hear the wailing of their enemies, who were mourning the death of their first-born. But the children of Israel were safe by the blood of the lamb. Death passed over them. The reason ? ***Because they were under the blood.*** When God came to the home of an Israelite, he could see the blood on the door. When he looked at it He said in effect, “ *Someone has died in this house, the penalty has been executed.*” To use the technical term for it, the blood was a propitiation, “ ***it turned away the wrath of God.***” The doorpost put blood between God and the sinner. When the people looked up they saw they had an expiation .... a covering for their sin. When God looked down He saw that they

had made propitiation, and thus His wrath was turned aside. Do you know something ? So many theologians and preachers like to talk about Jesus Christ as a Saviour and Teacher, but they would rather not talk about His blood.

But we believe in the precious blood of Christ. We believe in the doctrine of the substitutionary atonement, Jesus Christ shedding His blood for our sins. Now the reason for all this talk about the blood is very simple.

*“ Without the shedding of blood there is no remission, no forgiveness of sins.”* ( Heb 9:22 ) \*

***\* The Ground of our Assurance is the Word of the Lord:***

Their salvation depended on **what God saw**, “ *when I see the blood,*” their assurance depended on **what God said**, “ *I will pass over you.*” You see, the blood of the lamb made safe, the word of the Lord made them sure. The one gave them security, the other gave them confidence. Do you lack assurance this .... ? Have you no settled peace in your heart ? Could it be that it stems from the fact that you have made your own feelings, something subjective, the ground of your assurance, instead of the Word of the Lord ? Does God speak the truth ? If He does, then get rid of your fears, because of the blood of the Lamb you are safe, because of the Word of the Lord you are sure. (1) (2)

**(3) DINED UPON THE LAMB**

Now I don't know how it is in your home, but if Catherine sets me down something that's not too attractive, I don't feel like eating it, but when there is something appealing, then we will eat. Tell me, is Christ still appealing to you ? Once you spoke of Him as the Shulamite maid in the Song of Solomon. *To you He was the chiefest among ten thousand* ( 5:10 ) but what about now ? Are you still in love with Him ? Are you still drawn out to Him ? Do you still feed on Him ? Was this not what the Israelites were to do ? ( 12:8-11 ) My .... this is what we are to do. We trust in Christ to obtain life, we feed on Christ to sustain life ! Will you notice that

***(a) We must “ feed on the Lamb,” for STRENGTH:***

You see, it was not enough for these captives to be rescued from danger, they had a journey before them and they needed strength for the journey. The blood of the lamb ensured safety, but the flesh of the lamb conveyed sustenance. Now who are we to feed on ? Christ.

( Jn 6:56 ) Notice, that we are to feed,

### 1. On His WORK:

Do you see what ( 12:8 ) “ *Eat the flesh in that night roast with fire.* ” The Passover was first slain, then roasted, but Christ was first roasted, then slain. Now roasting is perhaps the slowest method for preparing meat for consumption, and suggests the most painful.

Roasting by fire speaks of the judgment our Saviour endured at the hands of God, when He who knew no sin was made sin for us. When it pleased the Lord to bruise Him. Is that what you are mind is occupied come Lord’s day morning, when you sit at this Table ? 1.

### 2. On His WISDOM:

Do you see God’s division of the lamb in ( 12:9 ) ? His head, his legs, his inwards. I take it that the head may speak of the wisdom of Christ and we find that largely in the epistles. But then we are to feed,

### 3. On His WALK:

Do you revel in the sinless life of the Lord Jesus ? Often I feel we do not read the Gospels enough for there we see the Truth lived among men, and there is not a thing we need to know but we may find it in practice and precept in the life of Christ ! Is your meditation of the Saviour sweet ? Do you feed on His work, His wisdom, His walk and,

### 4. On His WEALTH:

“ *The inward parts.* ” Do you know something ? Every Israelite had a whole lamb at his disposal. John Wesley said, that “ *he had a whole Christ as His Saviour a whole Bible as his guide, and a whole world as his parish.* ” There’s a whole Christ for each of us ! My .... we know Him as Saviour from the penalty of sin, but do we know Him as the One who delivers from the power of sin and self ? Do you know Him as a Saviour from the cares that weigh you down ? From the fears that play you up ? (a)

### **(b) We must “feed on the Lamb,” in HOLINESS:**

“ *And unleavened bread,* ” ( 12:8 ) Now leaven is the yeast, the substance that makes the dough rise. Now great emphasis was laid on this. ( 12:20 ) Leaven in the Bible is emblematic of evil. No wonder Paul says,

*“purge out the old leaven.”* ( 1 Cor 5:6 ) You see, if there are particles of the old leaven within our borders, then its goodbye to Christian joy.

***“ One cherished sin within the heart  
One evil thought received  
The joy of Christ must needs depart  
The Holy Spirit grieved.”***

My .... its as only as we are separated from is repugnant to God that we can really feed on Christ. (a) (b)

***(c) We must “feed on the Lamb,” with EXPECTANCY:***

Did you notice how they were to eat it ? ( 12:11 ) They stood as pilgrims in a strange land but their home was waiting for them on the other side. My .... they were to eat the lamb in haste because they expected the imminent coming of the Lord ! Do we ? Are we ready to hear the shout ? Are we ready to meet the Lord in the air ? My .... fellow pilgrims saved by blood, assured by the Word, communing with the Father and Son by the Spirit, let us stand on tip toe expectancy waiting for His coming, saying *“ even so come, Lord Jesus.”*

***“ As sons of God redeemed by blood  
We hasten from Egypt away  
We cross the sand to the pleasant land  
And the joys of an endless day.”***