

## Good Friday Message

### **No plague will befall you to destroy you** (Exodus 12:13)

Today is Good Friday. The Corona Virus lockdown continues. However, I bring you grace, peace, and protection in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Rest assured that you are hidden in Christ. No one can touch you, because the Lord is with you. He will keep your heart and mind in His everlasting peace. He will protect you from any harm especially from the COVID-19. Amen?

Good Friday is very important to the believers in Christ. How? Without Good Friday, there will be no Easter. Without crucifixion, there will be no resurrection.

I am going to tell you two Passover stories today. One in the Old Testament and the other in the New.

Let me read to you the first Passover story in the book of Exodus 12:1-14.

**Exodus 12:1-14** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

### **The Passover Lamb**

**12** Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. <sup>3</sup>**Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are / each one / to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers’ households, a lamb for each household.** <sup>4</sup> Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons *in them*; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. <sup>5</sup>**Your lamb shall be an unblemished male / a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.** <sup>6</sup>**You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel / is to kill it at twilight.** <sup>7</sup>**Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.** <sup>8</sup>**They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.** <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails. <sup>10</sup> And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup>**Now you shall eat it / in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD’s Passover.** <sup>12</sup> For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Scholars believe that this event took place in the year of 1446 B.C.: The people of Israel were about to have their last meal in Egypt before they headed out to the Promised Land. Here, God instructs them how to choose the Passover lamb, how to cook it, and in what manner they should eat the Passover meal. Listen once again to the certain words and phrases in the story: **lamb, unblemished, roasted with fire, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, your loins girded, your sandals on feet, and your staff in hand, the blood sign on the houses.** Out of all those words, the most important one is the **blood**. Please pay attention to **the significance of the blood and what it does**. God was about to send His angel to strike all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast, and He would pass over the house of Israel **when and only when** He saw the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and the lintel. That's where we got the word "Passover" from: **God's judgment passes over the house and the people in it because of the blood of the lamb on the house.**

This time I am taking you to a New Testament passage. Before I do that, please understand that the Old Testament is the shadow of the New Testament. In other words, the real thing happens in the New Testament based on the prophecies of the Old.

I am taking you to Matthew 26:20-29 where we see Jesus and His disciples about to eat their Passover meal together. It was the night before Jesus was crucified.

### **The Lamb of God (Matthew 26:20-29)**

<sup>20</sup> **Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples.** <sup>21</sup> As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." <sup>22</sup> Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup> And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus \*said to him, "You have said it yourself." <sup>26</sup> **While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."** <sup>27</sup> **And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.** <sup>29</sup> But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

This happened 1500 years after the first Passover: It was the night of Passover. Christ and His disciples were gathered in a room and celebrated the meal together in the same manner described in the book of Exodus. Please note here it was **not a coincidence** that crucifixion was preceded by the Passover. God appointed that way: time and manner. Indeed, **Christ Himself was the Passover Lamb. John the Baptist** first recognized that Jesus was the Lamb of God. One day he saw Jesus walking toward him, and he declared to everybody, "Look! Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, 36)." **Jesus was the God-appointed Passover Lamb for humanity.** Like the Exodus lamb was without blemish, so

was He pure and sinless. Like the Exodus lamb was **slaughtered** on behalf of people, so was He was for humanity. Like the blood sign of the Exodus lamb protected the entire household from God's destruction, so does **the blood of Jesus protect us from the eternal judgment.**

Let us review the Gospel we believe in. The Bible says that all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). It is appointed for us to die once, and after that comes the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). We are to pay the wages of sin right there and then.

Those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ don't have to worry about the judgment, though. Why? Because we have Christ our Passover Lamb. As we stand before God's judgment throne, our entire life will flash past before our eyes. And as we are about to pay the wages of our own sins through our second death, Christ will declare to God, "Father, I am their Passover Lamb. My blood covers them." And, God will declare, "Because your blood is on them, and because you have paid / in full / the wages of their sins through you own death, My judgment will pass over them." We go free and enter into the eternal life: not because of our own merits but because of what Christ has done. We escape God's judgment and wrath because of Christ's blood. Like the Exodus lamb, the Lamb of God died on our behalf. Like the Exodus lamb, the blood of God's Lamb protects us from eternal punishment. **Like the Exodus story, no judgment, no destruction, or no plague will befall us: all because of Christ' blood that was shed and covers you and me.**

So, in the midst of fear and anxiety, rest assured that you are protected by Christ and His blood covers you from the judgment of God.

Passover is everything about the lamb and its blood that protected the people of God from destruction. Good Friday is all about God's Lamb whose blood covers the people of faith from God's judgment.

The very Lamb of God was crucified on this day 2000 years in Jerusalem. They laid His body in a tomb, yet death and hell couldn't hold Him down. Three days later, they found the tomb empty. He resurrects from the dead. See you on Easter morning. Amen.