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# HAPPY EASTER

## what's it to you?

Easter is the time of Passover on the Jewish calendar. It is not insignificant that Jesus was crucified at this time of year. The story of the Passover is hugely significant. To Israel, it represents the key event that resulted in their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The Lord came, and killed every firstborn male in Egypt, but passed over the houses that were “under the blood”.

Exodus 12:21-23

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

Exodus 12:26-27

And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Exodus 12:29-30

At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

When our children say to us “What is Easter?” our answer should be no less filled with awe, and a sense of having come very near to death. It should be no less a tale of dramatic deliverance from divine judgment. Israel recognised that the judgment of God might not have spared them. They were not deserving of mercy, but God had appeared to Abraham and given him great and precious promises and God was upholding his word.

The blood applied at the door on the lintel, and the doorposts, marks out the shape of the cross. Jesus the Passover Lamb, crucified so that God's judgment may pass over us. We who believe him to be our Passover Lamb and apply the blood to our lives are delivered out of captivity and into freedom to worship God. We have full assurance that when the coming Day arrives and all humanity is judged, we will be spared. Mercy given by grace and received by faith. Because of Jesus, and not our innocence.

In Exodus 12:22 we read: “None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.” They had to be in the house anointed by the blood. They had to be “under the blood” – until the judgment had passed and the morning came. This is the safe place. If you have not come under the blood of Christ – if you have not put your faith in him as the Lamb of God sent to take away the sin of the world, and your sin too – then you are not yet safe.

You do not yet know what it means to celebrate Easter. Maybe you went to church all your life, but what is Easter to you? Is it just a religious day? It has to be personal. Jesus died for me. His blood was shed for me, and I put my trust in him. I believe that his death on the cross atoned for my sins. He is my only hope of avoiding the judgment that is coming. If that judgment passes over me, and I am spared, it is because of the blood of Jesus. It is not because I am a worthy man. Jesus is the worthy man.

When I look at the cross and think about Easter, I know I have had a near-death experience. I see the judgment and death that should be mine has come upon Jesus. And I will hide in him until the morning comes. When the judgment is over I will find he, by his death, has saved me.

John 1:29: The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!