

- *The wages of sin*

Salvation is by the blood of the lamb. God demands it and God provided it. God insisted that He would come through the land of Egypt and there would be judgement in each household. The firstborn was the representative of the family. God was about to let the wages of sin fall in each family in Egypt. God was insisting on the shedding of blood as the wages of sin.

- *A substitute – a lamb*

Yet God supplied the blood which He demanded. Instead of the firstborn, God provided the blood of a substitute. In the place of the firstborn the lamb would die instead.

- *The New Testament substitute - Jesus*

It is exactly in this way that the New Testament speaks of Jesus 'the lamb of God'¹. The New Testament doctrine of the atonement is a Jesus-centred reinterpretation of the story of the exodus. God put forward a substitute, Jesus.

¹ John 1:29

- *A demonstration giving understanding of what Jesus would do*

God was giving a demonstration of how He saves. He was giving a way of interpreting what He would do through His Son. When Jesus came, the people of Israel would know about a lamb dying for the sins of the people. The passover ceremony was to be kept as an annual reminder of the original passover. It would prepare the people for Jesus. He was the one who would bear the wrath of God against sin instead of us. He is the lamb. The judgement of God passes us by because Jesus has died. Jesus died at passover time. It was quite deliberate. The rulers said 'Not at the festival'¹. They wanted to avoid Jesus' dying at passover time. But God overruled and Christ died on the Friday at passover time. He was a passover sacrifice Himself, dying for the sins of the people.

¹ Matt 26:5

1. God wants the blood

1. **God wants the blood.** God is holy and just. He requires that a death-penalty should fall because of sin. He needs to express His holy hatred against sin. The blood is first for God. 'When I see the blood, I will pass over you', says God¹. The blood is first of all for God. He is looking for it. When He sees it He turns aside His wrath.

¹ 12:13

2. God provided the blood

- *God's idea*

2. **God provided the blood.** The whole idea of the passover came from God. It was not a device of Moses or any man or any woman. It was wholly God's idea. It is God who tells Moses about what He has provided. It is God who gives the instructions about the lamb. It is God who announces His judgement. 'I will ... strike down every firstborn...' ¹. It is God who tells what the blood will do. '*I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you...*' ².

¹ 12:12

² 12:13

It is the same with Jesus. God needed that Jesus should die. There had to be atonement. There had to be a judgement against sin.

- *God's love – transferred the penalty to His own Lamb*

Yet at the same time as God demanded the penalty against sin, He also loved us. God 'so loved the world'¹. God 'commended his love'². The idea of providing an atonement for sin came out of the heart of God the Father. He demanded that sin should be dealt with. He also provided that the penalty should be carried by Another. He was recommending His love. God loved the human race yet could not relinquish the punishment of sin. Jesus the lamb of God was God's remedy. He transferred the penalty to Another and provided His own Lamb.

¹ John 3:16

² Rom 5:8

3. God required faith

3. **God required faith.** The blood of the lamb was not totally automatic. The God who judges sin was also putting forward the lamb to bear the judgement, yet there was one thing that had to happen if any firstborn son or daughter was to be actually saved. They had to believe what God was saying. They had to trust that the lamb had actually died for them, and they had to be sure to shelter under the blood of the lamb by going within the house whose doorway was marked by blood.

• *Israelite nationality counted for nothing*

Israelite nationality counted for nothing. There might be an Israelite firstborn son wandering around outside on that first passover night. 'I am an Israelite', he might say to himself. 'Surely God would not punish one of His chosen people'. But Israelite nationality was not what God was demanding. He demanded faith shown by sheltering under the blood of the lamb.

• *The level of good living counted for nothing*

The level of good living counted for nothing. There might be a very good living Israelite firstborn son wandering around outside on that first passover night. 'I am a good person', he might say. 'Surely God would not punish me'. But high morality was not what God was demanding. He demanded faith shown by sheltering under the blood of the lamb.

• *Intellectual comprehension counted for nothing*

Intellectual comprehension counted for nothing. There might be someone who said 'I do not understand it. Why should protection from the judgement of God come in this way?' But it was irrelevant whether what was happening was understood or not. What saved was not theology but faith.

• *Only the blood of Jesus Christ*

The blood of Jesus Christ is the basis of our assurance of salvation. You might want to ask 'How can I **know** I will be saved from God's anger against sin?' The blood of Jesus Christ is the answer. 'When I see the blood... I will pass over you' said God¹. Let the blood of Jesus Christ be enough for you. It is enough for God! Let it be enough for you. Believe it. Trust your whole life to the blood of Jesus Christ. Let nothing make you doubt. Do not hold back or try to prepare yourself in some way. Take shelter under the blood of Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Then you will be in a position to call out to God as His child. Then you will be in a position to call out to God for the gift of His Holy Spirit. The starting point of everything is to take shelter under the blood of Jesus Christ, the lamb of God.

• *It is enough for God! Let it be enough for you.*

¹ 12:13

	<p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible</i> (PTTB) books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p>	
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