

Selecting the Lamb

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Exodus 12.1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

2 "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take **a lamb** according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for **the lamb**.

5 **Your lamb** shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,

6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

7 "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

21 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.

22 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.

23 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.

24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever.

25 And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service.

26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'

27 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.

- Lamb selected 4 days before Passover Ex 12 (Ex 12.3 "a" lamb; Ex 12.4 "the" lamb; Ex 12.5 "your" lamb)
 - to cause conversation among family members about freedom from slavery
 - to give family chance to observe the lamb to be sure that it is healthy, without physical defects or issues
 - to cause the family to bond with lamb
 - as they fed and cared for it
 - as they looked into those big, brown eyes, knowing that it was destined for death
 - as they had it in the house (or very near the house)
 - to heighten sense of loss and cost of payment of sacrifice
 - to cause fuller understanding of hideousness and cruelty of sin

Luke 19.35-40 And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.
 36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road.
 37 As he was drawing near-already on the way down the Mount of Olives-the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,
 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."
 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

- Sitting on unbroken colt – demonstrated power of Creator over creation (Mk 11.2; Lk 19.30)
- Actions of Feast of Tabernacles
 - Waving of branches Zec 14.16-21 Feast of Tabernacles to be fulfilled by means of Messianic Kingdom
 - Crying Hosanna (“save now”) – official Messianic greeting; Jews instructed to say this to Christ
Psalm 118.25-26 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- Placing garments underfoot – same thing done for Solomon and Jehu when pronounced King
 - Crowds seems to anticipate Jesus coming to establish Kingdom in fulfillment of Feast of Tabernacles
- Pharisees were helpless to stop him and only could object Jn 12.19; Lk 19.39-40
 - There must be a testimony to the fact that Messiah had come—shut the people up and stones would pick up the cry

THIS WAS THE MOMENT TO ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM (if that was His intent)—BUT . . .

Luke 19:41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,
 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.
 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side
 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."
 45 And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold,
 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."
 47 And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him,
 48 but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

- Jesus spoke of judgment and missed opportunities
 - Lk 19.44 “you did not know the time of your visitation”
 - Lk 19.42 “if you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace”
 - Lk 19.43-44 Jerusalem will be destroyed
- WHY?
 - Jesus had come to fulfill the Passover, not Tabernacles (in establishing Millennial Kingdom)

- Jesus had come to die as the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for sin, the satisfaction for just demands of a holy God
- People may have believed that this was it, may have acted like this was it, but Jesus never intended to present himself as Messiah and establish the Kingdom at this time
- That offer was made 1 ½ years ago, and was rejected on the basis of demon possession (Mt 12)
- Jesus presenting himself as the Lamb of God, selected and set apart by God, tested by man
- John the Baptist makes the connection between Jesus and the sacrificial Lamb of God - Jn 1.29 - “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”
- God the Father was selecting and setting apart His lamb, His sacrifice, His propitiation for the sins of mankind
 - 10th of Nissan, the lamb selection day, was here
 - the testing of the lamb would now begin

Test #1 by Priests and Elders AUTHORITY Mt 21.23-22.14; Mk 11.27-12.12; Lk 20.1-19

- “By what authority do you do these things?” = “Who gave you the right to do these things?”
- Lk 20.1 – Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple and preaching the gospel
 - They tried to publicly humiliate and discredit him
 - They tried to undo the progress toward Kingship they thought he had gained in the Triumphal Entry
- Jesus countered with his own question: “The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men?”
- When they refused to answer, Jesus told them 3 parables
 - Two Sons – one said “I won’t” but later did, the other “I will” but never did
 - Householder – leased vineyard, could never collect payments, mistreated envoys, killed sons
 - Wedding – those invited would not enjoy it
- All 3 parables directly interpreted against leadership of Israel

Test #2 by Pharisees and Herodians POLITICS Mt 22.15-22; Mk 12.13-17; Lk 20.20-26

- “Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?”
- Presented a question that would discredit Jesus in eyes of one group of people or another
- Jesus countered with his own question: “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”
 - No Pharisee could carry coin with image on it—idolatry; had to send out for one
 - Jesus establishes division of authority: divine and delegated, theocratic and human government
- Lk 20.26 they couldn’t catch him in his words, they marveled at his answers, they held their peace

Test #3 by Sadducees THEOLOGY Mt 22.23-33; Mk 12.18-27; Lk 20.27-40

- “Whose wife will she be in the resurrection?”: woman who married all 7 brothers after preceding died childless
 - Sadducees did not even believe in resurrection, but liked to make Pharisees look stupid with questions like this
- Jesus countered by exposing their ignorance: “mistakes because you do not know scriptures or the power of God”
 - Resurrection is not mere restoration to life as we know it now with restored bodies
 - Resurrection will be transformation of the body with no need of propagation, so no need of marital relationships

- Resurrection of OT Fathers will be necessary to give them the land they were promised before they died
- Therefore, God has a living relationship with those who have passed away, and cannot leave them dead
- Mt 22.33 people were astonished at his teaching (brand new interpretation of Ex 3.6)
- Lk 20.40 Sadducees “Teacher, you have spoken well . . . no longer dared to ask him any more questions”

Test #4 by Pharisees THEOLOGY Mt 22.34-40; Mk 12.28-34

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law” = most important commandment
 Jesus answer: Dt 6.4-5, “you shall love Lord your God with all heart, soul, mind, strength”
 Then adds: the 2nd, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself”
 Mk 12.34 “and no man, after that, dared to ask him any more questions”

Test #5 by JESUS Mt 22.41-46; Mk 12.35-37; Lk 20.41-44

“Christ, whose son is he?” “Whose Son is the Messiah supposed to be?”

Their correct answer: “The son of David”

Jesus’ counter question: “If David called Him Lord, how is he his son?” Ps 110.1

Their response: “and no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions” Mt 22.46

Answer: as to humanity, He is David’s son; but as to His deity, He is David’s Lord.

Attacked 4 times by Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians, elders and priests

All 4 times he answered perfectly

He even silenced the Pharisees and Sadducees

He proved that he was without blemish and without spot

He demonstrated that He could now go to the cross and become the final Passover sacrifice *1 Co 5.7*
For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Jesus knew no sin 2 Co 5.21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Did no sin 1 Pe 2.22 -25 *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

In him was no sin 1 Jn 3.5 *You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*
Lamb without blemish or spot 1 Pe 1.19 *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*