

The Power of Faith in the Blood

International Bible Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

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“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:13—KJV).

“The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:13—NRSV).

Before the first Passover, God declared, “On all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD” (Exodus 12:12). All the gods of Egypt, their priests, and Pharaoh had misled the Egyptians away from believing in the true God. Therefore, on the first Passover night God judged the gods of Egypt, and all those who trusted in these false gods suffered for their misplaced faith. Since a “mixed crowd” left Egypt with the Israelites under the leadership of Moses, perhaps some Egyptians had come to believe in the LORD and had put the blood of the lamb on their two door posts and lintel too so their families were saved from suffering when God judged the idols of Egypt (see Exodus 12:37-38). However, it may be that some Egyptians came to believe in the LORD after the Passover plague and decided to leave with the Israelites rather than remain in Egypt and live under the oppressive influence of false gods.

The Israelites who placed the blood of the lamb as a sign on their houses did so in faith. Though they remained inside their homes and could not see the blood on their houses, they trusted that the LORD would see and save them from death. Though believers today cannot see the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, they trust that “the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” and “those who do the will of God live forever” (1 John 1:7 and 1 John 2:17).

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Thinking Further

1. Thinking about calendar days and why calendars and days are changed, what might be some reasons why many weekly calendars today begin with Monday instead of Sunday?
2. In what way during Passover is the head of the household similar to a priest? Why would this be important in later years?
3. What type of lamb or goat were the Israelites commanded to use in the celebration of Passover? In what way is this Passover lamb similar to the Messiah?
4. Why would the Israelites eat their first Passover in peace instead of fear?
5. Why do you think the Israelites obeyed God in faith and did what God told them through Moses at their first Passover, even though they might not have understood all of God’s reasons for His commands? Why is knowing this important?