

Passing Over From Death To Life

Introduction

There are areas in the lives of the family of God where death still reigns supreme. That lack of Christ brings chains of imprisonment that can feel like heavy shackles separating us from one another and purposes of God's heart. Although we can all feel our own personal lack and cry out from that place for more of Jesus, this article is for those who long for Christ to be formed in us as a whole. It speaks to the heart that will not leave its chains until the whole family of God is free to move together in Life. The heart and soul of the whole sharing is that the Lamb is our only way to get out from the bondage of death into the liberty of new life in Christ as one Body. I pray the same Holy Spirit who breathed this into my heart with such tenderness and mercy, will also speak it to yours and fill you with the spirit of these things.

I would also like to state that these scriptures in Exodus alluding to Israel's passage out from Egypt is a picture of our salvation out from the world and into Christ. Although I deeply believe that, the Holy Spirit has been ministering in my heart that these same principles also apply to those who are saved but still have areas where they need to pass from the death of their old nature into the life of the Son. This passage from death to life in a believer that I am referring to in this article is more specifically related to the corporate Body of Christ moving and pressing together to leave areas of the deadness of carnality and selfishness to function in Life as one Body.

God's Family In Bondage

At a certain point in Israel's the Hebrew children had been in bondage a long time. They were God's people, even His family, but their daily lives were spent serving Egyptians. God had raised up Moses to deliver them and they had experienced a series of incredible miracles testifying to God's power, yet none of that brought them out from their oppressed state.

A Lifestyle Around Sheep

For the most part, Israel was a nation of shepherds. Although they were serving Egypt at that time, they were very familiar with sheep! When it came to job responsibilities and daily duties, sheep were a constant subject. Yet when it came to worshipping God and knowing His ways, the Lamb was still very foreign to them. Up to the point of the first Passover, the Lord had sent plagues of locusts, frogs, and many other things that did not bring them release from their condition. But the day finally came where God initiated the hour of passing out of Egypt's death, into the place He was calling them. On this day God

did not perform another miracle or send another plague. On this day God introduced His Lamb as the way to proceed.

A New Calendar

“This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you” (Exodus 12:2).

Before God spoke one word about the Lamb, He prepared Moses and Aaron by declaring that this was going to be a new beginning. God told Moses and Aaron to set their calendars according to this event, and make this occasion the start of the new year. How many times have we tried to find a new beginning with a powerful prayer, a glorious miracle, or a deliverance service? God does not set His clock to those events because He knows when the real new beginning will come and what it is going to take to make that happen.

Take To Them A Lamb

“...they shall take to them every man a lamb...” (Exodus 12:3).

After God had them reset their calendar, He began to share what all time would revolve around and be measured by. He was going to reveal what it would really take to pass over from death into life. He told them to take every man a lamb for their household. It was to be a lamb without blemish and a male of the first year. “They shall take to them a Lamb”... These people had “taken to them” many other methods of getting through the crisis of life in Egypt, but on this day God commanded them to embrace the Lamb as their way. This day was the beginning of a new calendar and a new way of proceeding. They would no longer just be surrounded with lambs and working with lambs. Talking about lambs, watching lambs and selling them was common place activity with the Hebrews. Now they would be taking “the lamb” unto themselves. If we are going to pass from death into life, then our first step is to embrace from our deepest heart that only the Lamb Himself is the way.

Blood On The Doorpost

“For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you” (Exodus 12:23).

Fourteen days after God first told them to take unto themselves a lamb, that lamb was killed in the evening, and its blood was shed. They were to then take of that blood and strike it on the two side posts and the upper door post of the houses. It is at this point we begin to see what it really means to “take unto yourself the lamb.” This lamb was no longer their “industry” but their heart grip on any hope of life. This application of the blood on their doorpost has spiritual meaning for us today.

When the Lord passed through Egypt to smite the firstborn of the Egyptians, He would not permit the destroyer to come into the house and smite those who had this blood on their doorpost. This is not just any blood, it is the lamb's blood. It was applied to the place of entrance into the family. It protected all those who dwelt within from being slain by death. It preserved them together to move on as one to what God was calling them into. This blood didn't come from a book or a seminar; it came from the veins of a sacrifice that was pouring out its life. It represented the spirit of that sacrifice, and it protected the whole family from the influence of the death that was surrounding it.

Our Mind Is The Door

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17).

What our mind receives is what enters into our being. When we open the door of our mind to God, the king of glory comes in. When we open our mind to the knowledge of good and evil, death comes in. When death has entered our system, we become defiled by it and we begin to defile all those we come in contact with. Those we dwell with are uncovered and unprotected because of the critical and judgmental attitudes that we release towards them. This is all the result of a door that was open to death. The destroyer has entrance into the house that does not have Lamb's blood on its doorpost. When the knowledge of good and evil comes to our house, do we open the door to it? Do we see the knowledge of good and evil as a destroyer that brings death into the house of the family of God? Does this “death angel” sometimes come as an “angel of light” that appears godly because it looks “right”? Only a mind transformed by the mind of Christ and sealed with the spirit of His outpoured blood will discern the difference.

Let us consider the possible elements that pressed in on that dark night when the destroyer came to the Hebrew children. There may have been fear, the element of the unknown, a sense of judgment outside of the house and just the feel of death all around. These factors should cause someone to really hustle to get that blood on their doorpost! But let's think about similar situations in the practical everyday terms of our daily lives. When our brother or sister is falsely accusing us, when someone else is standing in unforgiveness and bitterness towards us, when someone is treating us unjustly and cruelly... do we see them as the destroyer or do we see our carnal mind that is lashing back at them as the destroyer that is trying to enter the house and bring death to the family of God? The issue with the Hebrew children wasn't if those in the house were all being nice to each other. The true and serious situation they were confronted with was that a death angel was about to smite them all, and that they as one family had to make sure that the blood was on the doorpost and they stayed together until that dark hour was past. We make the issue our brother or sister rather than the death that is trying to attack us as the one family we are meant to be in God's eyes. This view comes from a mind that has not been sealed with the Eternal Spirit of the Lamb. This is the outlook of the carnal mind. This mind wars with God, divides the brethren and brings death into the camp. Yet it is an enemy that cannot be overcome by power. Only as we come to saturate in the spirit of the Lamb can these hardened views give way to His sacrificial nature of love.

Where Did This Blood Come From?

The greatest importance is not just where the Blood came from, but the spirit in which it was shed. The great love that released this Blood from his own veins is what conquers attitudes of hate and division. The Lamb of God's nature is what makes his Blood life giving. The spirit in which it was shed is the very essence of God Himself. God is love and his eternal way is to give of himself that we might have life. The scriptures state many times that it was "his own blood" that was given (Acts 20:28, Hebrews 9:12, Hebrews 13:12, Revelation 1:5). This emphasis on "his own" can show us the measure of sacrificial love at work in him to pour out from his own veins that which would give us life. It would be much easier to look for a remedy outside of ourselves to help in situations, but Jesus took from inside of himself and gave his life to bring the care that was truly needed. He pressed past our sin and death to release every drop of his own blood until we were brought out from death and into His life. This spirit is our passage from death to life, and only when we take this Lamb into our own bosoms and apply His love to our minds and hearts can we move forward as one family. It does not matter the condition of that family, only that we are so covered and filled with God's self giving love that we are able to cover each other when the darkness of death comes to slay us. Our passage from death to life rests on whether we have taken this Lamb in these ways.

Jesus in the Garden

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;" (Hebrews 5:7-8).

Jesus was the Passover Lamb, and He fulfilled every aspect of its purposes. As a flesh and blood human being Jesus was confronted with that dark night of the destroyer on the eve of His crucifixion. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus had to press past his own fears and sense of injustice to drink in the cup of his Father's will and embrace the way of the Cross. He felt what a man would feel under these incredible pressures. He had a soul, he could feel injustice, and he could probably sense the temptation to not go into death for those who were hating him and mocking him. Jesus as a man had to press past the greatest opposition that has ever confronted a human mind. Think about just some of the elements pressing on his soul in that dark hour of the Passover. His disciples were sleeping when he asked them to stand with him, his friend was about to betray him with a kiss, his closest friends were about to scatter from him on his darkest hour, the ones he had blessed and loved were about to crucify, smite, spit, mock and torture him until he died. Besides all this he was taking into himself all the sin of the world. And we think we understand pressure??? If you will, this "dark angel" was standing at his doorpost, and if Jesus would have allowed thoughts of "they don't deserve my love, look how they treat me" to enter his mind... then we all would remain in death forever. Rather, Jesus poured

out soul before His Father with strong crying and tears. And as his agony set in he began praying even more earnestly until great drops of blood began to fall from his brow. We may have had to face some really tough situations, but have we yet “striven unto blood” in this way? Jesus stood in the face of death and hell itself and refused to allow his “door” to open to anything but his father’s will. The hour when Jesus could have rejected the cup of the Father and left us for dead passed, and as it did blood appeared on His brow. The destroyer could not enter His mind and found no entrance into Him. How precious that Blood is, and what love caused it to appear there.

Married To The Firstborn

At this point you are probably thinking, “That kind of love is totally impossible for me. I might as well just hand myself over to the death angel.” The truth is, that is exactly what happened at the true Passover! In the Old Testament account, the firstborn of Egypt were all killed. And the fulfillment of that happened in Christ when the old man was crucified in him. In our own selves, before Christ was in us, we were set apart for death. Our salvation came through the cross of Christ where the firstborn according to the flesh, (the first Adam) was crucified. In and of ourselves, we don’t survive the destroyer, and thank God for it! Our old life can never endure the forces and pressures of this life without being utterly selfish in the core motivations. Jesus is called the Firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29). Because the Father sees us in His Son, the judgment passes over us. And yet there is more here than escaping judgment! Because Christ the Firstborn is in us, we can pass through death by His Life.

Share In His Spirit Of Sacrifice

That same love and self giving spirit that Jesus was filled with can fill us today! As a man Jesus allowed God’s life to strengthen him to say “no” to all the temptation and pressure to not go into death for others. Those great drops of blood that sprinkled from his forehead where coming from a man who was yielding himself to be offered by the Eternal Spirit. We have been made partakers of that same Divine Nature. We are this same Son’s very Body now, the flesh and bones of the Lamb. We have the mind of Christ, and can choose to yield to it when situations come that tempt us to allow death into the house (I Corinthians 2:16). The only way we can all pass over from death into life as one family is to share in His spirit of sacrifice. If you will, the blood must flow from our veins now. It is not really our own blood that we are speaking of, but the release of the life of Christ out from our own minds, hearts and bodies for the brethren. When we take this Lamb unto ourselves, we can mark the beginning of days that will be filled with Life and not death.

Strength For The Journey

“And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the

purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire” (Exodus 12:8-10).

After the children of Israel had put the blood on their doorpost, they were then instructed to, “eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it”. At this point they had received strength for the destroyer through the blood on the doorpost, but now they needed strength for the journey. This kind of strengthening would only come through getting that Lamb on the inside. The question that I would like to ask at this point is: exactly what Lamb was it that they were to eat and be filled with before they set forth on their journey? I do not believe that answer to that question could be better stated than by quoting an excerpt from a book entitled, “He Poured Out His Soul Unto Death” by R. T. Nusbaum:

“They don’t mind the death of the Lamb as long as they don’t have to eat it. It is considered eating the Lamb raw or watered down when one identifies with the death but avoids identifying with being roasted. Some will accept a certain degree of suffering for Jesus but they run from the fire of crucifixion and the pouring out of the soul unto death. To eat the lamb watered down may still be lamb but it is not the prescribed crucified Lamb. We don’t mind being the flesh or Body of the Lamb as long as that means that we get to live victoriously. Yes, that Lamb was chosen of God but then it was killed and finally it was roasted. Fire speaks of the lingering death involved in crucifixion. We have seen how crucifixion doesn’t just allow for the killing of the person but allows them to live long enough to be roasted also.

There is another factor. The Lamb of crucifixion was eaten but it was eaten at night, which represents the darkest hour on earth. Believers are all too ready to celebrate resurrection morning but how many will go with Him through crucifixion night?

How deep does this death go? Consider that the whole Lamb was to be eaten but if something remained, it was to be burned up. This speaks, not just of death, but of a complete and thorough end. What was roasted is now taken beyond that and is now burned up. The fires of reviling and rejection burn to the core of the sacrifice. It is THIS LAMB that we have eaten and become one with. What He was outwardly FOR US, He now becomes inwardly IN US. If we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him.”

Only when we take THIS Lamb unto ourselves and then into ourselves will we have enough strength to journey through all the temptations that the wilderness holds and enter TOGETHER into the land of promise, the place where life flows through the whole body. It will be a journey where every member dies to self and pours out their life through the spirit of the Lamb until all come into his Life together.

The Unleavened Bread

“And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And they baked

unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry,”
(Exodus 12:34,39).

Finally, let us look at one more instruction given to the people for the Passover. Exodus 12:34 tells them to take their bread before it was leavened and leave. It is so important that we don't remain in the place of death for too long. If we do, our doctrines and relationships will not "rise" properly in life. What good is having a correct teaching while you uncover your brother and refuse to give your life for him? Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:12). Leaven is what causes the bread to rise. If our teachings (doctrines) and relationships in the body (bread) do not rise through the resurrection life of Christ, then what good are they? We must allow every teaching to passover from death into life. We must allow every relationship to passover from death into life. To do this we must be willing to take the Lamb of God unto our bosom and allow His mind to be in us and His self-giving nature to fill us. When we do these things, life will fill our teachings and love will flow in our relationships.

Conclusion

The sum of everything we have been sharing can be clearly summed up in the words of Peter, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (I Peter 1:22). May the day come to us all where we leave every other method of dealing with things and turn our hearts to the Lamb as our way into Life and fullness as one Body! May the grace of God be with our spirits.***