

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

A few weeks ago, we began looking at the 10 plagues that God brought upon Egypt before the Exodus of His people from their bondage.

1. **The Plague of Blood**, **Ex. 7:14-24** → Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god, guardian of the Nile; others...
2. **The Plague of Frogs**, **Ex. 8:1-15** → Heket, (Heqet,) goddess of birth, with a frog head
3. **The Plague of Lice**, **Ex. 8:16-19** → Set or Geb, god of the desert storms
4. **The Plague of Flies**, **Ex. 8:20-32** → Khepri, and Uatchit, represented by the fly.

**5. The Plague on Livestock (Hathor), Ex. 9:1-7**

**6. The Plague of Ashes Boils and Sores (Isis), Ex. 9:8-12**

**7. The Plague of Hail in the Form of Fire (Nut),  
Ex. 9:13-35**

**8. The Plague of Locusts (Seth), Ex. 10:1-20**

**9. The Plague of Darkness, Ex. 10:21-29**

**10. The Plague of Death, Ex. 12**

❖ Remember that one of the purposes of the plagues is for God to show His strength and power over the gods of Egypt.

Ex. 7:5 And **the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD**, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Ex. 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.**

Num. 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all *their* firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: **upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.**

Isa. 31:3 Now **the Egyptians are men, and not God;** and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

After devastating Egypt and Pharaoh with the ten plagues, while also refuting their gods, the LORD was ready for the climactic display of His power. The LORD had warned about the future of the firstborn:

Ex. 4:22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, **Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:**

23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and **if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.**

Ex. 11:5 And **all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant** that *is* behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.

Tonight, we see one of the most vivid displays in the Old Testament regarding the portrayal of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Suffering Messiah via the crucifixion. We begin with His pronouncement.

## I. THE PRONOUNCEMENT, 12:1-2

Ex. 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: **it shall be the first month of the year to you.**



- ❖ The Lord directed Moses that it was a time for a new start, even concerning a calendar.
- ❖ The Israelites would have a religious calendar beginning at the Passover on the first month, and a civil calendar beginning with Yom Kippur in the seventh month.

## II. THE PROCEDURE, 12:3-11

Ex. 12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth *day* of this month they shall **take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house:**

4 And if the household be too little for **the lamb**, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take *it* according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

5 **Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year:** ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 And ye shall **keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month**: and **the whole assembly of the congregation** of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 And **they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses**, wherein they shall eat it.

8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

9 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.

10 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.

11 And **thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD'S passover.**

❖ Note the descriptions of “The Lamb” in 12:3-5:

12:3 – “a lamb” → is the need for all of mankind;

12:4 – “the lamb” → is the particular Savior for mankind, Jn. 1:29, Acts 4:12, Jn. 14:6.

12:5 – “your lamb” → is the personal relationship with the Savior.

❖ After a period of examination for purity, the required offering was deemed without spot and blemish:

❖ In 12:6, around 100,000 lambs were called “it.”

1 Pet. 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of **a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

Eph. 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that **it should be holy and without blemish.**

Jn. 19:6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for **I find no fault in him.**

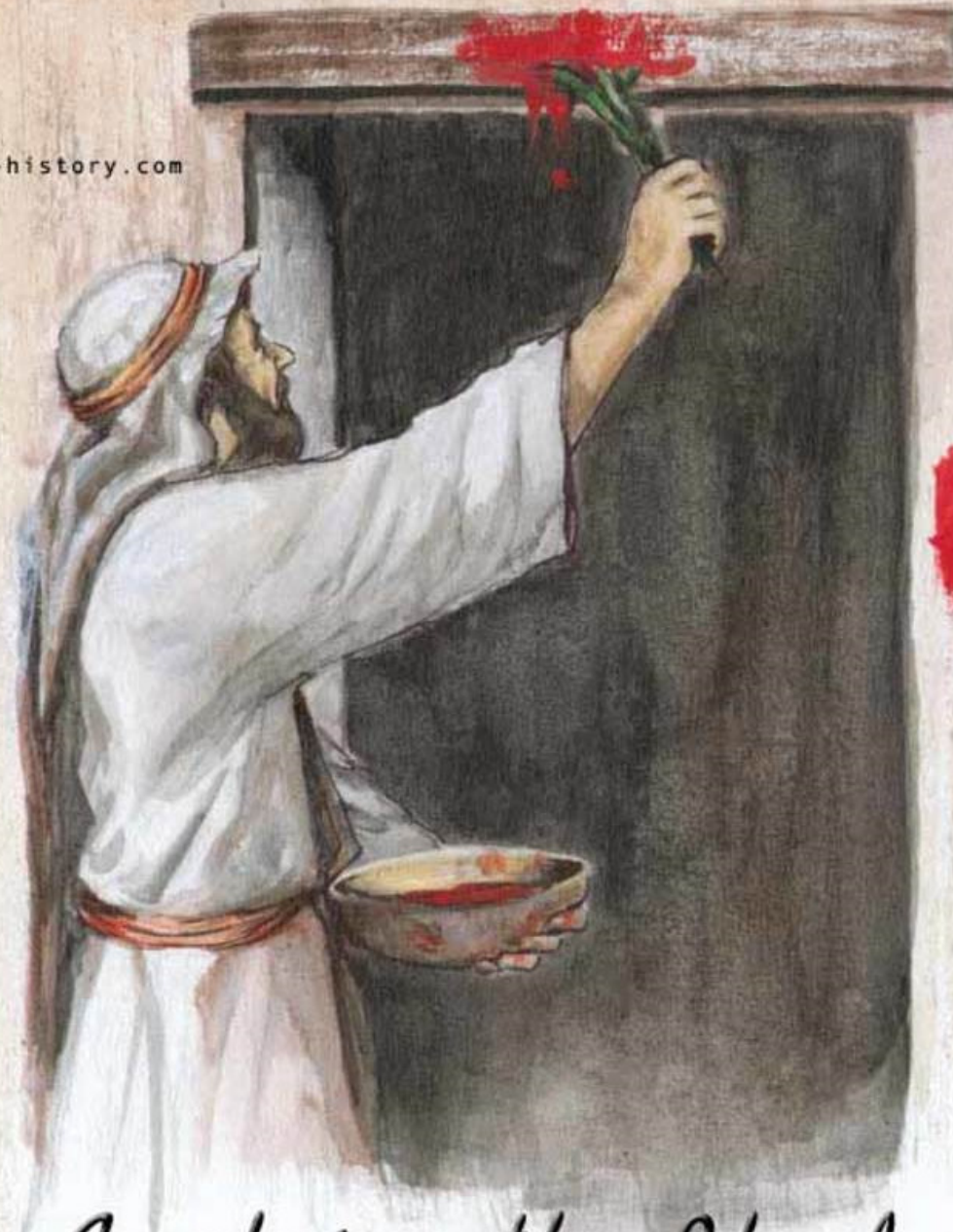
Mt. 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed **the innocent blood**. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. ...

19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, **Have thou nothing to do with that just man**: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

- ❖ In 12:7, the picture of the cross is displayed by requiring the blood to be on the door, (not a window,) on the two side posts and the upper door post.
- ❖ The placement of the blood is also a picture of the Lord Jesus' cross being elevated with the side posts representing the two thieves.



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*Applying the Blood*

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Ten-Plagues-For-Ten-Gods>



- ❖ Only the inspired Word of God could develop such an amazing portrait of redemption about 1500 years before it happened, as seen in the details of the Passover.

1 Cor. 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover** is sacrificed for us:

- ❖ At this point the passive obedience that the children of Israel have shown is now moved to a level of active obedience.
- ❖ They are given strict instructions to follow so that they do not also feel the judgment of this last plague sent by the Lord.

- ❖ These instructions are known as "The Feast of Passover", "The Feast of Unleavened Bread", and "The Law of the Firstborn."
- ❖ In these rituals are displayed the law of sacrifice, the law of the gospel, and the law of consecration, all necessary requirements to receive ultimate salvation from spiritual death.
- ❖ The procedure of the Passover was a display of faith:

Heb. 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

28 **Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood**, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

### III. THE PASSOVER, 12:12-13

Ex. 12:12 For **I will pass through the land of Egypt this night**, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD**.

13 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.

❖ The death of the innocent lamb was enough death for each household – the penalty of sin, death (Rom. 6:23), was covered by the blood of the lamb.

Mt. 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, **which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

Heb. 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

1 Pet. 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with **the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

Rom. 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom **God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

## Summary

- ❖ Why shed the blood of a lamb spot or blemish, and why “strike” (Isa. 53:4) the side door posts and the upper door posts?
- ❖ The Passover is an explicit picture of Calvary.

Isa. 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him **stricken**, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Jn. 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.** ...

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, **Behold the Lamb of God!**

❖ The blood of the lamb was not only available, but must be applied:

Lev. 8:14 And he brought the bullock for the sin offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering.

15 And he slew *it*; and **Moses took the blood, and put *it*** upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.

## Conclusion

Gen. 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Eph. 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as **Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.**