

## The Blood Of The Passover Luke 22:7-13

Within the passage of scripture that we will study today and within the passages that follow here in Luke chapter 22, we will begin to uncover some of the deepest mysteries of God, especially as it relates to the plans and the purposes that the Lord Jesus came to fulfill in His mission for the salvation of the souls of His creation.

And we will especially begin to learn about the absolute necessity for the “shedding of blood” to atone for the sins within our souls. And what God intends for us to understand about atonement given within such precious words as those in Leviticus chapter 17 that tell us that,

<sup>11</sup> . . .the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life. (Leviticus 17:11)

And also in Hebrews 9:22 where we read,

<sup>22</sup> . . . without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. (Hebrews 9:22)

Much within those words are strange to our modern day senses and are often difficult for us to comprehend. But thankfully, we who now have the blessed Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts can, through our study of such precious words as those that we’ll begin to study today, gain at least some measure of understanding.

May I begin our thoughts today by saying that as a church congregation, we will often joyously sing the words, “What can wash away my sin, nothing but the Blood of Jesus”. And we can really believe and mean what we are saying. But underneath that enthusiasm, some people, perhaps many, do struggle with some of those thoughts, especially about the “blood” and what it takes for that blood to flow.

Recently in Sunday School, our teacher was teaching through a portion of the Book of Leviticus. And there I was reminded once again of the meticulous way that God insisted that the sacrifice of the animals was to take place. And God spared no details as He described what the priests were to do as they shed the blood of those lambs and goats and oxen.

In our world today, and especially within our modern day culture, we really don't like to even think about such things. And we avoid all of those kinds of discussions. Such thoughts are often too repulsive for us.

And yes, even us Christians seem to want to avoid studying through those passages of scripture that speak about blood sacrifices and the shedding of blood.

But oh dear Christian, as "unseemly" or as "distasteful" or whatever other objection might arise within your and my mind, may I say simply that God has a very different manner of thinking about the "shedding of blood".

And as we study these next scriptures that tell us about the final few days of life for the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit is going to talk to us a lot about the shedding of blood and of the necessity for it.

And as we carefully study through these precious words, we'll be continually reminded of how our Lord's thoughts and His ways truly are above our way of thinking, especially my own.

And that has been especially so over this recent year or so as I have been engaged in reading through the whole bible in a year. The reading schedule, by its nature, always includes those "Books of the Law", and especially the Book of Leviticus where the "shedding of blood" of the animals being sacrificed seems to fill most every page.

And while I have read those accounts within that Book on many other occasions, it has been in these most recent readings that I have been drawn to understand more about God's desire for us to know and to understand the necessity for the "shedding of blood" to atone for the sins we commit.

And yes, with the help of some excellent bible teachers, I am getting a somewhat better understanding of God's purposes and reasons. But I still do have a good ways to go before I am fully comfortable with my knowledge and understanding.

But may I say with full assurance and full acceptance of all that is given to us there within those precious words, that by "faith" I absolutely do believe and

accept that everything that God tells us and requires of us is absolutely right and Holy and necessary for the salvation of our souls to take place. And so, for the present, I will just simply, by faith, echo what the saints have said over the many centuries of knowing and loving the Lord, "Yea and Amen! Yea and Amen!" "God is Good!"

So then, with all of that being said, as we step forward in our study of both the Old Testament and New Testament teaching about the "Passover" of God, and as we open our hearts to begin to understand the necessity of such mysteries as the need for the actual "shedding of blood" for the remission of sins, I pray that you and I will gain from these efforts.

Read along with me, as I read these words of Luke chapter 22, beginning in verse 7,

<sup>7</sup> Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. <sup>8</sup> And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." <sup>9</sup> So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" <sup>10</sup> And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. <sup>11</sup> Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' <sup>12</sup> Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." <sup>13</sup> So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. (Luke 22:7-13)

As I read these scriptures, both to myself each day and to you as we study, their words continually remind me that our God truly is mysterious, often completely and utterly incomprehensible in His nature and in His character.

And these words especially keep me reminded of just how limited my own frail, human ability to understand truly is. But I also know that those frailties are not by accident. It is by God's deliberate design that left to our own devices we could never be able to fully plumb the depths of His mysterious ways.

But then thankfully, I am also reminded that for every soul that freely surrenders his or her heart over to a relationship with Christ, everything does then begin to change and our understanding then begins to become clearer.

God's precious Holy Spirit gives life to our heart, our soul and our mind. And it's then that we begin to see and to understand things we never knew before, things beyond our conscious reality. And to especially begin to realize that all those many events and many matters of daily life that are taking place up here on the surface of our visible reality are actually being divinely influenced and often actually "caused" by our Holy God Himself, as he guides and directs them from within His hidden realms, guiding and directing them on towards a special eternal plan that He has designed for our souls.

And may I take a moment and repeat a portion of scripture from the Book of Isaiah that we read in our last study? These words bespeak exactly what I am saying, words that reveal to us that, although we cannot see God being about His work, He really is always at it, accomplishing things that are not only too wonderful to imagine, but are also often too fearful to consider. Listen! In the Book of Isaiah chapter 45, He tells us . . .

<sup>5</sup> "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; <sup>6</sup> That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, <sup>7</sup> The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these (things). (Isaiah 45:5-7)

Such truths as these really are too mysterious for our minds to truly comprehend . . . the fearsome and irresistible power of God as He reaches His providential hand into the daily affairs of men.

But folks, He does do that! And not just in the bigger, more seemingly important events, but even down to the most minor of details. His hand is active and involved within it all. And we need to stop and recognize His hand when we see it at work.

And I want us to do that as we study through these particular words given to us here in today's passage. Listen again as I read them as given in Luke 22 verse 7,

<sup>7</sup> Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. <sup>8</sup> And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." <sup>9</sup> So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" <sup>10</sup> And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. <sup>11</sup> Then you shall say to the master of

the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ' <sup>12</sup> Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." <sup>13</sup> So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. (Luke 22:7-13)

Our first sighting of God's mysterious hand within these words is somewhat obvious. Note the words beginning in verse 10.

<sup>10</sup> And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. <sup>11</sup> Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ' <sup>12</sup> Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." <sup>13</sup> So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. (Luke 22:10-13)

Folks, when we with our ordinary minds encounter words like these, we immediately seek for logical explanations as to their meaning. And that seems to be so even with some of the most learned of bible scholars. As I read through some of their comments on this passage, I found often that they reached for the simplest of conclusions, here, that Jesus must have known the man that Peter and John were expected to find in the city, that Jesus probably had, at some earlier time, made preliminary reservations with the man regarding this event. After all, the days of the annual Passover observances were such a very busy time. And Jesus surely would have been wise enough to make advance reservations to secure the place.

Such logic as that is so convenient and so satisfying to our ordinary minds. Because yes, those arrangements would be necessary were it you or me going about our usual business. But oh Dear Christian, this was not you or me and this was not usual business.

This was God. And this was a plainly given example of God's divine hand reaching into our visible human world to orchestrate an event within it.

Here, as Jesus and His disciples began their observance of the annual Passover, we see a clearly designed plan unfolding, a pathway that had been laid out for the Lord Jesus to walk. And He was willing to walk every step of it, though it would mean the worst of suffering for Him.

And as we see this divine plan begin to unfold, we can see how it was no mere coincidence that the events that would take place in Jesus' life over the next few days were taking place at the exact time of year of the "Passover" celebration.

Each and every step that would take place would be in accordance with a carefully designed plan of God that had been conceived and agreed upon within the Trinity of God from eons past. And nothing, not even the smallest of details, would be left to chance or circumstance or to coincidence.

May I take a few moments and remind us of what the annual Passover celebration was all about!

You'll recall that the first Passover took place while the Children of Israel were still held in bondage in Egypt. And although Moses had pleaded with Pharaoh over and over again for Him to allow the Israelites to be freed from their slavery, and his efforts accompanied by some of the worst of plagues and sufferings, Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he continued to refuse to set the Israelites free.

And after all else had been exhausted, God set into motion a final and most severe kind of suffering upon the people of Egypt. And that suffering would come to be known as "The Passover".

In that suffering, God declared that at a certain set time He would pass over the nation of Egypt and as He passed over the land, the first-born in every family would die. But as God is always willing to do, for some, He provided a way of mercy and of grace.

Turn with me and I'll read about the Passover from Exodus chapter 12, beginning in verse 1.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> "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. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.(Exodus 12:1-13)

And in verse 28

<sup>28</sup> Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. <sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. <sup>30</sup> And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. (Exodus 12:28-30)

This was the first Passover. And God wanted the people of Israel to always remember and not forget all that He had done to set them free from their bondage. And so, God told them there in Exodus 12, verse 14.

<sup>14</sup> "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. (Exodus 12:14)

There were probably many reasons why God wanted the Israelite people to always remember the Passover, but now here in the events that would take

place with the Lord Jesus over the next few days, we can see God's ultimate Passover taking place.

And we shall see as we study through these words over the next few weeks, Jesus Himself would prove to be that sacrificed "Passover" lamb that would provide salvation for anyone who would take shelter beneath His blood that was shed for us.

And again, may we be careful to see clearly that none of the things that would take place over the next few days of Jesus' life were happenstance. Each and every event and every detail of those events was carefully and meaningfully designed and orchestrated by God Himself to accomplish His mysterious plan for salvation for all those who would turn their hearts in surrender to Him.

So then, no, Jesus did not need to make prior arrangements with this man who would provide the room for them to eat this very special supper. Those arrangements had been made since before the foundations of the world.

And these words that we read a moment ago are true and they are trustworthy where the Lord tells us that,

<sup>5</sup> "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; <sup>6</sup> That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, <sup>7</sup> The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these (things). (Isaiah 45:5-7)

In the days ahead for the Lord Jesus, much of what would take place would appear to be the "darkness" and "calamity" that God spoke about here. But thankfully, looking back, we can now know that it is far more the "light" and the "well-being" that He was bringing about.

So then, what should be gained from these words that we have examined here today? It is this! Our God truly does transcend the barriers between heaven and earth and He truly does reach into this visible reality of ours and He makes Himself and His plans known to all who will surrender themselves to know Him and to know His ways.



And yes, He does also arrange all those circumstances of your and my daily life, even to the most minor of details. And some of those events may look very much like “calamity”. But we must remember, that God’s “calamity” for His beloved children will always work out for our good. We need only to join with Him and we will surely begin to see His mysteries unfold like we have never seen them unfold before.

And yes, as we study these scriptures further, we will learn more about the requirements within those words of Leviticus 17 that tell us that,

<sup>11</sup> . . .the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life. (Leviticus 17:11)

And in Hebrews 9:22,

<sup>22</sup> . . . without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. (Hebrews 9:22)

Oh dear Christian, while you and I may never be able to fully grasp the absolute necessity for the shedding of the blood of the Lord Jesus to take away our sins, it is still a simple but profound truth. And just as it was for those Israelite people of Moses’ day, God is in some manner or another observing us every moment.

And yes, it will only be if He sees the “Blood of the Lord Jesus” shed over us, that we will be permitted to live and to enter into His eternity with Him.

Hear these words from Hebrews chapter 9 as we close.

<sup>14</sup> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Hebrews 9:14)

Pray with me.