



Our Sacrifice (Exodus 12:1-13)

Welcome to the Story pt. 3

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THE BIG IDEA

Through Jesus, the Passover story becomes our Story. As the Passover Lamb, Jesus is sinless, paid the price for our redemption, and shields us from judgment.

OPENING

- What sacrifices have other people made that benefit you today?

DIGGING DEEPER

- In Exodus 12:2, God gives Israel a new calendar centered around the annual Passover. According to Reformed theologian R. C. Sproul:
“The festivals of the Old Testament involved the sacralization of time. With respect to the Passover, God ordained for the people of Israel to celebrate annually their redemption from slavery in Egypt by marking a sacred moment on the calendar for the feast of the Passover. This was sacred time. We mark sacred days on the church calendar as well. We go to church on Sundays to remember the fact that Jesus was raised on Sunday morning. We celebrate the feast of Pentecost. We celebrate Easter and Christmas. We celebrate these things because, as human beings, it is strongly rooted in our humanity to have sacred time. We want to remember those moments that are most important to us in history.”¹

The Christian calendar has six distinct seasons: Advent (four weeks before Christmas), Christmas (12 days), Epiphany, Lent, Easter (50 days), and Pentecost. How does observing the Christian calendar help us make our keeping of time sacred?

- In Exodus 12:12, God says, *“I will bring judgment on the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD (Yawheh).”* According to the Zondervan Academic blog, each of the ten plagues in Exodus corresponded to a specific Egyptian deity:
Nile to blood: Hapi the god of the Nile or Isis the goddess of the Nile
Frogs: Heqet, goddess of birth, pictured with a frog head

¹R. C. Sproul, *Crucial Questions: What is the Lord's Supper?* (Reformed Trust Publishing, 2013), p. 69.

Gnats: Set, the god of desert storms
Flies: Uatchit a god represented by the fly
Death of livestock: Hathor a goddess pictured with a cow head
Boils: Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease
Hail: Nut the sky goddess
Darkness: Re the sun god
Death of firstborn: Pharaoh's firstborn son considered a god²
How does this help you understand Exodus 12:12?

- How is Jesus pictured as the Lamb of God in John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; and Revelation 5:12?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Take time in prayer this week each day expressing your appreciation to God for the price Jesus paid for your redemption.
- Tim Keller defines an idol as anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.³ Spend 20 minutes in prayer this week asking God to reveal anything that might be in danger of becoming an idol in your life. Spend time confessing these idols to God in prayer and receiving his forgiveness.

PRAYER REQUESTS

²“What the Bible tells us about the Ten Plagues of Egypt,” Zondervan Academic Blog May 2, 2018. www.zondervanacademic.com/blog

³Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters* (Penguin Books, 2009).