

CHRIST JESUS, OUR PASSOVER LAMB (2)

By Keith Greer

Killed in the Afternoon. Old: "Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight." {Exodus 12:6} The instructions for the paschal lamb were very specific. It was to be killed at twilight, before the whole congregation, and then eaten. New: "Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' That is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me...'. The rest said, 'Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.' And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit." {Matthew 27:45,46,49,50} Jesus was placed on the cross at 9 a.m. He hung there for six hours and died about 3:00 p.m.

No Broken Bones. Old: "In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones." {Exodus 12:46} The paschal lamb was roasted on crossed sticks, so that none of the bones were broken. New: "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, 'Not one of His bones shall be broken.'" {John 19:34-36} Because the Jews did not want people to hang on the cross on the Sabbath, the soldiers came to break the legs of the three crucified men, thus hastening their deaths. They broke the legs of the two thieves, but Jesus was already dead when they got to Him. The soldier stuck the spear in His side to make sure He was dead. Nothing was broken.

The Blood Applied. Old: "And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it." {Exodus 12:7} God instructed them to put some of the paschal lamb's blood on the lintel of the doorpost of each home. "Now 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 the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt." {Exodus 12:13} God's people faithfully obeyed. "By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them." {Hebrews 11:28} God gave the Jews additional instructions: "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning." {Exodus 12:22}

New: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." {Ephesians 1:7} "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." {Colossians 1:14} We know that Jesus gave His blood to purchase His house—the church {Acts 20:28}. There's a song—When I See the Blood—in our songbooks. The chorus says, "I will pass, I will pass over you." Christ's sinless blood is applied to our sin-stained souls, and it washes away our sins. "Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who

through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" {Hebrews 9:12, 14} Christ's blood saves us from an even greater problem – the spiritual bondage of sin – than that experienced by the Jews! By His saving blood, we can be reconciled back to God. Do you see how the Old-Testament types explain the "new" in Christ? ***