

June 25th, 2023

# Passover Pt. 2: Moses Wrote of Me

Exodus 12:3-6

## What's under Passover?

Last week we saw that Passover marked the beginning of a new age, what the prophets dared to say the beginning of a new world.<sup>1</sup> Israel came into Egypt as a family, they are leaving as nation. Passover marks their independence. But Passover isn't *mainly* about Israel. Think of all the *precise* instruction you just heard read. Every particular was spelled out. The when, the what, the who, the how, the where, the why. It was an elaborate ceremony. Why? Puritan Stephen Charnock says here:

"And, indeed, if we consider all the circumstance in [this] institution, they seem not worthy of the wisdom of God, nor [they] are capable of having any reason rendered for them, if they be not referred *to some other mystery*; and what can that be but *the Redeemer of the world...*?" Why should so much care be in the choice and separation of a lamb? What virtue had the blood of a poor animal to secure the house and the life of the firstborn against the sword of a strong and invisible angel? Was the sprinkling of the blood upon the posts a necessary mark for the angel, as though he had not understanding enough to distinguish between...the Israelites and Egyptians?...How can we think God should appoint so many ceremonies in it, lay such a charge upon them for

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<sup>1</sup> cf Isaiah 51:15-16

the strict observation of them, if he designed it not as...a ground to expect a higher and spiritual deliverance by the blood of the Messiah...”<sup>2</sup>

### **‘Moses wrote of Me’**

In other words, the Passover is the Gospel in the OT. When Moses wrote these words down, He was writing about Jesus Christ. Jesus in John 5:46 “...if you believed Moses, you would believe me; *for he wrote of me.*”<sup>3</sup> This Lamb is a type—a prophecy in picture form of the Lord Jesus.<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:7 “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” Revelation 13:8 says Jesus is the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world.<sup>5</sup> The Jews are in blindness today because they don’t see Jesus in the Passover. This is not a ceremony for ceremony’s sake. God is telling us a story about His Son and how He came to save the world.

★ The Lamb Who Is Gentle and Lowly

★ The Lamb Who Is Too Great For One House

★ The Lamb Who Is Without Blemish or Spot

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<sup>2</sup> Stephen Charnock, *The Works of Stephen Charnock Vol. 4*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2011), pg. 509-510

<sup>3</sup> Moses was looking to Christ in the Passover, cf. Hebrews 11:26-28

<sup>4</sup> Days before His death on the Mount of Transfiguration we read in Luke 9:29-31 “And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure [EXODUS] which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

<sup>5</sup> “The New Testament mentions the Passover over thirty times, and just over twenty of those are in the context of Passion narratives.” Michael P. V. Barrett, *The Gospel of Exodus: Misery, Deliverance, Gratitude*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: Reformation Heritage Books, 2020), pg. 107

## I. The Lamb Who Is Gentle and Lowly

### Why a lamb?

Please look at v.3 “Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take *a lamb*...”<sup>6</sup> The lamb would be the sacrifice.<sup>7</sup> Why a lamb? Have you ever thought about that before? Children, boys and girls, why didn’t God call them to sacrifice giant tarantulas or snakes or wolves? Do any of you have stuffed animals? I had one when I was a little kid. He was named Mark the dog. Why do you think I had a dog as a stuffed animal and not a stuffed scorpion? Because the nature of a dog is quite different than the nature of a scorpion isn’t it. We don’t cuddle up to scorpions, we cuddle up to dogs. Here’s the rule: in Scripture the sign must correspond—*it must match up*—with the thing it is pointing to. So think about Lord’s Supper. Why don’t we used Cola-cola and Twinkie’s for our meal? Because they don’t correspond—the don’t match up—with what they are pointing to. Scripture identifies Pharaoh as a dragon (Isaiah 51:9) and the Devil as a serpent (Revelation 12:9) *because* dragons and serpents are vicious predators that poison with their venom, and ruthlessly kill with their sharp teeth. These animals rightly match up with Pharaoh and the Devil as they murder and enslave humanity. God chose a lamb for Passover for it points to Someone like no other animal can.

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<sup>6</sup> The word for lamb can be interpreted in the singular or the plural. The KJV decided to translate the word in the singular throughout Exodus 12 presumably for the theological reasons already laid down, namely that the lamb is pointing to the One Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Exodus 12:27; 34:25; Deuteronomy 16:2, 5-6 et. al.

## **What is the nature of lamb?**

Most of us live in the city so we may be unaware of what a lamb is like. A lamb is a gentle creature. They are peaceful, innocent, and the meekest of animals. The prophet Nathan told David a story about an ewe lamb in 2 Samuel 12:3 “...the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.”<sup>8</sup>

## **The lamb they loved**

Certainly those Jewish families would have felt the same way about their Passover Lamb. Imagine with me, they took the lamb into their homes on the 10th day all the while knowing they would kill it in four days<sup>9</sup> What would they have seen in this lamb? It’s tenderness. They would have seen how docile and submissive and kind this lamb was. No doubt the children’s hearts would have melted, and tears would have been shed when this lamb would have been put to death. If it was a vicious wolf, the family would have been glad to be rid of it. But this lamb would have been friendly, kind—dare I say even gracious to them. For four days they witnessed the loveliness of this lamb they would have to slaughter.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> David’s anger was greatly kindled with he discover the rich man slaughtered this gentle lamb.

<sup>9</sup> “Their keeping the lamb in custody, and tying it at the feet of their beds, that, being in view, it might mind them of their servitude in Egypt, and deliverance from thence by the mighty hand of God, noted the humiliation of Christ before his death, which is called his prison, and therefore the beginning of his exaltation is called a ‘taking him from prison and from judgment,’ Isaiah 53:8” Charnock, pg. 512

<sup>10</sup> One time I had to kill one of our chickens because it got sick. This was a lamb-like chicken. It would follow us around and let us pet it and hold it, and it would in its own chicken-way cuddle with us. When I had to kill it, Monica and Josiah were looking out the window crying that this gentle animal had to be killed.

## **1st Principle: Jesus is the Lamb of God<sup>11</sup>**

And so we arrive at our **first principle**: *Never did Jesus appear more like a lamb than in His becoming a sacrifice for sinners.* Certainly there are a multitude of examples of how Jesus was like a lamb in His life. The God-man was gentle and lowly of heart.<sup>12</sup> He was “moved with pity” over the leper and touched him and made him clean (Mark 1:40-42). He wept at Lazarus’ tomb (John 11:35). He was known even by His enemies as “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Matthew 11:19). But Jesus *never appeared more like a lamb* than when He laid down His life for the world. Go read the passion accounts afresh and see for yourselves. The one characteristic of Jesus that runs through them all, is that He was as gentle and meek as a lamb.

- **He fed Judas his betrayer food out of His own hand.** John 13:26 “So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.”
- **Though His disciples abandoned Him and Peter denied Him, Jesus prayed for them.** Luke 22:32 “I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.”
- **He healed the man’s ear who came to arrest and abuse Him.** Luke 22:51 “But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him””

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<sup>11</sup> “The Lord Jesus is often compared to a lamb, and for many reasons. The lamb was used for food, and the Savior has told us to eat of Him. The lamb is used for growing wool to make warm garments, and so we are clothed with Christ that we may be accepted by God in Him. The lamb was an acceptable sacrifice to God, and so the Savior offered Himself to God as our sacrifice. The lamb was used as the Passover sacrifice, and the Scripture says, “Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.” The lamb is a gentle creature, and our Lord said he was “meek and lowly in heart.” The lamb does not object to being sheared or killed, and so “He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.” Walter L. Wilson, *A Dictionary of Bible Types*, (Peabody, MA.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999), pg. 248

<sup>12</sup> Matthew 11:29

- **He remained silent though malicious lies were spoken against Him.** Matthew 27:12-14 “But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.” What is more lamb-like than this? Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”
- **Jesus willingly gave His body over to every abuse they offered.** Isaiah 50:6 “I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.”
- *And while Jesus was suspended in the air, nailed to that tree on Calvary’s hill, He most appeared like a Lamb.*
  - **He prayed for His enemies.** Luke 23:34 “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
  - **He comforted the dying criminal who deserved hell.** Luke 23:42-43 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
  - **He made sure His mother would be taken care of.** John 19:26-27 “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”

- **And finally He surrendered Himself body and soul entirely to His Father in Heaven.** Luke 23:46 “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.”

Never did Jesus appear more like a lamb than in His becoming a sacrifice for sinners.

### **Hortatory Use<sup>13</sup>**

So I **exhort** you dear people of the Lord, *take this Lamb* into the home of your heart this morning. In v.3, Moses says “every man *shall take a lamb*...a lamb for a household.”<sup>14</sup> Examine yourself: what animal have you welcomed in your home? What animal do you associate with Christ? A vicious wolf? A venomous snake? A devouring dragon? Loved ones, look at the Lamb of God. Look at that Friend of Sinners. Look at Him who could have called twelve legions of angels to rescue Him from death. Look at Him who wept over rebels who rejected Him “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem!” Look at Him who prayed for His enemies on the cross—and who ever lives to intercede for You now. Look to Him who didn’t suffer crucifixion as an unwilling sacrifice but voluntarily laid down His life for you and me. John 10:18 “No one takes [my life] from me, but I

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<sup>13</sup> Elencitic Use: “But Jesus is pictured as a serpent elsewhere, i.e. John 3:14. Yes that is true, but His being a serpent in that place is an identification with our nature, not with His.

<sup>14</sup> The Hebrew verb for take is used very often in Scripture in conjunction with a man taking a woman to be His wife.

lay it down of my own accord.”<sup>15</sup> As Puritan Stephen Charnock says “He was more willing to die than they were to put him to death...He went to it not only as a duty, but an honor.”<sup>16</sup> Take *that Lamb* into your heart. Reject all counterfeits. Reject all other beasts that Satan would suggest to you. Look to the Passover Lamb. The gentle and lowly One. The Lamb who was led to the slaughter for You. The Lamb who was obedient to death, even death on the cross. Take that Lamb into your heart. That’s our **first point**: *Never did Jesus appear more like a lamb than in His becoming a sacrifice for sinners.*

## II. The Lamb Who Is Too Great For One House

### Too small for a lamb?

Please look with me at v.4 “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.” Apparently the LORD did not allow any of the Lamb to go to waste. The Jewish historian Josephus said that the minimum number in a household for Passover was 10 people.<sup>17</sup> I dare say with perhaps a couple exceptions, there is no family in this congregation with 10 people in a household. I’m not sure the average sized Hebrew family was at this time, perhaps they were larger than ours, but for any family whose household was too small for the lamb, they were

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<sup>15</sup> And He did this not with a hard heart, but eagerly with all joy. Hebrews 12:2 “...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...”

<sup>16</sup> Charnock pg. 511

<sup>17</sup> Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, Source: <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/exodus/12-4.htm>, accessed June 24, 2023



commanded to invite their nearest neighbor(s) to eat with them or vice versa, to make sure the guest list was proportionate to the meal.

### **God's first concern**

Sisters, when you are meal planning, how do you determine *how much food you will prepare?* You count how many people are going to eat. Now, perhaps you plan for leftovers, but even then you make only enough leftovers that can be reasonably be eaten before the food spoils. The number of people you are feeding *determines* the size of the meal. But here at Passover it's the opposite. God pre-determined what the size of their meal—a Lamb. And they were to invite others to make sure it could all be eaten. No leftovers were allowed. v.10 says “And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.”

The question we ask is “Are we going to have enough food?”

The question they asked was “Are we going to have enough people?”

For many families in Goshen, the Lamb would be too great for only one household. Oh consider that, God's first concern in this Passover meal was that there would be too few people for the Lamb. Isn't that revealing loving ones? God was *not* concerned that a household would have too many. No, He was concerned that a household would have too few.

### **2nd Principle: The Lamb of God is too great...**

That brings us to our **second principle**: *The Lamb of God is too great for only a few, His house must be full.* God did not send His Son into the world to be feasted upon by only a small few. Charles Spurgeon said on this text in his own day:

“One family is certainly too small a reward for Jesus...One family is too little to render him all the praise, worship, service, and love which he deserves<sup>18</sup>... if all in England, and Scotland, and America, and France, and in every country where Christ is preached, were converted, it would still be too little for the Lamb...as long as there was an island of the sea in which the people were not converted to Christ our hearts would still cry, “The household is too little for the Lamb!”<sup>19</sup>

Oh Spurgeon was well acquainted with what the Scripture says about how big the Household will be for the Lamb of God. Consider the Scriptures.

- Isaiah 49:6. This is the Father speaking to Christ before He sent Him into the world. “It is *too light a thing* that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob [In other words, the house of Israel is too small for the Lamb of God]... I will make you as a light for the nations, *that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*”
- This is what was promised in the covenant of grace. Genesis 22:18 “...in your offspring shall *all the nations of the earth* be blessed.”
- This is what the Jews sang in their songs at synagogue. Psalm 22:27 “*All the ends of the earth* shall remember and turn to the LORD, and *all the families of the nations* shall worship before you.”
- This is what the Prophets pointed to. Isaiah 2:2-3 “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as

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<sup>18</sup> Source: [https://www.preceptaustin.org/spurgeon\\_sermons\\_on\\_exodus\\_3#t1ftl](https://www.preceptaustin.org/spurgeon_sermons_on_exodus_3#t1ftl) Accessed June 24, 2023

<sup>19</sup> Source: [https://www.preceptaustin.org/spurgeon\\_sermons\\_on\\_exodus#t1ftl](https://www.preceptaustin.org/spurgeon_sermons_on_exodus#t1ftl) Accessed June 24, 2023

the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and *all the nations shall flow to it*,<sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall come...”

- It is what John prophesies in his apocalyptic vision. Revelation 15:4 “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. *All nations will come and worship you...*”

God’s concern at Passover, in the covenant of grace, in the Psalms and prophets is that the Lamb’s house would be exceedingly full of peoples from every tribe, tongue and language.<sup>20</sup>

### Hortatory Use

Therefore I **exhort** you dear church, *go to your neighbor*. It’s clear that from these verses that the House is still too little for the Lamb. We see in v.3 the people were commanded that if their house was too little for the Lamb that they were to invite their neighbor. Heaven is still far too little for the Lamb, the promises have not been fulfilled yet. We must go to our neighbor and share the Lamb of God with them. v.3 says go to your *nearest* neighbor. Certainly this can apply to the person living next door. But who are the people *nearest* to you? Who are the people that know you? Who you spend time with? That person you work with, that lost family member, the guy who cuts your hair, those in

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<sup>20</sup> Elencitic Use: Someone may say “But didn’t Jesus say ‘the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many...[but] the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few?’ (Matthew 7:13-14). Doesn’t that mean that the number of redeemed will be smaller than the lost, that the Lamb’s house in Heaven, will be smaller than Satan’s house in hell?’ No. We have to understand the context. That verse was spoken in the first century to the Jews who had rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. Few of them *were saved*. In the end analysis, after the prophecies are fulfilled the house of the dragon (hell) will be far smaller than the house of the Lamb. Theologian Loraine Boettner says here: “The idea that the saved shall far outnumber the lost is also carried out in the contrasts drawn in Scripture. Heaven is uniformly pictured as *the next world*, as *a great kingdom, a country, a city*; while on the other hand hell is uniformly represented as a comparatively small place, *a prison, a lake, a pit*.”[Loraine Boettner, *The Millennium*, (Philadelphia, PA.,: P & R Publishing Co., 1958), pg. 35]

your civic circles, your HOAs, the gym, those parents on your kid's sport's teams, any who God brings into the circle of your daily life by His providence. We must invite them to the feast. This Lamb is far too precious for them to shut outside hungry. This Lamb has suffered far too much for Heaven to be filled with only a few souls. Is Christ to be rewarded with a small household? No. We must go to our neighbor. Children, boys and girls, have you ever had an ingrown toenail? Oh it hurts. Instead of growing out, the nail goes against it's design and turns inward. And when that happens it becomes infected, and full of puss and it stinks. If you let it go it requires a doctor to painfully dig it out. When the God's people fail to go to their neighbor, we become ingrown, and we can get spiritually infected.

### **The motives**

It's not just for the good of of Christ and the good of our neighbor that we implore others to come to the feast of the Lamb, it's for the good of our own souls. The promises in Scripture are legion.<sup>21</sup> Inviting others to the Lamb's feast is good for our souls. Proverbs 11:25 "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous *is a* tree of life, And he who wins souls *is* wise."<sup>22</sup> Daniel 12:3 "...those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever."<sup>23</sup>

### **The means**

What are the means? What are our tools? **First**, understand that this is what God desires for His Son. Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and proclaim

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<sup>21</sup> Also see Matthew 5:7; Psalm 41:1

<sup>22</sup> NKJV

<sup>23</sup> Berean Standard Bible

the gospel to the whole creation.” **Second**, pray for opportunities. Ask the Lord to providentially arrange conversations, ask Him for wisdom and boldness. Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord...grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.” **Third**, walk in a manner worthy of the Lamb. If we are walking with Christ, our neighbor will know the effect Christ has. Acts 4:13 “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”<sup>24</sup>

### **The manner**

Finally, what is the manner we should conduct ourselves? Spurgeon says here: “Religion is not to be rammed down people’s throats; but watch for a suitable opportunity of speaking for Christ and that opportunity will come to you sooner or later. You may do harm if you do not take care to speak at the right time. The wise man tells us that “to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven;” so watch for the occasion of bearing testimony to Christ and then, feeling that your household is too little for the Lamb of God, try to introduce Him to others.”

That’s our **second point**: *The Lamb of God is too great for only a few, His house must be full.*

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<sup>24</sup> Source: [https://www.preceptaustin.org/spurgeon\\_sermons\\_on\\_exodus#t1ftl](https://www.preceptaustin.org/spurgeon_sermons_on_exodus#t1ftl) Accessed June 24, 2023

### III. The Lamb Who Is Without Blemish or Spot

#### What kind of lamb was required?

Please look with me at v. 5 “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats<sup>25</sup>.” Without blemish, in the Hebrew means complete, whole, sound, healthy, unimpaired, innocent, perfect, without spot, undefiled. The lamb had to be physically perfect, no illness or deformities or injuries. It had to be a male because this lamb represented the firstborn son—the heir—in each home. It had to be one year old—old enough to have been examined for defects, young enough so that the defects of age had not set in. It was a perfect male lamb in the prime of his life.

#### In the fullness of time

v.6 “...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.” v.3 says they were to take this lamb into their home on the 10th day.<sup>26</sup> They didn’t slay the animal right away. Four days it stayed in their home before its death. Why? They had to examine it. It is believed that they tied this lamb’s

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<sup>25</sup> Why were they allowed to take goats? Everywhere else in this passage, it is lamb or sheep. Was this mercy? Assuming not all had lambs, or that some were poor, or that because of the sheer number of lambs (probably half a million) that would be slain? Jesus elsewhere in Scripture is signified as a goat - Leviticus 16:7-10, 15, 21-22. The reprobate are singled out as goats - Matthew 25:32-33

<sup>26</sup> Why *not* the first day? Well ten in Scripture signifies a completeness—or a fullness. The ten plagues represented the fullness of God’s judgment on Egypt. The Ten commandments represent the fullness of God’s righteousness. The tenth day here I believe represents the Lamb who would come in the fullness of time bringing with Him a full complete redemption. Which is what Galatians 4:4-5 says “But when *the fullness of time had come*, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

feet to their beds to remind them of their bondage to Egypt.<sup>27</sup> For four days, it was under their watchful eye. If it didn't meet the strict requirement that God laid forth, it could not be sacrificed. Elsewhere God condemns the Jews for bringing animals that are imperfect. Malachi 1:8 "When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts."

### **Two wings on a plane**

Dear congregation, it's right here that we discover one of the most neglected doctrines in the gospel: the life that Jesus lived. Children, boys and girls, I'll bet most of you if you were asked, what did Jesus do to save you? You would answer *He died on the cross for our sins*. To that I would say Amen! But what did He do before He died? *He lived a life without blemish or spot*. And if that didn't happen, it wouldn't matter if He died a hundred deaths on the cross—it couldn't save us. *Jesus' perfect life is what gives value to His death*. Jesus perfect life and His shameful death are two wings on a plane. If one wing is missing, the plane goes down. Dear congregation don't you see in our text that all this detail is given to the life of the Lamb *before* we even get to His death. We won't even see His death till next week. What is required of this Lamb? He has to be without blemish (because God is holy and cannot tolerate sin); He must be male (because He is the representative); He has to be a year old (in His prime); and He had to be examined for 4 days (He has to be tested).

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<sup>27</sup> Charnock, pg. 512

### 3rd Principle: The active obedience of Christ

That brings us to our **third principle**: *Before the Lamb of God was ever slain for us, He had to be discovered to be perfect.* And this is precisely what Jesus accomplished. Consider...

**First, Jesus was born without blemish.** He had to be born with no defects. Oh congregation we are all born infected, rejected, and misdirected. Simply because we were born, we have the stain of original sin from Adam. Romans ..."just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." But Christ was born *without* original sin. He was conceived not by man, but by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary. This conception guaranteed that He was born free from all sin. I love how the KJV puts it Luke 1:35 "...therefore also *that holy thing* which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Christ was born *that holy thing*—without blemish or spot.<sup>28</sup> This is Christ's *natural righteousness*.

**Second, Jesus lived without blemish.** This detail in our passage about being kept and inspected for 4 days is fulfilled by Christ.<sup>29</sup>

- There were 4000 years that passed between the announcement of the Lamb of God (Genesis 3:15) and His coming into the world (Matthew 1:1).<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law."

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 3:15 "But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented."

<sup>30</sup> See Bishop Usher's Chronology. Also consider there were 4 monarchies (world superpowers) that would arise before Christ came - Daniel 2:31-45. There were 400 years between the close of the OT canon and the coming of Christ



- Jesus was engaged in His ministry for approximately 4 years.<sup>31</sup> During that time He was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1-11) and Hebrews 4:15 says He was tempted in every respect as we are yet without sin.
- Jesus came to Jerusalem 4 days before His crucifixion during Passover week.<sup>32</sup> Walter Wilson says this here: “The Lord Jesus was inspected before He was offered as the Passover Lamb. Pilate's wife inspected Him socially. Pilate inspected Him for the civil government. Herod inspected Him for the military government. Judas inspected Him from the standpoint of personal fellowship. The Centurion inspected Him as a law enforcement officer. All of them found Him without a blemish, and therefore fit from the human standpoint to be the Lamb of God.”<sup>33</sup>

Before Jesus was ever offered up to God as the Lamb of God, the life He lived, the obedience He offered was found to be holy, harmless and undefiled<sup>34</sup> by both God and man. He cheerfully fulfilled all righteousness. 1 Peter 1:19 says He was found to be a lamb without blemish or spot. This is Christ's *active righteousness*.

### **Consolatory Use**

Dear congregation, it's Jesus's life that brings value to His death. If a household were to offer to God a blind, sick, maimed lamb was offered, a lamb stained by sin, their firstborn son would die. Likewise with us, if Christ wasn't born with perfect righteousness, if He didn't live a life a perfect righteousness, His death would mean nothing. His life is what gives value to His death. So

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<sup>31</sup> 3.5 years rounded up.

<sup>32</sup> See Matthew Henry's commentary.

<sup>33</sup> Wilson, pg. 247

<sup>34</sup> Hebrews 7:26

loved ones *comfort* yourselves with two things as we close. **First**, take a look at yourself. You are that blind, sick, and lame lamb. You were born with defects. Your life has been one failure after another. You have been weighed and found wanting. Your life is not acceptable to God. And neither is mine. But there is a Lamb who has been found for you and for me that is without blemish and without spot, and His name is Jesus the Son of God. It's His life that gives you life. Romans 5:10 "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, *now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*" You are accepted by God, reconciled to God, saved by God first and foremost by the life of Christ. **Second**, this Lamb of God is Your Lamb. In our passage there is a progression. In v. 3 it is called "a lamb"; in v.4 it is called "the lamb" but in v.5 it is called "*Your Lamb.*"<sup>35</sup> Jesus is not some Lamb, some Lamb abstracted. He's Your Lamb. He's My Lamb. The Son of God loved you and gave Himself for you. The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me. Look to your Lamb loved ones. See in Him the life that God has already accepted on your behalf.

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<sup>35</sup> Source: <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pink/Gleanings%20In%20Exodus%20-%20Arthur%20W.%20Pink.pdf> Accessed June 25, 2023