

## Week 36

### King Jesus

Before we get into the study today I would like to spend some time talking about the Passover Lamb. Remember John the Baptist described Jesus as the Passover Lamb. Why? What was the Passover Lamb and what does that have to do with us? The entire story of God bringing the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, beginning with plagues then the killing of the Passover Lamb, fleeing through the Red Sea and then the wilderness journey is a picture of our salvation, beginning with Jesus', our Passover who was slain, passing through the water, our baptism, and our journey through life until we are ready to cross the Jordan River, our death, and enter the promised land, heaven.

The above records from the Old Testament tell about how God planned to redeem mankind, and how He brought it about, by His strong arm and mighty power. These illustrations are sometimes called 'types' and the entire Old Testament is filled with them. Someone has said, "The New is in the Old concealed the Old is in the new revealed". Meaning that all the "types" are revealed in the New Testament as having pictured the way in which God would Himself redeem all mankind. I was just reminded of the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, which is another picture or type of the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus by the Father, God. We can pick up the story in Genesis 22 when God told Abraham to take Isaac, his only son go to a certain mountain and offer him as a sacrifice. When Isaac saw they had the wood and the fire he asked Abraham about the sacrifice because they had no animal with them and Abraham told his son, "God will provide Himself a sacrifice". And God did exactly that; He stopped the sacrifice of Isaac and provided a ram.

Why did all this happen and why is it important for us to know it? God was showing how He would provide Himself as the sacrifice for our sins at just the right time. Jesus, Who was God in the flesh, was the sacrifice provided for our sin, Abraham's remarkable obedience led to great blessing for him and also for us. Remember, Jesus was descended in the flesh from Abraham.

The Passover is another type of sacrifice and from the passages in Exodus about this we learn more about God's plan of redemption. You see that the revelation of God is progressive, He adds more information all the way through until we get the entire picture in the New Testament. The whole bible is about Jesus. I cannot resist digressing once more to the first recorded sacrifice for sin. It happened in the Garden of Eden. As soon as Adam and Eve disobeyed God they realized they were naked. They sewed together some fig leaves for clothing. How adequate do you think that was? Fig leaves are tiny, I am sure they didn't cover very well. That is a picture of our works as we try to cover our sin ourselves. Totally inadequate. God Himself, made them garments of skin according to Genesis 3:21. How did He do that? How else, an animal was killed as a sacrifice to cover Adam and Eve and the nakedness their sin had caused.

The night of the Passover sacrifice was a turning point in the history of Israel, who was in slavery in Egypt and were redeemed from their oppressor. Just as we have been redeemed from slavery to sin and our oppressor, Satan. The Passover chapters in Exodus 11 and 12 are key chapters of the whole bible. There we can see what is taught about divine holiness, grace and man's sin and salvation. In Hebrews 9:22 God told us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. This is the explanation for the Passover Lamb of Exodus and our Passover Lamb Jesus. So God instructed the Israelites to take a perfect or unblemished male lamb from their flock and kill it, put the blood on the doorpost of the house and then roast and eat the lamb. There were specific details given for

preparation, for the meal and the events of the evening. This is a permanent feast or festival for the Jews and most still celebrate it now. There are many rituals associated with the celebration, which all tell of Jesus but is still unrecognized by the Jews.

Jesus' death was planned for the exact time of the killing of the Passover Lamb in the temple. He was the last and perfect sacrifice for sin. Hebrews tells us there is no further sacrifice needed or allowed. When Jesus died the veil in Temple which divided the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was torn in half from top to bottom, it occurred at the time of the evening sacrifice so there were many priest officiating who were eye witnesses. Prior to this event, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, only with blood, only once a year on Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. Removing or tearing the veil in the temple signified a new and living way to God. Jesus death opened the way for us to approach God based on Jesus atoning death for us and our imputed righteousness from Him. No longer was a priest necessary to intercede, Jesus opened the door and we can walk right into the Throne Room of heaven, covered by the righteousness of Jesus.

The sacrifice of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, fulfilled all the Old Testament types and promises and thus ended the ceremonial laws and rituals of animal sacrifice. Shortly after Jesus ascension into heaven God allowed Jerusalem and the Temple to be completely destroyed by Antiochus the Roman. Temple sacrifice ceased because the Jews have nowhere for that to take place.

We know the Jewish people have returned to their land after 2000 years of exile but the Temple Mount is now the location of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Muslim Shrine called the Dome of the Rock, so their great desire, rebuilding the Temple, is not going to happen anytime soon. It must be obvious to you now that God has ended the Temple sacrifices and He has no plans to resume it because the Perfect Sacrifice has been made. How do I know this? Listen to Hebrews 10:8-14 Quoting Jesus "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have you taken pleasure in them (which are offered according to the Law) then He (Jesus) said "Behold I have come to do Your will. He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, One for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices which can never take away sins but He Jesus, having offered the One sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right Hand of God. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified". Unquote

When God makes all things new, then He will rebuild Jerusalem. All the plans for the future are written in Revelation. The rebuilt Temple is the place from which Jesus will rule. That will be a glorious time of peace and justice. As the bible says "Come quickly Lord Jesus"

John 18:33-34

Jesus' enemies had accused Him of treason against Rome so it was natural for Pilate to ask about this. If Pilate was asking this from his governor's position he naturally wanted to know if Jesus was setting up a rebel government.

John 18:35-36

This is Jesus' clear answer. Jesus is a King, but His kingdom is not of this world, therefore He and His followers would not be creating insurrection against Rome.

When believers are born from above they enter Jesus' kingdom, a spiritual kingdom. Their presence in the world system brings the Kingdom of Christ to that place. Although the final battle has not been

fought and won, Jesus victory over death, planted the flag of God's kingdom in this world and He has been rescuing captives out of it, out of the darkness and into the light of the kingdom of Jesus. The kingdom of Christ is wherever He is acknowledged to rule in the lives of men and women.

The goals and principles of the kingdom of God come from heaven and are found in the bible; they are not made up by any man. Living in the kingdom of Jesus means real obedience to a wise Savior-King.

John 18:37

Jesus, whose kingdom is of a different realm, came to earth for the purpose of redeeming mankind but also to reveal truth. It is obvious that Pilate believed Jesus was telling the truth but he did not have the courage to act on the truth.

"Everyone who is of the truth". Who is "Of the truth"? Everyone who honestly desires to know the truth receives Jesus teaching and follows Jesus.

My questions to you are these; are you of the truth, do you recognize the truth, do you have the courage to act on the truth God has been revealing in this study?

If this is the first time you have considered these things and you make the choice to believe them you must act on that belief as soon as possible.

John 18:38

Pilate was a cynical man; he thought all truth is relative. Did you think that was a new idea for the enlightened or progressive of our time? Wrong. The first recorded statement Satan made is "Did God really say that?" In other words, you can't trust God to tell the truth, there is no truth. I pray you have not believed this lie, which is as old as the hills literally, and is speeding many in our world along a course of destruction. Our leaders lie to us every day, as well as our news media, many who are part of our education establishment, and the entertainment media; the big lie, there is no truth, do whatever you want to do, if it feels good do it. Friends, you will reap a harvest of heartbreak and destruction if you believe this. You reap what you sow, you will reap more than you sow and later than you sow.

When there is no truth, then there is no basis for moral right and wrong, and isn't this exactly what people want? If there is no truth, then there is no accountability. You can say this and even believe it, however, it is a lie, and it will destroy. Remember Jesus said, "Satan is a murderer and a liar from the beginning, and the father of all liars". This tells us all lies originate with Satan; we are his willing accomplices. When was there ever a child born who did not try lying to avoid punishment or get their own way?

Friends in Jesus and His Word the bible, we have a standard for truth and for moral behavior.

If you do whatever seems right to you, then your standard will be whatever is easiest or sounds warm and fuzzy.

At that pivotal point in his conversation with Jesus, Pilate had the power to set Jesus free. But he lacked courage. He did not want to stand up to the Jews and deal with the problem of possible riots. He was afraid of losing his position; it was just easier to go along with the crowd. He tried to pass Jesus off to Herod according to Luke 23:6 but Herod did not want to deal with Jesus either, so Jesus was sent back to Pilate, everyone passing the buck.

Notice Pilate said he couldn't find any fault with Jesus. He was saying, "I don't see where He is guilty of any law breaking, certainly nothing that would warrant capital punishment". Jesus, our sacrifice for our sin, was perfect. He was a lamb without any blemish. It was fitting that He should be publicly declared without fault.

John 18:39

So the cowardly Pilate knew Jesus was innocent but he was afraid of offending the Jews so he came up with a plan he hoped would free Jesus without his making any commitment. Avoiding confrontation seemed to be his goal.

Jews had a custom at Passover that they could obtain from the Roman governor the release of some notable prisoner. I think Pilate was convinced in his own mind that the Jews would ask for Jesus' release as he had no doubt heard about all the miracles and then Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem just a few days earlier. Pilate probably presumed the people of Jerusalem who had been shouting hosanna a few days ago would call for Jesus' release. He just didn't reckon with the Jewish leaders' influence over the mob.

John 18:40

So Pilate's plan failed completely, the Jews cried out for Barabbas. The Greek word "cried" signifies a very loud shout.

The Jews preferred Barabbas, a notorious murderer and robber, according to Luke 23:19, to the holy Jesus. What hardness of heart, what cruelty. Nothing short of Jesus' blood would satisfy them, the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus dead.

The prefix "bar" before a man's name signifies "son of", Abba, you all know means father or dad, therefore Barabbas, son of a father, or just any man. Here we see the doctrine of substitution. A real criminal, who is "any man", goes free, while the sinless, innocent, and guiltless Jesus dies in his place. Jesus was counted as a sinner and punished as a sinner and put to death that we may live, be pardoned. Although I am guilty, I can be forgiven.

Christ is righteous and counted as a sinner. Do you understand this? Here is the opportunity for you to start over, leave your sinful past, full of bad choices and regrets at the foot of the cross and take the righteousness of Jesus. He freely offers you. Jesus has paid the penalty for your sin.

The Passover Lamb has been slain and His blood is available for anyone who chooses its protection. Just as when the Israelites killed the unblemished lamb and painted the blood over the doorpost and lintel of their homes, there is a choice to be made by you. They could choose the protection from death that God offered or not. There were no other options. We have the ability to choose too, we can say yes to God's provision to protect us from eternal death, the safety of the blood of Christ. Or we can choose to ignore this and either try to impress God with our good works or ignore God altogether.

Are you among those who are offended by this? Many say they don't want to hear about the blood, it's just too gory and messy. Yes, it is. Killing a lamb and putting the blood on your front door is gory and messy. Crucifixion is gory and messy.

You have two choices. God's way, the way of the blood or your own way, which is probably trying to pile up enough good works to make God let you in to heaven.

God did not give the Israelites the option of good works, either the blood was on the front door or it wasn't and when the death angel passed by the house if the blood was there, they he Passed Over the house and no one died. No doubt there were those who said they didn't believe this whole plan, blood on the door was disgusting, what if the neighbors saw it, what would they think?

Is the blood of Christ on the doorpost and lintel of your heart? If not I urge you to choose today, God's free gift to you, eternal life God's way. There is no plan B.

If you want to choose God's plan then you must come to Him and ask and then by faith believe He hears and forgives. The bible says; today is the day of salvation, if you hear His voice calling you, respond, and do not wait.

If you choose God's plan then pray with me; Father, I know I have sinned and fallen short of Your standards and I thank you that you have provided the way for me to be redeemed or bought back from the ruler of this world and given a place in the kingdom of Christ. I want Your forgiveness and I will trust in the blood of Christ to save me from eternal separation or death. Thank you for opening a new and living way to you, salvation in Jesus. I bow my knee to Jesus and give Him back the life He purchased for me.

If you prayed this prayer, I would like to hear from you. You can email me at [kellymallorywzlp@gmail.com](mailto:kellymallorywzlp@gmail.com) or write to me in care of this radio station, WZLP Loudonville, Ohio.