

THE SAVING PROMISE

EXODUS 12:12-13 • TV175B

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Exodus 12:12-13

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

I would like to select two themes: If I had just two messages to deliver to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, to those who profess to be believers. I believe that what I preached last Sunday and what I will be preaching today are the two themes that I would choose.

Last Lord’s Day I brought you a message on: **“HE THAT LOVETH NOT KNOWETH NOT GOD,”** on the subject of **“LOVE; LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”** Today, I want to bring you a message on the **“blood of Christ or the saving promise.”**

I believe this two-fold theme is the very foundation of what I am trying to preach, of what the Bible is speaking, and of what we believe (love for God and trust and faith in the blood of Christ).

Now, here is the text and title of the message: let’s turn to the book of **Exodus chapter 12**. I believe that this is the best text to serve as our foundation for the message on: **THE BLOOD OF CHRIST or THE SAVING PROMISE.”** In **Exodus 12**, let’s read **verses 12 and 13**. Do you have your Bible?

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Follow along with me as I read: God says; *“I will pass through the land of Egypt this night.”* Nothing is said of a death angel. We hear people talk about the death angel passing through the land of Egypt. God doesn’t say, “I am going to send a representative or send a messenger or send a death angel.”

He said, *“I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and I will smite all the first born of the land of Egypt, both man and beast. I will smite all the first-born and against the gods, (against the leaders or princes of Egypt). I will execute judgment; I am the Lord.”*

And He says to Israel; *“And the blood shall be to you, a token upon the house where you are: And when I see the blood I will pass over you.”*

“And the plague, (the judgment, the wrath of God) shall not be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt. When I see the blood I will pass over you.”

Is not this the word that we want to hear; is this not what you are interested in? I confess; this is what I am interested in; this is the greatest promise that a man can have from God on this earth. This is the greatest promise that a man can realize.

What is God saying? He is saying “When I deal in judgment with Egypt, I will deal in mercy with you.” That is what He is saying to us in this passage: “When I deal in judgment with the world’s sin, when I come in wrath, judgment, and condemnation upon this world; I will cover you with my grace.”

Now that is what He is saying; “when I execute wrath for sin; I am going to extend to you my mercy. *“When I see the blood I will pass over you.”*

Now, when this Scripture was written, an angry God was walking through the streets of Egypt. Someone said, “God with sword drawn and sharpened for the conflict was walking through the streets of Egypt that midnight and slaying on either hand the first-born in every home.”

God came in judgment, God in wrath, God in condemnation, falling upon this land of Egypt and destroying the pride of every home, the joy of every home, and the first-born from every home from Pharaoh’s Palace to the cattle in the barn and the cattle on the field.

Will God smite all? Will He condemn all? Will He judge all? No; the voice of mercy speaks; *“When I see the blood I will pass over you.”* God in judgment walking through the streets of Egypt, God in wrath, God dealing with sin, and God dealing with men’s rebellion; God speaks to a few and He says, *“when I see the blood I will pass over you.”*

God’s people are safe; they are safe. God’s people are now honored and saved. They are safe; they are secure. There is no judgment that can come upon them. Why are God’s people safe?

Paul said; *“There is no condemnation (there is no judgment) to them who are in Christ. Who can condemn me? God has justified me. Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?”*

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Why are they safe? Let me give you four reasons.

First of all: God's people are safe because they are in His heart

He said, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love. In loving kindness I have drawn you."* God's people are safe because they are in His heart; it is in His heart to save them. It is in His heart to keep them. It is in His heart to sustain them. It is in His heart to protect them.

Secondly: Not only are they in His heart but they are also in His hand.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said; *"My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me and I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. My Father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my hand."*

"My Father which gave them to me is greater than all and no man can pluck them out of my Father's hand." They are in his hand. No one can get to them; they are secure and they are safe. God's people are safe.

When the angry God, when the God of vengeance, says; *"Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord."* When He stalked through the land of Egypt at midnight and that horrible, bitter, wail, a cry such had never been heard before; God said, *"ever would be heard again in the land of Egypt."*

God's people were safe because they were in His heart and in His hand. Not only that!

Thirdly: They were in his covenant. He said; *"I will make a covenant with you and I will write my law in your hearts and on your minds and your sins and iniquities I will remember no more."* Not only are they in His heart, in His hand, and in His covenant.

Fourthly: They are in His Son; *"There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus."*

This is what I want you to see. God's people are safe. When God in judgment; said, *"When I visit the land of Egypt in judgment and wrath, you are safe."* Watch it, here is the key; God's people are safe only *"under the blood,"* only in the blood.

He told Israel, *"Take a lamb without spot or blemish of the firstling of the flock. Put it up for four days. At the end of those four days slay that lamb and put the blood on the doorpost and on the lintel, on either side."*

"You go inside and you eat the lamb, all of it; don't leave any until the morning. If your family is too small for a lamb then go in with the people next door but put the blood on the door; put the blood on the door; when I see the blood I will pass over you."

God's people are safe only through the blood. *"It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."* That is what the Scripture says. *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin."*

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I know this is not the day when you hear a lot of preaching about the blood. I know that people have spoken in a derogatory fashion. They say, "Well; we don't want to talk about slaughter-house religion and old first century doctrine and talk about the blood, "Under the blood of Jesus," and "Are you washed in the blood." "Nothing but the blood, and there is power in the blood."

Listen; let me tell you something; God's Word plainly says, "*It's the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.*" It says, "*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.*"

I will tell you where God's people are safe:

**"Under the blood of Jesus
Safe in the shepherd's fold
Under the blood of Jesus
Safe while the ages roll.**

**Safe, though the world may crumble
Safe, though the stars grow dim
Under the blood of Jesus Christ
And only under that blood are we secure in him."**

Now; God spared Israel that fearful night in Egypt. God spared the first-born in the homes of every Israelite; why? Well, He said; "*When I see the blood I will pass over you,*" because the blood was on the door.

Where there was no blood on the door, God visited in wrath. There may have been flowers out there. There may have been anything out there, but if there was no blood on the door, then death struck. God visited in wrath.

So it is my friend with us. In the day when God shall judge the world, when God shall come forth in wrath against sin, we will be secure, we will be kept and we will be safe if we are covered with the Saviour's righteousness and sprinkled in his precious blood.

That is what Augustus Toplady was talking about:

**"Rock of ages
Cleft for me
Let me hide
Myself in thee.**

**Let the water
And the blood
From thy wounded
Side which flowed
Be of sin
The double cure**

Save me from its wrath and power.”

“It’s the blood of Christ that maketh atonement for the soul.” This is what Peter said in summing it all up; he said, *“we are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from the vain conversation received by tradition from our fathers but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without spot or blemish.”*

I recently read a story about the great missionary Judson. Some of you are familiar with that name, Judson. He went to Burma; this was many years ago. Judson went to Burma as a missionary. He stayed there for 30 years.

He endured. This was back many years ago, back before the days of modern provisions and modern transportation and modern highways, telephones, television, and all of these things. This was back in the days of hardship and trial.

He stayed there for 30 years ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He suffered untold hardships. When he came back to America and he was scheduled to preach before a huge throng of people in one of our cities and the people came, his name was famous.

They came from many miles; they came from everywhere. That auditorium was packed with people that night. This old man after 30 years of ministering the Gospel in Burma, sitting there on the platform where they had their usual service, the preliminaries, the song service, and the special music, then the Master of Ceremonies introduced Mr. Judson.

According to the writer, he got up for about 20 minutes. He told that congregation with tears streaming down his cheeks how that God loved him from all eternity and how that God in mercy and grace sent His Son into the world.

He told how that Christ was born of a virgin, and walked this earth as a man, in perfect obedience to the holy law of God. He went to the cross of Calvary and there He bore our sin, our shame, our guilt, and our filth, in His body on the tree.

He told how He suffered all the soul agony and bodily agony and all the suffering, shame, and humiliation. He told how He died for our sins, was buried and rose again and ascended back to heaven where He is our Mediator.

He praised God during all that time for the love and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The old man sat down and the service closed. On the way back to the hotel that night there was a young man accompanying Mr. Judson and he said this about the young man; “he was strangely quiet.”

In a moment he looked at me and said this; “Mr. Judson, the people were disappointed tonight, they wondered that you did not talk of something else.” Mr. Judson said, “Well, what do they want to hear?” The young man said, “Well; a story, a story, perhaps.”

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He said, "I told them the most thrilling story in the universe, the story of God's love, grace, and the death of God's Son." Yes, the young man said; "they wanted to hear something of your adventures in Burma."

With that comment the old man stopped the young man and laid his hand on his arm and he said, "son; then I am glad; I am glad to know and glad to report that a man after 30 years in Burma has nothing more thrilling, more exciting, more wonderful to tell, than the love of God which gave the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross or the grace of Christ which took Him to Calvary's suffering mountain or the grace of Christ which caused Him to die for our sins. I know of no more thrilling story or a more wonderful message."

"I will tell you this son; I remembered tonight as stood before those people, where I may meet them the next time (at the judgment bar of God). How could I appeal to their curiosity, how could I tickle their ears with my adventures? This is not what Christ sent me to do; Christ sent me to preach the Gospel."

So, my friends, listen to me: If there is a preacher listening to me today, hear me and hear me clear; if that great missionary like Judson, after 30 years in the jungles of Burma could find nothing more exciting or more thrilling or more wonderful or more appropriate to preach to his congregation than the blood of Jesus Christ, who are we to try to tickle men's ears with our fresh ideas?

This is what Paul said, "Back to the cross." *"I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified. God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Jesus Christ. It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."*

**"What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

**There's a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains."**

This is what the Bible teaches; *"when I see the blood I will pass over you."* That is what God said to Israel and that is what He is saying to you and me; *"when I see the blood,"* not your church membership, not your morality, not your self-righteousness, not your religious deeds, not even your decision, it's *"when I see the blood I will pass over you."*

"It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul. I have given it to you, (God says), upon the altar. It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."

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In Old Testament days under the types, and shadows, and symbols and pictures, almost all things were sanctified by blood. The priest was sprinkled with the blood, the Book was sprinkled with the blood, and the altar was sprinkled with the blood. The tabernacle was sprinkled with the blood, everything.

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. This is what Isaac said to Abraham after they started up that mountain, Mount Mariah, he said; *“Father; here is the wood and here is the fire; I want to know, where is the lamb?”*

There can be no worship of God without blood. There can be no acceptance by God without blood. There can be no redemption without blood. There can be no sin-offering without blood. A bloodless religion is just religion; it has no salvation; it has none. It has no hope and it has no promise without the blood.

Let me point out four things that we need to see here:

First of all: The blood itself!

Secondly: Watch this word, efficacy, (I will explain it later); most of you know what it means anyway. We will talk about the efficacy of the blood.

Thirdly: I want to talk about one condition. Preacher, do you preach a conditional salvation? Yes, there is one condition and we are going to look at it, one condition. Let us see if we can learn something.

First of all: The blood itself!

Here is God passing through the land of Egypt in wrath, judgment, and condemnation. Men are dying on every hand. The scream is going up from the land of Egypt at midnight. God has fallen upon the people in wrath.

He said, *“When I see the blood I will pass over you.”* What kind of blood is it?

First of all: The blood on that door was the blood of a divinely-appointed victim. It wasn't just any blood.

God said to Israel; *“Take a lamb.”* God designated what it was to be, a lamb; *“you take a lamb.”* God has designated our sin-offering, our sacrifice, that's right! John the Baptist came preaching, *“Prepare the way of the Lord.”* Salvation is coming.

He pointed to Jesus Christ and said, *“behold the Lamb of God;”* there he is. There is the ordained, appointed, designated, victim, the sacrifice and the Lamb of God. He was led as, *“a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”*

“In the fullness of the time God sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” He was ordained and appointed of God.

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The high priest didn't take that office upon himself; it was given to the man that God appointed for that office. Jesus Christ is God's Lamb.

Secondly: It was the blood of a divinely appointed victim and it must be a spotless victim.

They couldn't take a sheep that was diseased or had broken bones or was sickly. They had to take a lamb, the firstling of the flock, in the first year, full strength, without spot or blemish, and they put it up in a pen for four days and observed it to make sure there was no spot.

Our Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, is without sin. *"He knew no sin, he had no sin, he did no sin, and no guile was in his mouth. Our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted as we are, yet without sin. He was holy, harmless, and undefiled. He had no sin."*

Thirdly: Our Lamb; their lamb was an animal. The blood of animals cannot put away sin. Hebrews tells us *"all the blood of bulls and goats (on Jewish altars slain could not wash away sin or put away one stain) cannot take away sin."* Those were types and pictures.

This blood is the blood of God himself. Let it be understood what I am saying; I want you to understand exactly what I am saying. Back in Old Testament days when Aaron and the sons of Levi, and these priests brought the lamb and slew the lamb and put its blood on the mercy seat, that was a picture.

That blood didn't put away anybody's sin. If it did, if it could have, *"those sacrifices would have ceased to be offered."* They repeated them again, and again, and again. Christ came; *"this man offered one sacrifice and with one sacrifice, perfected forever those that are sanctified,"* (those that believe because it is the blood of God).

Preacher, what are you saying? I am saying this; Jesus Christ of Nazareth who died on the cross is God Almighty in human flesh on this earth. That is exactly right; that is what the Scripture teaches.

He is not just a Representative, He is not just a Messenger, He is not just an Ambassador, He is not even a Son of God; He is the Son of God. Listen to these Scriptures:

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

The angels said to Joseph; *"Call his name Jesus; he will save his people from their sins: That it might be fulfilled, written by the prophets, 'behold; a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and thou shalt call his name Emmanuel, God with us.'"*

Jesus Christ said; *"I and my Father are one. He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."* Paul said, *"Feed the church of God which God purchased with God's own blood."* Our heavenly Father said of Christ; *"Thy throne O God is forever."* That is exactly what I am saying and that is what the Bible is teaching.

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If Jesus Christ is a mere man, He is the biggest liar, the greatest imposter and phony that ever walked on this earth. His soul is in hell at this moment and his bones are rotting in a grave in Jerusalem and He didn't rise from the tomb, if He is a mere man.

But, He is not a mere man; He is the God-man. When Jesus Christ came to this earth, God walked among men. When He went to the cross in human flesh, God Almighty reconciled the world to Himself by providing Himself a sacrifice.

He provided the sacrifice to Himself and of Himself. That is exactly what I am saying.

**“Would you be free?
From your burden of sin
There's power in the blood.**

**Would you of evil
Your victory win?
There's power in the blood.”**

It's the blood of a divinely appointed victim. It is the blood of a sinless victim. It's the blood of God Himself. Can you imagine the value of it? Can you imagine the power of it? Can you imagine the glory of it? It's not how much blood was shed on that cross, it is whose blood.

Somebody said one time; “How can the blood of one man atone for so many?” It's who He was.

Now, in Egypt, each family had its own lamb, you see, representatively, but now all believers have the same lamb.

Fourthly: The efficacy of the blood!

He said, “*When I see the blood I will pass over you.*” What do we mean by efficacy? This is what we mean: I mean that the blood of Christ, the blood of the Son of God, is sufficient to save.

Not only that, but it is able to save. “*He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by him.*” He is able. Not only that, but His blood is enough to save.

Here is a question: Jesus Christ came down here and died and He was buried. How do I know that God Almighty accepted his sacrifice for me and for you? That's a good question.

They all stood there and watched Him die, suffer, bleed, agonize. They took Him down from the cross and put Him in the tomb. Everything is quiet, heaven is quiet, and earth is quiet. Everything is still. How do we know?

I hear people say, “I'm satisfied with Jesus.” I'm not concerned with what you think of Jesus Christ. I'm not concerned whether or not you are satisfied with Him. I'm concerned with one thing; Is God satisfied with him?

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You see; my debt is not owing to you but it is owing to God. You don't owe anything to me. I have sinned against God. God is the one against whom we have sinned. David said, *"Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight."*

I want to know if Jesus Christ is my Representative, my Substitute, and my sin-offering. Is God satisfied with him? How do I know that God is satisfied with Him? There are two things:

First of all: By his Word!

It says in Ephesians, *"In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sin."* That is as clear as it can be made. *"In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sin."*

Secondly: This is the second way I know that God's offering and sacrifice of Christ is that *"he raised him from the dead."*

It was still that Sunday morning. After three days in the tomb the angel came down from heaven and touched that stone and it rolled away. Our Lord Jesus Christ came out of the tomb and ascended back to the Father and sat down at the right hand of God. That's how I know that God accepted His sacrifice for me.

"He is declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead." Paul said, *"If Christ be not risen we are false witnesses. If Christ be not risen your faith is vain. If Christ be not risen you are yet in your sins."* If Christ be not risen, folks who have died and been buried, will never rise, they will perish.

Thirdly: The one condition affixed to the promise; what did He say? They said, *"When I see the blood; that's the main thing, the blood, the blood; I will pass over you."* That encourages us and that interests us; *"I will pass over you."*

What is the one condition? *"When I see the blood;"* God said, *"When I see the blood."* The sacrifice for sin is not toward you and me. Christ didn't die to win your sympathy. Christ died to win the Father's approval and acceptance of all for whom He died.

The blood is always sacrificed toward the Lord or before the Lord. It is not when you see the blood; God says, *"When I see the blood."*

How can God be just and justifier? He saw Christ in the Covenant. He saw Christ in the types. He saw Christ on the tree. He saw Christ in the tomb as our scapegoat and He sees Christ at His right hand as our Redeemer.

The song of heaven is:

**"To him who loved us
And washed us from our sins**

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**In his own blood,
And made us kings and priests
Unto God his father.”**

The payment was toward God and God the Father said; *“When I pass through the land of Egypt and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.”*

We need to think on some things and there are some lessons to be learned, my friend. Here are the lessons to be learned: There are four things that I want you to see. This was the basis of the reformation:

First of all: The Scriptures alone!

If we want to find the way of salvation, let's go to the Scriptures. Let's not go to the writings of men, the dogmas of the church; let's go to the Scripture.

Secondly: Not only the Scriptures alone but Christ alone! There is no one that can add to His redemption it is Christ alone.

Thirdly: It is grace alone! *“It's not of works lest any man should boast.”*

Fourthly: To the glory of God alone! It's the right of an individual (the believer) and private judgment to glory in the Lord! *“When I see the blood I will pass over you.”* The issue has to be settled right here!