"Founded on the Rock"

**Lesson One – The Message of the Gospel**

**John 1:29; Exodus 12**

John the Baptist called Jesus “The Lamb of God.” How can a man be a lamb?! In order to understand this, we need to understand a story from the Old Testament, and the sacrificial system God established for the Jewish people. As we come to understand this Old Testament story, it will show us something very important about how to be saved from God’s wrath, Hell, and the power of sin and Satan, and how to come into a right relationship with God.

I. The Story of Israel (Ex. 12)

 A. The People were in Egypt

1. They first went there during a time of famine in Canaan.
2. Joseph, Jacob’s son, was Prime Minister, and the people of Israel enjoyed many privileges during the first years of their stay in Egypt.
3. But then, another king (or Pharaoh) rose up who didn’t know Joseph or what he’d done for Egypt.
4. He made slaves out of the Israelites.
5. They began to suffer a great deal, they were slaves in a foreign land with no home of their own, forced to work very hard with no pay, under this cruel evil king, and Pharaoh even got to the point where he ordered all Israelite babies killed.
6. In the midst of this terrible affliction, the people cried out to God for deliverance, for salvation.

B. God made a way to save His people.

1. He raised up a deliverer, Moses, and sent him to bring His people out of slavery.
2. He sent mighty judgments and did miracles and signs in order to destroy the power of His enemies, to show He was God, and to set His people free.
3. I believe that even in His judgments, His purpose was to wake the Egyptians up and show them their need to repent, so He could have mercy on them too, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to bend.
4. The final judgment was the destruction of all the firstborn of Egypt, the angel of death was sent to kill them.
5. At the same time He pronounced the judgment, God also provided an escape from it.
6. Each family had to take a spotless young lamb from their flock, kill it, and put its blood on their doorposts.
7. God said, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you.” (This is where the Passover comes from, the Hebrew word pesach can also be translated cover or hover over you, the idea being God would protect His people from the judgment.)
8. The lamb had to be killed, sacrificed (no bones broken), and the blood applied to the doors.

C. Here we see something about the character of God.

1. He is merciful and had compassion for His people, He already had a plan to save them.
2. And yet, He also was angry with the Egyptians for their stubbornness and sin.
3. Ro. 11:22 – “Look at the kindness and the severity of God...” Yes, God is kind and God is love. But, He is also severe! He hates sin, and He must judge it! He doesn’t just “shine it on.”

D. We also see that the people had to respond in order to be saved.

1. They had to believe what God said about the judgment and the lamb.
2. They had to trust His plan for them.
3. They had to act, taking the lamb, killing it, and applying its blood to their homes.

E. As a result, look what happened to the Israelites:

1. They escaped (were protected from) the judgment of God.
2. They escaped the bondage of slavery and the power of Pharaoh.
3. They began a new life and started on their way to the Promised Land.
4. They became God’s chosen people, living in a new covenantal relationship with Him.

II. The Parallel (What this means for us today.)

1. We also are in Egypt!
2. Egypt represents the world, a system in rebellion against God.
3. The world is like a desert now; hostile, arid, devoid of life, of the blessing of God, of joy.
4. We are all slaves, not of people but of sin! Romans 3:23 – “All have sinned...”
5. John 8:34 – “He who commits sin is the slave of sin...”
6. Satan is the evil king of this world – 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 John 5:19, John 10:10 all tell us that he is god of this age, king of the fallen world.
7. The judgment is coming against this world and its inhabitants, whether in this life or the next. Heb. 9:27 – all will be judged and all are doomed!
8. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, Heb. 13:8
9. He is holy and hates sin. He has to punish and judge it.
10. At the same time, He is merciful, He is love. Ex. 34:6,7, 1 John 4:8
11. He is going to judge the world, but He wants all to be saved, Jn. 3:16, 1 Tim.2:4
12. The Lord has provided salvation, an escape, a solution for those who want it.
13. Jesus is our Liberator, Savior, Redeemer.
14. He came to earth as the Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7).
15. He lived a life without sin, was totally innocent, without fault.
16. Nevertheless, He surrendered Himself and was made to be sin, was cursed of God for us: 1 Pet. 2:24, 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, 14, Isaiah 53:4.5.
17. He has done everything necessary to save us!
18. In order for this to take effect in our lives, we must respond. We have a part to play!
19. It’s not automatic; if it were, everyone would be saved!
20. Our part is this:
21. We must believe – believe with all our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for our

 sins and rose again, that He forgives us when we ask Him to, and saves us, believe to the point

 that we repent, change our direction in life, and prove our repentance by beginning to obey

 God’s commandments and live according to His Word.

1. We must “apply the blood” to our lives, by faith we receive Christ, His forgiveness, His life,

 confessing with our mouths that He is Lord, we apply that blood by obeying the Lord.

1. The results of salvation.
2. We are not taken suddenly out of this world! (not physically anyway.)
3. But we *are* transferred from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God. Colossians 1:13
4. We *are* saved from the wrath of God, from Hell, from the power of Satan and the power of sin, no longer are we slaves.
5. No longer do we need to fear the judgment of God. We’re protected, covered.
6. We are adopted into God’s family, we become His special people.
7. We begin a new life, an abundant life, walking with God toward the Promised Land, which means walking in God’s Kingdom here on earth, and also means that one day we’ll walk with Him in Heaven.

In the Old Testament, a lamb was used to bring deliverance to God’s People. But that lamb was really only a type of the true Lamb of God, Jesus. The Old Testament lamb brought a physical deliverance to Israel. But the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, has brought a wonderful and full deliverance for all those who believe in Him. Through Jesus, we are delivered from sin and its terrible consequences. We are also brought out from Satan’s evil kingdom and influence. And, we no longer have to fear God’s wrath. In fact, through the Lamb of God, we can be brought into a beautiful relationship with God as Father and Friend that will last through all eternity! No longer are we His enemies. We have become His friends and His children.