

BFF398 The Blood of Jesus

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families Podcast" with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm pretty good, thanks. I've been battling a cold and sinus, and you can probably still hear it in my voice. Other than that, I got my energy back yesterday afternoon. I took the pups outside for the first time in two days. Now, I'm raring to go this morning.

Scott: All right.

Steve: I was in your neck of the woods this past weekend.

Scott: You were?

Steve: I spoke at a "Family Discipleship Day" in Xenia, Ohio. It was awesome being with a whole bunch of big families. The family I stayed with had 11 children.

The next morning they hustled off to the church to get ready for the conference. Then the basement door kept opening, and more children emerged. I found out there was another family that had come in after I was already in bed and they had 11.

Scott: Wow, that's a lot.

Steve: When I arrived at the conference, I discovered there were about 20–some families, but 200 people. You do the math. That's a lot of large families. It was fun getting to know them and see how they all interacted with each other. It was pretty cool.

Scott: Fun. Wow, that's a lot of kids.

Steve: I felt a little deficient only having had four. I guess I didn't eat the right stuff for breakfast or something.

Scott: Our kids feel that way all the time because we have friends that have 8 or 9 kids. They're like, "Why is our family so small, mom?"

Steve: Scripture says to be fruitful and multiply. This morning we are going to lay the foundation for Easter. We probably shouldn't use that word Easter because that has nothing to do with what we're talking about. It's really Passover, and Passover is a big thing.

It's a big thing to God. It's a big thing in the history of Israel. It's a big thing in the history of the church. It's not just a quaint tradition. It is a big thing, so there's my phrase for the day. I don't know if I'm going to title the podcast "A Big Thing" but it's growing on me. Let's pray, and then I'm going to read three chunks of scripture today with minimum commentary.

Father, thank You for Your word, which is very clear, very specific, and I'm amazed at how much You pack into it. The more we unpack it, the more we see has been

packed. That's just a fact of the matter when we're talking about God. The more we look at God, the more we understand God. The more we understand, the more we see. You are deep, and You are wide, and You are rich, and You are complete.

Help us today to have ears to hear what You want to say to us. Help us to grasp the enormity and the foundational aspect of this concept of Passover, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Genesis 4:10–11, After Cain had killed Abel, Jehovah was talking to him. "He said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.'"

When I read that the first time, I thought, "God is aware every time somebody dies." It's the blood that He specifies. Not that that his life has left him, but "his blood is crying to Me." What an image that God chose to use. These words illustrate the importance of the fact that the life is in the blood.

Then my mind just thinks, how much crying is going on in God's ears from all the unborn babies that have been murdered, from all the wars, where men and women have laid their lives down? That is a lot of crying reaching up to God's ears.

Then in Genesis 9:4–6, after the flood, God says, "You shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. For your lifeblood, I will require a reckoning. From every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man, I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image."

There's a lot packed in there, but I want to focus on the fact that the blood is the life. It's in the blood that we find the life. This is reminiscent of one of the key passages on this, which is Leviticus 17:11. If you read very little one Leviticus, read Leviticus 17:11, "The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

Now we're leading up to the second book in the Bible, the book of Exodus, the twelfth chapter, verses 1–27. This is a long passage. If you're listening at home or in your car, I hope you'll just let it marinate. I'm going to read it slowly and purposefully.

"Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, this month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the 10th day of this month, every man shall take a lamb according to their father's houses, a lamb for a household.

"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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male, a year old.

"You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the 14th day of this month when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. Then, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

"They shall eat the flesh at night, roasted on the fire. With unleavened bread and bitter herbs, they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts, and you shall let none of it remain until the morning.

"Anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it; with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it in haste.

"It is Jehovah's Passover, for I will pass through the land of Egypt that night. I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And then all the gods of Egypt, I will execute judgments.

"I am Jehovah, the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to Jehovah throughout your generations as a statute forever. You shall keep it as a feast.

"Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day, you should remove leaven out of your houses. For if anyone eats what is leaven from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. On the first day, you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day, a holy assembly.

"No work shall be done on those days, but what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared for you. And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day, I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore, you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a statute forever.

"In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. For seven days, no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land.

"You shall eat nothing leavened. In all your dwelling places, you shall eat unleavened bread. Then Moses called the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans and kill the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of

hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two door posts with the blood that is in the basin.

"None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning, for Jehovah will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, Jehovah will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

"You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. And when you come to the land that Jehovah will give you, as He has promised, you shall keep this service.

"And when your children say to you, "What do you mean by this service?" You shall say, "It is the sacrifice of Jehovah's Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel and Egypt when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses," and the people bowed their heads and worshiped."

Now, generally, I like to go back to the beginning when I study a topic like the blood of Jesus, and begin in Genesis and study through Revelation. However as I read through Exodus I thought, no, I think I just need to read the whole section because every component is in it.

Let me review. First of all, He reorients their calendar. This time of the exodus, when we're going to leave Egypt, will now be the first month of the year. This is a new start. This beginning month is Nisan, probably March, or early Spring.

"You shall have a lamb without blemish. A male." Another key component. The blood shall be put on the doorposts. You shall eat the flesh of that lamb with unleavened bread. This clearly is foreshadowing Jesus, our Passover Lamb, which is specified later, and we'll come to it.

I'm trying to show that this one chunk of Exodus 12 has all the components for the feast in the future, for Christ being sacrificed at the exact same time at the feast of Passover. God laid this foundation so beautifully and it's all there.

"Then you shall eat the flesh and the bread." Here he is foreshadowing the Lord's Supper, which is based on the crucifixion, which is based on Passover. You shall eat my flesh and drink my blood in John 6, and that's how you have life.

Passover, when He sees the blood, He will pass over us. We have all sinned. We have all fallen short of the glory of God. We're all supposed to die, except now the blood covers us and He passes over us.

This feast shall be a memorial. He says several times, "Do this all the time." It's a statute forever, throughout your generations. You and your sons. Well, this is what He directed His disciples to do. Take the Lord's Supper. Do this in remembrance of me. The bread is unleavened, which is what we eat when we have communion.

We have all these words today such as "communion" and "Easter" and "elements," which is church language, but it is all based on this foundation that God laid right in the book of Exodus. What a teachable moment. These people had just watched God not only wipe out Egypt but Egypt's gods.

Scott: I don't think you can overstate the importance of Passover. Imagine if we were suddenly taken into slavery, the entire nation of America, and for longer than America has been in existence as a nation, we were then enslaved. Then God wipes out our masters and sets us free. That's a huge deal.

Plus the way He does this, plague, after plague, after plague, and then the Passover. He strikes down the firstborn of all the Egyptians. I can't fathom how huge that would be, yet that's what He did for the Israelites.

Then when Jesus reorients that, I assume you're getting to this eventually, but when Jesus revolutionizes the celebration of Passover to His death, like I said, it can't be overstated how huge that is.

Steve: Absolutely. He didn't die, you might say, some random day. It was during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It was during the feast of Passover. If these people that were living at that time had been keeping the feast, they had to have seen Jesus fulfilling every aspect of it.

He was the bread, He was the lamb, He was the one that was sacrificed and died. Then, He offered himself to be eaten by the people so that they would have life within themselves. He was the one that not only did it for them, but He did it for the whole nation.

Even Caiaphas the High Priest, in the Spirit, prophesied that Jesus would be crucified. "Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.' Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad." (John 11:49-52)

Think of Jerusalem being filled with people keeping the Passover. At the same time that they're killing the Lamb of God on the same hill the same ridge, on which the temple was built. God has put everything in His word. All the pieces are there. Now we just need to see it in light of where we are today.

I value the Lord's Supper even more reading this. I value communion differently when I read this. This is important stuff to God. This is big stuff. It was big stuff to Jesus, The night before He was crucified, He shared bread and wine with His disciples. He said, "This is My body. This is My blood. Do this in remembrance of Me."

He was building on the foundation that God had laid in Egypt. That's why He told them, "You've got to keep this feast every year so you don't forget it because I want you to see My Son when He appears." "I didn't come to destroy everything that had happened pre-Matthew. I came to fulfill it, and I came to fulfill it to the letter." I see God's faithfulness. I see God watching over His word to perform it. I also see God so caring for His people that He's laying this incredible illustration in front of them which says, "You need to be looking for a lamb without blemish that will take away the sins of the world, and when He comes, He will fulfill that." It's awesome.

Scott: Again, you may be getting to this in the next episode or something, but if you jump forward to Revelation, there's the moment when they're looking for someone to open the scroll, and they can't find anyone until they look at the Lamb.

Steve: Yes but first we need to read several passages from Hebrews. I don't know how you understand Hebrews without understanding the Old Testament, the First Covenant. Hebrews brings it all up to date in the New Covenant. Between understanding the Tabernacle and understanding the Pentateuch, Hebrews comes to life as do large portions of Revelation.

As you read through the Bible, remember that God said, "By every word man shall live." When you read every word, then you get life. If you just read your favorite portions, you only receive portions of dessert. I don't know how else to say it.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Let's pray. Father, thank You for Your Word. It is complete, and Jesus is the Word made flesh. Thank You for Your words. Thank You for this amazing passage in Exodus 12. The fact that our eyes have been opened, we have looked to Jesus and the veil has been taken away. Now when we look at the Old Testament, that's where we see You all through it.

Thank You for shedding Your blood. Thank You for putting it over us so that when death comes, God will pass over us. Thank You for not only taking the penalty but thank You for giving us life. When we eat Your flesh and drink Your blood, we have life within us. You're amazing, God, an amazing Bible, and we worship You today, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families Podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.