

A LAW OF FREEDOM

About 3,400 years ago the ancient Jewish people were enslaved in crushing bondage under Egyptian taskmasters. On their last night in Egypt God instructed them to carry out a ritual ceremony, which symbolized their impending freedom.

The story is found in Exodus 12:3-8; “Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.”

They were instructed to select a perfect male lamb or goat. After four days of further inspection and observation the animal was to be killed by slitting its throat. Its precious blood was to be collected in a bowl and painted with a branch dipped in hyssop upon both side posts and the upper doorpost of their dwellings. As they did this the blood dripped to the ground - thus creating a mantle of blood at the entrance of their houses. After killing the lamb and applying its blood they were to take the lamb and go into their houses, passing through this Wall of blood. Once inside they were to roast the animal with fire, eat it and remain within until morning; thus they would be covered by the blood, both outwardly and inwardly. This blood was to be a Token or sign of their protection from death and deliverance from slavery.

This ritual ceremony sprang to life with intense meaning at midnight. At that moment the death angel passed over Egypt killing all of the first-born males of the homes where no blood had been applied. As a result of their act of faith, on that very night, the Israelites were saved from death and delivered from slavery.

A few weeks later God gathered them at Mt. Sinai to give them the Ten Commandments. Here He announced, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt out of the house of bondage, Exodus 20:2. They were brought out of Egyptian bondage through the blood of God’s Passover lamb. They were covered by the blood, protected by the blood and set free by the blood of that lamb. The spilled blood was a sign of their emancipation. They were slaves no more, but were now living in the freedom which that lamb had provided. That Passover lamb pointed forward to

Jesus, the Ultimate Passover Lamb of God. Someday this Lamb would come as the Ultimate Liberator.

Someday the Ultimate Passover Lamb would come and shed His blood for all humanity. If the Jewish people would have put their faith in Him they would have experienced a far greater freedom. They would have discovered genuine freedom from bondage to sin. They would have been empowered to exercise this freedom to follow and be loyal to Him in these Ten Commandments of Exodus 20:2-17;

1. "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.

2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

5. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

6. "You shall not murder.

7. "You shall not commit adultery.

8. "You shall not steal.

9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:2-17

If Israel had cooperated with God, then the Ten Commandments would have been a Freedom Document for them!

Please read again Exodus 20:2!

Centuries later John the Baptist recognized Jesus as this Lamb of freedom by declaring, Behold the lamb of God which is taking away the sin of the world. “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

As the Ultimate Passover Lamb, Jesus was observed closely during His last four days of life. His crucifixion and death took place on the exact day of Passover. See John 19:14-18. His precious blood stained the posts of the cross and splattered to the ground at its foot. His death was a mirror image of that first night when blood from lambs and goats was applied to the doorposts and splattered to the ground in the doorways of those Jewish homes. Thus Jesus became the exact fulfillment of these Passover sacrifices, which took place long ago in ancient Egypt.

In response to Jesus’ death on the cross the apostle Paul announce that Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us, 1 Corinthians 5:7. The apostle Peter emphasized this theme by declaring, . . .ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, . . .but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

What did Jesus’ death accomplish for us? The Bible says, . . . that through death he (Jesus) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who . . . were all their lifetime subject to bondage, Hebrews 2:14, 15. The death of Christ, through His spilled blood, has the power to set us free from the bondage of sin!

GOD’S LAW, YOU, AND FREEDOM

Paul the great apostle to the Romans, points out in Romans 3:20 & 7:7 that all we need to do, to be well informed about sin, is to examine God’s Law! The Bible says in 1 John 3:4, . . . sin is the transgression of the Law (The Ten Commandments), and in Romans 3:23 it declares, . . . all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Many people today verify these words because their lives testify they are still in bondage to sin. Paul states that, the wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23.

Ask yourself, Have I ever truly kept all of God’s Law? The Bible says if you violate even one Command you have violated all Ten! See James 2:10.

Jesus was the Ultimate Passover Lamb. His spilled blood, on the posts of the cross, provided a covering of protection for sinners against the penalty of sin. It also provided the freedom from their slavery to sin. When you accept Jesus as your personal Passover Lamb, you will begin to experience this protection and freedom! Because of your faith in

Jesus, as your Holy Passover Lamb, He sets you free! This is why Jesus said in John 8:36, If the Son therefore will make you free, you will be free indeed.

The children of Israel had been locked in a house of bondage. They longed to be set free! Are you also locked in a house of bondage? Are you in bondage to sin? Do you long for freedom? Without Jesus you have no hope of experiencing this freedom. You stand condemned to death as a sinner by God's Holy Law! But there is hope for you. When Jesus becomes your Cover of Protection you will be set free from that old house and you will stand in His full liberty without condemnation! (II Cor. 5:1-3)

Then, God's Holy Ten Commandment Law will be your Royal Law of Liberty. It will be your Freedom Document, because you have the Cover of Protection and are set free by the blood of Jesus! See James 2:8-12.

The question to ask yourself right now is this, Do I need to be protected from sin's penalty and set free from its addictive power over me? Jesus wants to do this for you! You may experience this freedom today, right now! Here are four simple and clear steps on how to make your break for true freedom!

ADMIT - to God that you are a sinner. This means to acknowledge your sinful ways. God counsels you to own up to your fallen condition. He says, I will . . . return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: Hosea 5:15.

CONFESS - to God your sins. (Be specific) Your sins killed Jesus. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, 1 John 1:9.

REPENT - of your sins that killed Jesus. (Be specific)
Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, Acts 3:19.

ACCEPT - Jesus as Lord and Savior. Ask Him to cover you with His blood. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: John 1:12.
. . . behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation, II Cor. 6:2.
The steps you have just taken are real. The Bible says, He that hath the Son hath life; . . . These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, 1 John 5:12, 13.

Dear friend, if you have taken the four simple steps mentioned above, right now, - both outward and inwardly, you are covered. You are set free and empowered by the precious blood of Jesus! He now covers you and lives in you! By His power you are now free to follow and be loyal to Him in His Ten Commandments!

YOUR FREEDOM DOCUMENT

In the New Testament Epistle of James we learn that the Ten Commandments are the Law of Liberty. Please see James 2:8-12. This liberty comes only through Jesus Christ. Once a person has accepted Jesus into the life as Lord and Savior that individual discovers the empowerment and freedom to follow and be loyal to Him. This is why the apostle Paul states that when you have Christ in you, you have the hope of glory, Colossians 1:27.

If you have taken these steps then you possess freedom. You have been set free and are empowered by God. You now possess the . . .

- 1. Freedom to have Him and only Him before you in your life.**
- 2. Freedom to not make anything a graven image or idol in your life . . . ;**
- 3. Freedom to not take His name in vain . . . ;**
- 4. Freedom to remember to keep His Sabbath holy . . . ;**
- 5. Freedom to honor your earthly father and mother . . . ;**
- 6. Freedom not to kill;**
- 7. Freedom to not commit adultery;**
- 8. Freedom to not steal;**
- 9. Freedom to not bear false witness against your neighbor;**
- 10. Freedom to not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor . . . !**

Once you have accepted Jesus into your life as Lord and Savior, you are covered by His blood. At that moment He empowers you to follow and be loyal to God as specified in His Royal Law the Law of Liberty. Your liberty in Jesus enables you to view the Ten Commandments as a Declaration of Freedom!

I invite you to post the copy of God's Law, which you have just received, in a prominent place. Memorize the full text of the Ten Commandments for yourself and invite others to discover its principles as well. Most of all, I encourage you to tell others the meaning of Exodus 20:2 and explain to them why God placed these words at the beginning of the Ten Commandments.

Blessings on you as you walk in the freedom provided by the blood of Jesus, the True Lamb of God!

Why does Satan attack God's Law?

No Law:

Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law. Romans 3:31

Then No Sin:

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4

Then No Wages of Sin:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Then No Need of a Savior:

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3

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