

# Eating The Lamb

Numbers 9:10-12 &  
1 Corinthians 5:7



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** Numbers 9:10-12 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD. {11} **The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.** {12} **They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.**

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. **For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

I was talking to a dear pastor friend the other day who told me, “I really don't know what to preach this Sunday. What do the people need to hear?” I used to ask this question myself until God imprinted this truth in my heart: Always preach Jesus. Always preach the Blood. No matter what you do, always bring your message back around to the Old Rugged Cross. It is that Cross – the Blood shed on Calvary – that makes a difference. It's the *only* thing that will make a difference in anyone's life.

God was the very first Preacher of the Blood. When Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord and, by their action, plunged all of creation into sin and death, God's response was the Blood. You may not have noticed it, but the Bible says “**the Lord God made coats of skins, and clothed them**” (**Genesis 3:21**) before He exiled them from Paradise. Blood was shed in the Garden of God. We see the Blood shed by Adam's son Abel. The Blood, like

a scarlet thread, continues throughout the Scripture. When Noah left the Ark after the world wide Flood the first thing he did when his feet hit dry ground offer Blood sacrifice to God. The Lord responded to that offering and promised Noah and his children that the earth would no longer be destroyed by water (**Genesis 8:21**). The blessing of God could not come until there was the shedding of Blood.

Why was the shedding of Blood so significant to God? Because God *never changes*. Unlike us, He is complete. He does not grow, does not gain in knowledge or person, and always – always says what He means. When He told Adam **“in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die”**. This was written – not in stone – but in the heart of the Eternal. Disobedience would bring sure death. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God they didn't *physically* die that day. Adam actually lived to be *930 years old* – Methuselah, the oldest man who ever lived, made it to *969 years old* – exceeding Adam in longevity by only *39 years* (**Genesis 5:27; Genesis 5:5**). So what did God mean when He said **“in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die”**? Adam died *spiritually* on the day he sinned, and plunged all of creation – including his children – into *spiritual death*. God promised Divine Judgment – and only God could rescind Divine Judgment. That may seem strange to a generation of Americans intent on compromise and tolerance, but the Biblical truth is that what God promises He *must deliver*. Adam sinned, spiritual death came, and Someone must pay the price.

Hence the Blood.

The shedding of Blood looked forward to the day when God would come to earth and bear the burden of our sin. God illustrated the Coming of Jesus Christ in the Feast of the Passover. God heard the cries of His Israel, and repeatedly told Pharaoh **“Let My people go”** - but Pharaoh would not hear. Just as Adam did in the Garden, Pharaoh decided to test God, to stand against God, to be in God's place. The Lord had enough. He told His Israel:

**“I will be coming to Egypt tonight, and *against all the gods of Egypt I will execute My Judgment* (Exodus 12:12). I alone am YAHWEH, Eternal God. I will take the life of all the firstborn in Egypt this very night. My Judgment will not discriminate. I will destroy the firstborn of both man and beast, Egyptian or Israelite, visitor or resident, master or slave. I will drop My hand of judgment on every firstborn regardless as to color or social standing. There is only one thing that will stay My hand.**

**I must see the Blood (Exodus 12:13). The Blood alone will stand between My avenging sword and you.**

**You must take the Blood of a Lamb *of the first year* (Exodus 12:5). I need to see the Blood of the Firstborn Lamb on the door posts of your houses. The sacrificed Lamb must be without spot or blemish. Once you kill the Lamb and place its Blood on the doorway, you are to eat that Lamb, roasted with fire. You are to eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

**When I see this act of faith I will pass over you.”**

The Feast of the Passover looked forward to the Coming of Jesus, the true **Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29)**. The Lord was illustrating to His Israel – and to us today – that Christ's Blood had to be shed. The Bible says that the **“law was a shadow of good things to come” (Hebrews 10:1)**. Jesus Christ stood in Heaven's light, and His shadow was cast on Israel. His shadow was the Law. Until Jesus came all were under the shadow of the Law. But once Jesus came He did as He said. *As very God of very God* Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law. **“Do not think that I am come to destroy the Law – I have come to fulfill it” (Matthew 5:17)**. Jesus fulfilled the Law. He lived a perfect life. He **“was in every way tempted like you and I, yet He never sinned” (Hebrews 4:15)**. He was perfect in every way, the Lamb of God without sin.

This Perfect Vessel was broken on the Cross for you and I. He did not delegate the Judgment of God to another. Adam sinned, creation died, God's wrath loomed, then Jesus stood in the gap for us. **“He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24)**.

Have you been saved? Have you believed on Him? If not, God's judgment still looms over you. Come, turn unto Him. Believe that He died on Calvary for you, and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

### **1. You Have A Choice To Make**

It amazes me that people wander through this life

thinking “I can always accept Jesus at a later date. I can make a decision later”. If you knew how many times I've stood over caskets of people who thought they had tomorrow – but tomorrow never came.

The Feast of the Passover – a shadow of the Coming Christ and an important and unavoidable part of the Law – had to be kept. This Feast was supposed to be kept **on the fourteen day of the first month**. If you didn't keep the Feast as God decreed then the Lord said

**Numbers 9:13 But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.**

God had a Covenant with Israel, but He will never covenant with the dead. If a person decided not to keep the Feast of the Passover God said **“they are dead to Me – they are to be cut off from Israel”**. When Adam disobeyed God he was *cut off* from Eden. When any Jew disobeyed God on the keeping of the Passover he was *cut off* from Israel. Adam lost everything by disobedience. The Israelite lost everything – family, possessions, status, position with God – if he did not keep the Passover.

The Blood had to be shed. The Lamb had to be eaten. And yet, God is gracious. In our focal text we read:

**FOCAL Numbers 9:10-12 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a**

journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD. {11} The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Why did God allow two different dates for the Feast of the Passover?

God in effect said “I'll give you a second chance. If, by reason of death, you were unable to keep the Feast on the first month, you may keep it *one the fourteenth day of the second month*”. Oh, Divine Love, how far You stretch. How great is the Love of God!

God loves you! Yet God cannot save you *in your sins*. What did the Prophet Isaiah preach?

Isaiah 45:21-23 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. {22} Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. {23} I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Every person needs the salvation of God. God alone can save, and God calls unto salvation. “Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God

and there is no other”. God calls all who will to salvation.

You have a choice to make. Just as the ancient Israelite had a choice to keep or not keep the Passover, you have a choice to make. If you make *no choice* then – dear friends – you have made a choice.

God chose to save Israel, to offer salvation to those people – *but it came through the Blood*. When Avenging God came into Egypt on that dark night long ago the Lord looked for the Blood. Where the Blood was by faith the Lord passed over. Death was stayed.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God called Israel to salvation but each member of that nation *had to answer the call*. God offers, but the offer must be accepted. How does our Bible end?

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The Spirit of God bids you this very day, “Come”. The Bride of Christ, His local Church, bids you this very day to “Come”. What saith the Scripture? “Whosoever will, let Him take the water of life freely”.

You have a decision to make.

What *alone* can save me in the sight of God? What *alone* will He be pleased to see in your lives?

You cannot be saved by your works. No ritual, goodness, no remorse, nothing will stand before you and Divine Judgment but the precious Blood of Christ.

The Israelite could have heard Moses say “**You must kill the Lamb without spot or blemish, and put His Blood on the doorway of your house**”. That Israelite could have said “that sounds like a good idea. I think I'll do it – tomorrow”. He would have died in his sins. The Israelite could have said, “I think I'm a good person, and that God will pass by my house because of my goodness”. He would have been wrong. The Israelite could say “I think I'll trust the fact that I'm a member of Israel, and trust that my neighbor has the Blood of the Lamb on his house”. God would have destroyed him just as surely as He destroyed all who were not under the Blood.

You have a choice to make, for **you have no life within you unless God put it there**. What did Jesus say?

**John 6:53-56, 66** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. {54} Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. {55} For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. {56} He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.**

You must choose to **eat of Christ** by faith. Now Jesus did not mean to carve off a part of His Body and eat it – that would have been foolish. The Lord used *eating* as a wonderful illustration of saving faith – an illustration that went back to the Feast of the Passover. Look at the focal text again:

**FOCAL** Numbers 9:11 **The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

The Lamb of the Passover was to be eaten. When you eat something, you eat it in faith. You commit it to your mouth. You chew it up, and you swallow it. That which you eat literally *becomes part of you*. This is why the Feast of the Passover had you eat the Lamb. Eating the Lamb was symbolic of *total trust in Christ, consuming Him, letting Him become a part of your life*.

Why did God use *eating* to illustrate Saving Faith?

There are many people today who say “I believe in Jesus”, and yet their belief is no more than the belief that the devil has. The Bible says:

**James 2:19** **Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.**

In Israel you could say “I believe in the Passover Lamb. I believe that it must be eaten. I believe that the Blood must be shed, and it must be placed on the doorway of my life.” You could say that all you wanted. But if you

did not make the choice to *do what was said* you would die under the avenging hand of God. **They must keep it and eat it.** Nothing else will do.

Saving faith is a total surrender to God, a total belief, a coming to Him knowing you are a sinner who needs to be saved. Look at the text again:

**FOCAL** Numbers 9:11 The fourteenth day of the second month at even **they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

The Lamb was always to be eaten with **unleavened bread and bitter herbs.** The unleavened Bread symbolized the sinless life of Christ sacrificed for you. You take His righteousness onto your spiritual account. He stands between you and God. You are Holy in God's sight because of Him.

1 Peter 1:16-21 ... **Be ye holy; for I am holy.** ... {18} **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ...**

Can you say with me and all the saints of old, “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift”. (2 Corinthians 9:15) ? If you cannot then you have a choice to make. Choose life. Choose to surrender to Jesus.

## **2. The Christian Continues To Feed On Jesus**

**FOCAL** Numbers 9:11 The fourteenth day of the second month at even **they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

The ancient Jew did not keep the Feast of Passover just once, but it was a **perpetual feast.** What did God say to His people?

Exodus 12:14 **And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.**

It is an **ordinance forever.** The ordinance stood – year after year – a perpetual shadow unto Christ came. Why? Because the Passover not only saved Israel, but it also *continued to point them to the Source of their salvation.*

We who belong to God were saved by feeding on Christ. We found life in Him – and can only find victorious life by *continued surrendered life to Him.* The greatest Christ who ever lived in my estimation was the **Apostle Paul.** What was the secret of his success? He said:

Galatians 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

Paul surrendered stronghold after stronghold in his life to the Savior until he reached the point that he was *crucified with Christ.* Paul preached a crucified Christ:

**1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;**

Though others found what they thought was *better ways* Paul said “No, not for me. I will eat the Passover Lamb continually. I will continue to return to the God of my salvation”. When arguments popped up in the Church, disputings over foolish things, the Apostle said:

**1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

He said “**my focus stays on the Lamb and His Blood. I trust in Him even unto the very death!**”! When others were tempted to use their own resources for strength the Apostle said:

**Galatians 5:24-26 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. {25} If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. {26} Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.**

The flesh must die. It's urges must die. Here lies the secret of the **bitter herbs taken with the Feast of the Passover**. Though we are under the Blood, though we have been spared eternal damnation because Jesus has stood in our place, we must continue to defy that Old Sin Nature. We must continue to go back to the Lamb without spot or blemish, taking our failures to Him,

surrendering strongholds in our lives until – one by one – we become more and more like Jesus.

Why did the *whole Lamb* have to be eaten? Why was it eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs?

What you eat becomes a part of you. God is a part of you, and wants to live through the framework of your lives. What did God tell His people?

**FOCAL Numbers 9:12 They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.**

You must eat all of the Lamb, the *whole Lamb*. The whole household ate of the Lamb. What did the Apostles say to those who wanted to be saved?

**Acts 16:31 “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”**

All that is Christ is to be consumed – the whole Christ – and the household was saved. The Lord passed over *all in the house when He saw the Blood*. If you have believed on Jesus and have fully eaten of Him – the whole Lamb – then your commitment will spread through your household. **Thou shalt be saved, and thy house**. The devil wants you to feel hopelessness and to feel that there is nothing you can do for your wife, your children, your husband who is lost. Hogwash! This is Satanic dribble! What saith the Scripture?

**1 Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.**

It is God's method to save all within the house. The Blood on the doorway saved all in that household. See to it that YOU are eating a WHOLE CHRIST. If you have but a superficial salvation – doing that which satisfies you and ignoring that which does not satisfy you – your failure is like **breaking the bone of the Lamb**. *Children are lost when parents do not eat the whole Christ*. You must be sold out for Jesus or the devil will buy your children. You must be sold out for Jesus or the devil will purchase your spouse.

Hear the Word: **“They shall leave none of it until the morning, nor break any bone of it”**. Oh Beloved, do you not see! If you profess with the mouth the Lord Jesus, but go home or to work and make Him *last place*, you may condemn those you love to the pit of hell. I love you so much, but I fear the parent who says “My child is old enough to make his choice”, or the wife who says she loves her husband *but never reads her Bible in his presence*. Israel had to eat the whole Lamb. The Christian must surrender the life fully and – inasmuch as is possible – eat the Whole Christ.

**FOCAL Numbers 9:11 ... they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.**

**With bitter herbs you shall eat it.** Perhaps your family and friends sneer and mock your faith in Christ. So

what? Didn't Jesus say:

**John 15:20 ... The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.**

**“With bitter herbs you shall eat the whole Lamb”**. They mocked Jesus, they will mock you. So what? You are kings and priests unto God. They mocked Jesus, and He sits enthroned in glory. You stand up for Jesus – eat the whole Lamb with bitter herbs – and trust Him. Quit playing the “What if” game and just eat the Whole Lamb. Trust Him implicitly – and you shall be blessed.

Too often the Christian walks through this life *defeated* – my friends, this must not be so! What did Christ say?

**John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

Who is the “thief” who wants to rob you of life? How does he do it?

The thief – Satan – wants to rob you of your abundant life. He wants you huddled up in despair and confusion, weak and frightened, hidden away behind locked doors. Jesus came that **you might have abundant life**, victorious life, joyous life. Eat the Whole Lamb.

Eat Him, surrendered, for your salvation. **Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.** Eat Him, *surrendered daily*, for your strengthening. Read His Word without fail. Pray to Him every single day. He came to be your **Sacrifice for sin**, but He also came to be your **High Priest, your Mediator, your Guide, your Lord.** Eat ye all of it – leave none to the side. Let all that is Christ come into the framework of your life. Let your world view be Christ's. Stop thinking *political correctness* and begin to think *Biblical correctness*. Do what Christ tells you no matter what the consequences. Do not debate His commands. As the old saying goes, **“Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die”**. Let us amend this statement to this: **“Our lives to Him we will not partially give, ours is but to do and live”**.

Eat ye all of Him. He has commanded us to love no matter what. Then love! It may be bitter herbs to love your enemy who wishes you ill, but love anyway. Love in Christ is a force that cannot be defeated. C.H. Spurgeon said:

**“.. We must not say, “I will do this which he bids me, but I will not do that which he bids me.” You are not disciples, but rebels, if you act so. You are not his friends, but his enemies, if you thus pick and choose which of his commands you will obey. How can he be a good soldier who will sometimes obey his captain, but will sometimes disobey? Such discipline as that, or rather, such want of discipline could be tolerated in no host, and it will not be endured in the armies of**

**the living God. No, you must take a whole Christ in all his commands.”**

Finally – and I know this sermon draws long – but I must say:

### **3. We Are To Eat The Lamb In Union With Others**

Look at the text:

**FOCAL** Numbers 9:12 **They shall leave none of it unto the morning,**

Did you notice the **“they”** in the text. The Passover was always received not just by one, but by many within the house. I love to receive Christ and to enjoy His companionship by myself, but I must also receive Him in the presence of the local Church. What did Jesus say?

**Matthew 18:19-20 .. if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. {20} For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

When Israel celebrated the Feast of the Passover, each family celebrated at a *set time TOGETHER*. The same is true of God's local Church. We are to receive Christ together. We are to work together for Christ in all that we do. The doors of God's Church are now open. Will you come? Will you surrender to Christ and become a part of this beautiful band of believers?

The choice is yours. The Bible says:

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: {25} Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

We are to **provoke one another unto love and good works**. Christ works in this life through His Body, His Bride, His Church. Will you profess Him and eat of Him? Will you surrender fully unto the Whole Lamb? Will you join with us, working together with us, to change the world through Christ?

Why should I join a local Church?

May God lead you to make the right choice.

