

# The First Passover 2-04-A

**M**oses and Aaron had been sent by God to Pharaoh with the continual request to let God's people, the Israelites, leave Egypt. God was answering the cry of these slaves to take them to the land that had been promised to their forefathers. After many plagues, Pharaoh had hardened his heart each time, refused to let the people go, and refused to ever see Moses again. Moses told the people to gather wealth and goods from their neighbors and explained God's final plague of judgment. At midnight God would go throughout Egypt and the firstborn son of every Egyptian and the firstborn of the cattle would die. The Lord would protect His people if they followed His plan.

God explained to Moses and Aaron, who then taught the people His plan for the Passover. God made that the first month of their new calendar. On the 10th day each father was to take a perfect year-old male lamb for his family and care for it until the 14th day. At twilight every family was to kill its lamb and take some of the blood and put it on the sides and top of the doorframe of the home where they would eat the meal. The lamb was to be roasted with bitter herbs and bread was to be made without yeast. Everyone was to get dressed with sandals on, and be ready to run and eat the meal together. This would always remind them of that night God passed through Egypt and brought judgment. Inside the homes where the blood was found, everyone would be spared.

At midnight wailing was heard throughout Egypt. Just as God had said, from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of every servant, death had come. God's promise was also true for the Israelites who were safe inside their homes after eating the Passover lamb.

Pharaoh ordered Moses and Aaron to leave, along with all the Israelites and what they owned. He pleaded for God's blessing. The Egyptians gave the people anything they asked for to make them leave before all the Egyptians died. Exactly 430 years after God's people came to Egypt they left for the land God had promised. There were about 600,000 men on foot besides women, children, others that followed and flocks and herds.

God brought the Israelites out of Egypt that night, and He reminded the people to always keep the Passover celebration as a reminder of what He had done. The bitter herbs would remind them of the bitter life in slavery they had left behind. The unleavened bread would remind them they had hurried in the night and there had been no time to wait for dough to rise from yeast. God also wanted them to be pure, without the influence of sin, like yeast in the dough. The night of rescue from judgment and death would be celebrated each year until the Lord came to become the final Passover Lamb of God slain for the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the spotless One, would be slain. His blood would pay for all sin and cause God to pass over the judgment deserved by everyone. Miraculously God delivered His people from Egypt, and also miraculous is the promise He made to deliver all believers from final death and judgment.

## Teacher's Notes

- I. **The final request.**
  - A. The plague explained.
  - B. The people prepared.
- II. **The celebration plan.**
  - A. The preparations made.
  - B. The meal inside.
- III. **The fateful night.**
  - A. The midnight hour.
  - B. God's Word was done.
- IV. **The exodus.**
  - A. Pharaoh's order and neighbors' gifts.
  - B. The journey began.

## Activity

This activity will help students see the symbolic ties between the Passover event and the death of Christ. Draw a line to divide a paper into two sides. On the left draw a doorframe or glue sticks to create a doorframe. Paint red on the top and sides to represent the lamb's blood. On the right make a cross and paint red on top and sides for Christ's blood. Then write the caption, "Jesus, the final Passover Lamb."

## Teacher Growth

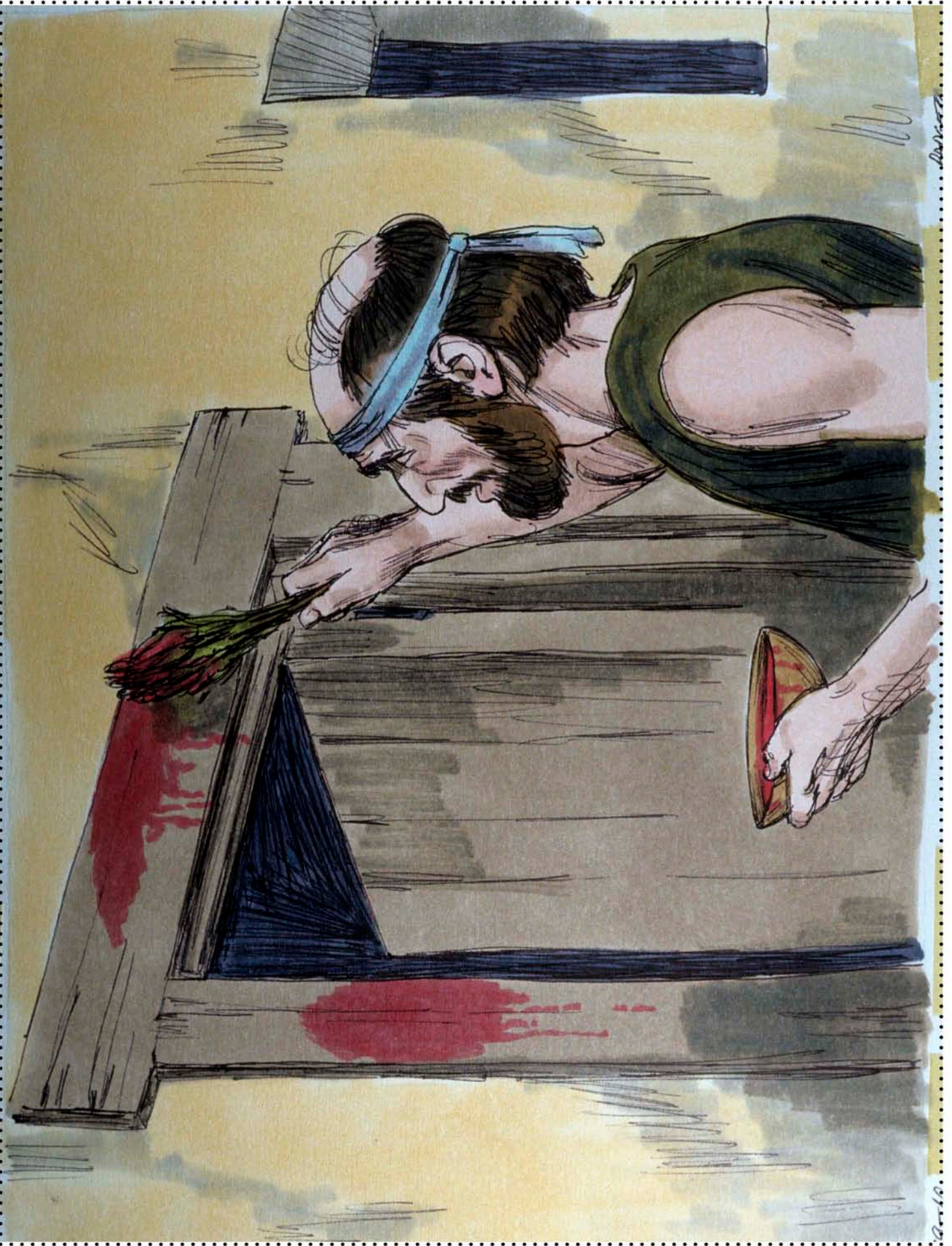
Today's lesson has great symbolic significance behind the actual events of the story. Most of the Old Testament is written as a shadow or preview of what God will do in the New Testament or future. You will need to understand the ties from the Old to New Testaments and work to make these concepts known to your students.

## Scripture Passages:

Exodus 11:1 – 12:51

## Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 5:7 – "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."



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