

## The Blood of the Lamb

Abraham is known for his amazing faith in God. God gives him a certain promise and then seemingly seems to break the promise by asking Abraham to sacrifice his young son, Isaac. In the very act of spilling the blood of his firstborn to death, God stays Abraham's knife-held hand, and directs him to spill the blood of a young ram caught near-by in a thorn bush. The purpose of sheep in this developing nation will now continue through the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and his son Jacob until after 430 years of slavery in Egypt, the sheep herd of the Israelite people will grow to over 2.4 million sheep and lambs. Every clan or household has a lamb to fulfill the very first Passover night and final release from Egyptian bondage. On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, the year old male lambs, without defect, were killed and the blood of these lambs painted on the sides and tops of the doorframes of 600,000 homes to insure protection from the angel of death sent to kill every firstborn in the land (Exodus 12).

Now, Moses, with the same faith of father Abraham, leads this same nation by keeping the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel (Heb 11.28). By faith, he regards disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward (Heb 11.26). For 40 years in the desert, Moses has the nation remember annually the Passover thru the blood of the lambs on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan. God has sustained Israel in the desert with manna and water for life and through this provision the enormous sheep herd produces lambs every year in keeping with the Passover instructions for all 2.4 million people. Bread, Water, and Blood have been the life of this nation.

Jesus, the bread of life, the water of life, is slain on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan in 33 AD. Blood and water flow when his side is pierced, the Parable once spoken now becomes reality. The blood of the perfect man, without sin or guilt, with a faith greater than Abraham or Moses, runs crimson red down a rugged cross and on to the rocks of Golgotha's hill. Since that day, disciples have lived as strangers here in reverent fear. For everyone needs to know that redemption and entry to the kingdom has been offered "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without

blemish or defect” (1 Pet 1.17-21). One Lamb and the blood of that Lamb is now sufficient for the entire human race, “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Cor 5.7) Bread, Water, and Blood remain to be the source of life and life eternal. “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen” (Rev 1.5-6).