

## THE SIN QUESTION AND THE BIBLE'S REMEDY

When I see the blood I will pass over you. Exodus 12:13 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Eph. 1:7

Sin is a universal disease. It has so completely swept across this earth until no living creature has escaped its withering blight. One of the famous utterances of God's word is, All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. The universality of death attests the universality of sin. Death immediate and eternal is the finished product of sin. All other disease, sorrow, heartache, loss, waste, unhappiness, is the product of sin. With death as a finished result. The human race has been the prime object of sin's devastation. A trail of blood, carnage, waste and woe testifies to the relentless encroachment of sin upon men and women for nearly 6000 years. Its stain has been so deep, its wound so incurable that nothing less than divine intervention by the Holy Trinity could lift the curse from a lost and a dying world.

Three outstanding episodes in the history of God's revelation mark the three steps of progress on the part of God, in settling the sin question for time and eternity. The first hopeful daybreak that ever shed its light on a dark, sin-cursed world is recorded in Genesis 3:15. There God came upon the battle-field where man lay wounded and dying. Satan had won the victory--the man and the woman had been vanquished. They had made the fatal mistake; they had created an uncrossable gulf between God and themselves. But in the midst of that hopeless situation. God slew a lamb and became the first prophet of holy writ. He said to the woman, "Thou shalt bear a son that will bruise the serpents head." This was the first prophecy of the coming of Messiah.

The second great episode that marked the march of God thru time on the way to Calvary occurred one dark night in Egypt. It was a time

when the chosen people were crushed beneath the weight of a cruel bondage. All hope was about gone that they would ever be saved. Nine plagues had swept Egypt like a scourge nine times had Pharaoh refused to let the people go. It was indeed a dark hour for the promised seed, but in that moment of despair God said, "Slay a lamb and put the blood on the door and when I see the blood, I will pass over you." That

night two million Israelites crouched behind the door that had been stained with the blood of the lamb; that night when the death angel passed through the land and the first-born in every Egyptian home lay cold in death, two million Israelites were safe behind the blood on the door.

There was only one condition in all that land that meant the difference between life and death--that was the blood on the door. There was no other substitute to be offered. The death angel was instructed to look only for one thing--the blood on the door. There was only one element under heaven that guaranteed protection that night--the blood on the door. Death ran riot that night it stalked the highways, it rode every breeze, it shivered down every alley, it knocked on every door. It swept thru the door of every mansion, it crept into the hovel of every beggar. Only one thing guided the hand of death that night--the blood of the slain Lamb sprinkled on the door. For God had said, when I see the blood, I will pass over you. When the wail of woe had rung the heart of every Egyptian until the hearts of stone had been melted to tears, when the wreath of mourning had been hung on ten thousand doors and when the shadows of the night lay dark over the land of Goshen, God moved through the camp of Israel and called them out of bondage; that night two million Israelites marched out from beneath a golden arch of blood untouched by the angel of death. The blood had made the difference. This passover lamb pointed forward to that day when God would make his final death stroke

at sin. Four thousand years had passed. Every remedy possible had been offered to stem the tide of the on rushing floods of sin, but every remedy had failed. Once again the world was like a doomed man on the way to a scaffold. Then was brought to passthat famous saying of Abraham, "God will provide himself a lamb." The passover Lamb was now only an empty ritual of the distant past, but into that world of failing hopes and shattered dreams the Messiah came. Not as some tho't he would come to rule on David's throne, not from the royal lineage of Herod, but from the line of David and from the tribe of Judah he came and instead of going to a throne, he went to a cross. And out there on that cross, he became the passover lamb that took away the sins of the world. Not as the pass-over lamb in Egypt whose sacrifice needed to be repeated once a year, but once and for all he offered himself without spot to God, thereby reconciling the world to God., Hence, there remaineth no more sacrifice forsin.

Multiplied thousands of lambs died on Jewish altars, but on that dark Friday when the lamb of God died on Calvery, He paid the debt in full. All sin was atoned for. The sin question was settled, and now, almost two thousand years from that day the world stands again at the cross roads of a new era. Men stand amazed in a Spinglerian gloom on the road at midnight; listening for a voice that is never heard, looking for a light thats never seen. Just as it was midnight in Egypt long ago when death like a spectre of the night touched the brow of every first-born child with his cold fingers, so death again is riding high across our land. Sin has reached a reckless abandon, unheard of before in human history. Pagan Rome and lustfull Greece have never known the day when their morals were lower than in our own day. Human life is cheap, the world is reeking with midnight crime, there's an unbridled passion

that is inflamed. The reckless uncontrollable unholy desires of a perverted generation is running the gauntlet of degraded ambition. There is no human power organized or otherwise that can check this world or change its course as it goes downward to hell. Education, culture, discipline, reformation, can never change it. There is only one power known to God or men that can save this world from certain destruction-- that's the shed blood of Jesus Christ. "Tho your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; tho they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day, And there may I though vile as he wash all my sins away.