

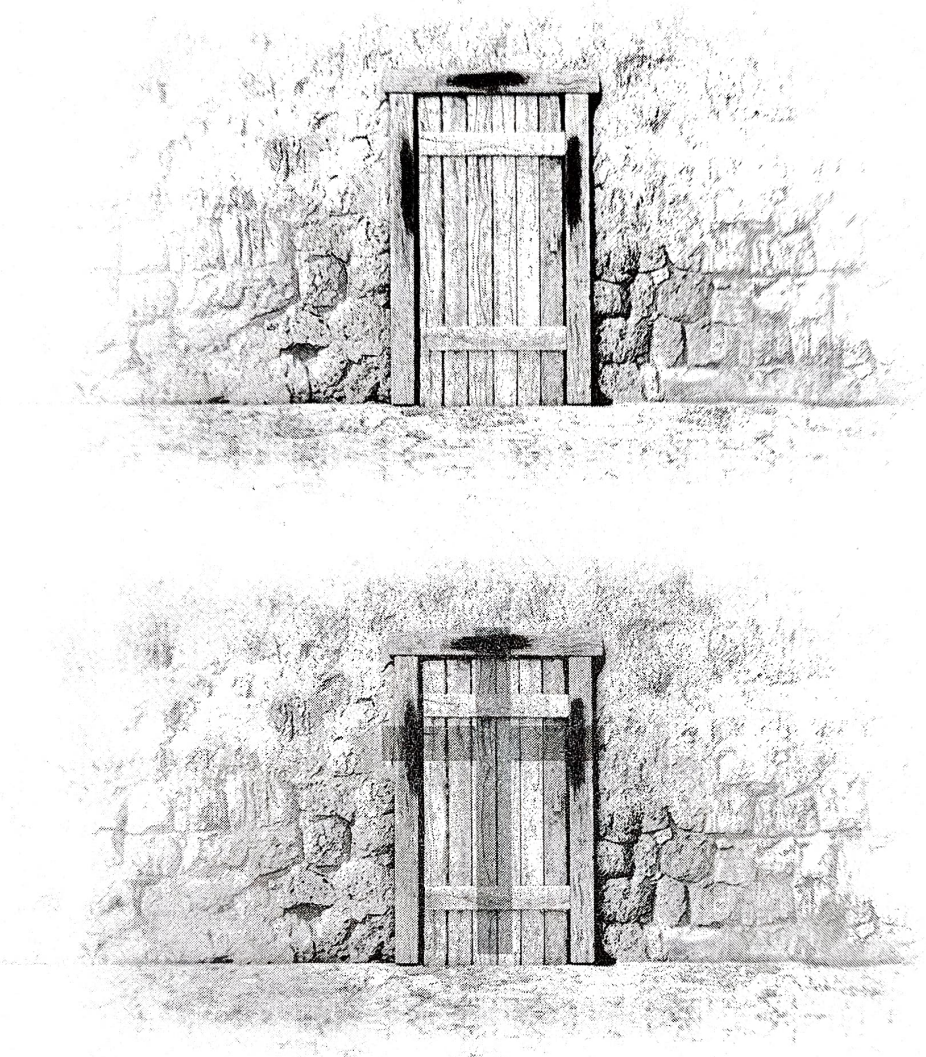
DAY 17

SHADOW VERSUS SUBSTANCE

“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. . . . 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.”

—Exodus 12:5, 7

During the Passover meal I celebrated with the Messianic family in Israel, the elders told the children about how the Lord had instructed the Israelites to select a lamb without blemish for each household. The *body* of the lamb was to be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, while its *blood* was to be applied on the lintel and two doorposts of their houses (Ex. 12:22). Can you see in the picture on the following page how applying the blood as instructed would have formed a picture of the cross?



*Applying the lamb's blood on the lintel and two doorposts (top illustration)
would have formed a picture of the cross (bottom illustration).*

The elders narrated how the angel of death went throughout Egypt at midnight, and the cries from their Egyptian oppressors were heard throughout the land as every firstborn son—even the mighty Pharaoh's—was struck dead.

The children heard how, while this happened, their ancestors huddled together in their homes. Some were excited and expectant, knowing this was the night they would finally be freed from years of crushing slavery, while others were terrified the destroyer would also strike their homes.

But whatever their state of mind was, death *passed over* their houses as long as the blood of the lamb was on their doorposts and lintels. On that same night, Pharaoh finally let go of his stubborn grip on the children of Israel, and they began their exodus from the land of Egypt. They were free.

Every year, Jews around the world continue to reenact how the Lord rescued them so powerfully during the night of the first Passover by partaking of a carefully prepared meal and observing certain traditions. But you know what? The Passover was only a *picture* of what our Lord Jesus was going to accomplish at the cross when He delivered mankind from slavery to a greater pharaoh—Satan himself! Today we have the true Lamb of God, who has already shed His blood for us. We can confidently expect His deliverance from any bondage and oppression the enemy attempts to put us under, including sickness and disease!

TODAY'S THOUGHT

What the children of Israel had was just the shadow. What we have under the new covenant inaugurated by His shed blood is the *substance*. It was not by coincidence our Lord Jesus instituted the holy Communion on the same night He celebrated the Passover (Matt. 26:17–29; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–20). The apostle Paul referred to Him as “Christ, our Passover Lamb” (1 Cor. 5:7 NLT) because His sacrifice on the cross was the fulfillment and fullness of the Passover the children of Israel had been celebrating for generations.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me that the shed blood and body of the lamb without blemish in the Passover meal is but

a shadow of what You accomplished at the cross to deliver me from slavery to sin and Satan himself. Thank You for becoming the true Lamb of God for me and setting me free from all sin, bondage, and sickness. Amen.