

Exodus 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Analysis

The blood serves as an 'oth' (וָיָהּ)—a sign or token—but critically, it's a sign 'to you,' not primarily to God. While God sees it ('when I see the blood'), its function is to assure believers they are protected. The Hebrew 'pasachti' (פָּסַחְתִּי) means 'I will pass over, skip over, spare.' The 'plague to destroy' (negef l'mashchit) would not touch blood-marked homes. This establishes the substitutionary principle: judgment satisfied by blood.

Historical Context

This night marked the culmination of ten plagues that demonstrated YHWH's supremacy over Egypt and its gods. The blood sign distinguished believing Israelites from unbelieving Egyptians.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's blood serve as your assurance of protection from divine judgment?
2. What does it mean that the blood is a sign 'to you' rather than primarily informing God of something He doesn't know?

Interlinear Text

וְבָתִים	ע	ל	לֹא	תִּהְיֶה	לְכָמֶן	מִבְּשָׂר	וְבָיִת
H1921		H0			shall be to you for a token	H226	H5921
	And the blood						upon the houses
H1818							H1004
רָאשָׁה	אַתָּה	מִתְּבָנָה	שֶׁ	וְיָהִי	אַתָּה	מִתְּבָנָה	וְבָתִים
H834		H8033		where ye are and when I see	H7200	H853	And the blood
							H1818
וְיָהִי	הַלְאָה	עַלְכָמֶן	בְּכָמֶן	וְיָהִי	בְּכָמֶן	וְיָהִי	וְיָהִי
I will pass	H5921	H3808	H1961	H0	over you and the plague	H5063	
H6452							
לֹא	בְּפִתְחָה	יְהִי	בְּפִתְחָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרָיִם:	בְּאֶרֶץ	
shall not be upon you to destroy		you when I smite	H5221	H776	the land	of Egypt	
H4889							

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:28 (Blood): Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

Exodus 12:23 (Blood): For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

1 John 1:7 (Blood): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Genesis 17:11 (Parallel theme): And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (Parallel theme): And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Joshua 2:12 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

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