

Exodus 12:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The 'LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians' uses the same verb ('avar, עַבְרָה—to pass through/over) with different outcomes. Seeing the blood, 'the LORD will pass over' (pasach) means to skip or spare. The 'destroyer' (hamashchit, הַמְשִׁיחַ) is God's agent of judgment, possibly an angel of death. The blood's protective power demonstrates substitutionary atonement—judgment satisfied, wrath averted.

Historical Context

This night of terror for Egypt became Israel's night of salvation. The visible distinction between blood-marked and unmarked homes demonstrated faith versus unbelief.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's blood similarly cause God's wrath to 'pass over' believers while falling on the unbelieving?
2. What does the destroyer's inability to enter blood-marked homes teach about Satan's powerlessness over those in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲבֹר	רַ	וְיַהְיָה	לְנִגְעָפָן	אֶת	מִצְרָיִם	וְיָצָא	הָ
will pass through		For the LORD	to smite	H853	the Egyptians	and when he seeth	
H5674		H3068	H5062		H4714		H7200
אֶת	עַל	פֶּדֶם	וְעַל	פֶּמֶשׁ	וְעַל	שְׁתִּים	פָּמָזָן
H853		H5921		H4947		H5921	
the blood	upon the lintel				and on the two	side posts	
H1818					H8147		H4201
וְיַעֲפֹס	חַ	וְיַהְיָה	עַל	פֶּתֶח	וְלֹא	יְתִיר	
will pass over		For the LORD	H5921	the door	H3808	and will not suffer	
H6452		H3068		H6607		H5414	
לְבַתִּים	מִן	בְּתִים	לְבַתִּים	לְנִגְעָפָן			
the destroyer	to come	H413	in unto your houses	to smite			
H7843			H1004	H5062			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 7:3 (Parallel theme): Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Revelation 9:4 (Parallel theme): And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

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

1 Corinthians 10:10 (Parallel theme): Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Ezekiel 9:6 (Parallel theme): Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

Isaiah 37:36 (References Lord): Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

2 Samuel 24:16 (References Lord): And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

Hebrews 12:24 (Blood): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Ezekiel 9:4 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.