

Exodus 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Analysis

The lamb must be 'tamiym' (טָמִיִּם)—without blemish, perfect, complete. This requirement establishes the principle of substitutionary perfection: the sacrifice must be flawless to bear the penalty for the flawed. Peter explicitly connects this to Christ: 'a lamb without blemish and without spot' (1 Peter 1:19). The 'male of the first year' indicates prime vitality.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sacrificial systems required unblemished animals, but Israel's Passover lamb uniquely combined domestic intimacy (selected four days early) with sacrificial perfection.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's sinless perfection qualify Him as your substitute when your own righteousness falls short?

2. What does the specification of a young, vigorous lamb teach about the cost of redemption?

Interlinear Text

שֶׁ ה	תָּמִּיּוֹם	זָכָר	בֶּן	שָׁנָה	יְהוָה ה	לְךָ מ
Your lamb	shall be without blemish	a male	of the first	year	H1961	H0
H7716	H8549	H2145	H1121	H8141		
מִן	הַכֶּבֶשׂ הַיּוֹם	וּמִן	הָעִזִּי הַיּוֹם	תִּקְחוּ:		
H4480	it out from the sheep	H4480	or from the goats	ye shall take		
	H3532		H5795	H3947		

Additional Cross-References

Malachi 1:14 (Parallel theme): But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

Deuteronomy 17:1 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Hebrews 7:26 (Parallel theme): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Leviticus 1:10 (Parallel theme): And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish.

Leviticus 23:12 (Parallel theme): And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

Leviticus 1:3 (Parallel theme): If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

