

Hebrews 11:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

Analysis

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. Moses instituted the Passover by faith, trusting that sprinkled blood would protect Israelite firstborn from the destroying angel (Exodus 12). This inaugural Passover established the pattern for Israel's most significant feast, commemorating deliverance from Egypt through substitutionary sacrifice. The lamb's blood marked households for salvation; the destroyer passed over those sheltered by blood.

The 'sprinkling of blood' (proschysin tou haimatos, πρόσχυσιν τοῦ αἵματος) prefigures Christ's superior sacrifice. The Passover lamb's blood saved from physical death; Christ's blood saves from eternal death. Peter writes that believers are elect 'unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 1:2). The author of Hebrews later contrasts ceremonial sprinkling with 'the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel' (Hebrews 12:24).

This verse demonstrates faith's obedience to God's prescribed means of salvation. Moses didn't devise his own plan but obeyed God's specific instructions. Similarly, salvation comes only through God's appointed means—faith in Christ's blood, not human merit or alternative paths. The Passover teaches that divine wrath against sin is real ('the destroyer'), but God provides substitutionary atonement through shed blood. Faith trusts God's provision rather than seeking self-salvation.

Historical Context

The Passover occurred on Israel's final night in Egypt (approximately 1446 BC), after nine plagues had failed to move Pharaoh's heart. God commanded each household to slaughter an unblemished lamb, apply its blood to doorposts and lintel, and remain inside until morning. That night, the destroying angel killed every Egyptian firstborn but passed over houses marked by blood. This dramatic deliverance became Israel's foundational redemption narrative, celebrated annually in Passover feast. Christ's crucifixion during Passover week fulfills the typology—He is 'our passover sacrificed for us' (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Passover's substitutionary sacrifice deepen your appreciation for Christ's atonement?
2. What does Moses' obedience to God's specific salvation method teach about the exclusivity of salvation through Christ alone?
3. In what ways should you respond to being sheltered by Christ's blood as Israelites responded to lamb's blood?

Interlinear Text

Πίστει	πεποίηκεν	τὸ	πάσχα	καὶ	τὴν	πρόσχυσιν	
Through faith	he kept	G3588	the passover	and	G3588	the sprinkling	
G4102	G4160		G3957	G2532		G4378	
τοῦ	αἵματος	ἵνα	μὴ	ὁ	ὄλοθρεύων	τὰ	πρωτότοκα
G3588	of blood	G2443	G3361	G3588	he that destroyed	G3588	the firstborn
	G129				G3645		G4416
θείῃ	αὐτῶν						
should touch	them						
G2345	G846						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:19 (Blood): For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

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.

1 Peter 1:2 (Blood): Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.