

**Editorial Viewpoint**  
**By Brother Peter Benyola**

“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. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD ... Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish or any evil favoredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.” *Leviticus 1:3-5, Deuteronomy 17:1*

The Passover commemorates when the Spirit of God swept into Egypt to seize the souls of the firstborn in the land but passed over the homes of the Children of Israel, whose doorposts were smeared with the blood of lambs. It became an annual honor of God’s miracle. Later when the temple was used to make sacrifices before God, Jerusalem was a very busy destination for hundreds of thousands of worshippers who were there to buy lambs for Passover. In the days leading up to the holy day, lambs were brought to the city so that the Levite priests could examine them for disease or defects, according to the guidelines in the book of Leviticus. The Levites sorted the spotless lambs from the unsuitable ones so that God’s commandments could be honored. In dealing with each family patriarch and to meet the needs of each person in his family, the priest would survey the flock. When he spotted the one he needed, he would point and declare, “Behold the lamb!”

How did they find lambs that could be sacrificed and accepted instead of rejected by God? There were different laws for each kind of sin. As stated in the Scripture, the animal had to be a male without blemish. It could not be old and weak or sick. This animal had to be the type that could win the Blue Ribbon at the State Fair. Also, of his own volition, the sinner had to recognize that he needed his sin covered. Then, the sinner laid his own hand on the head of the animal, as a tactile sign between him and God, with the priest as a witness, that the sinner understood he was transferring his sin onto the head of the innocent creature. After the transference, the sinner *himself* had to kill the animal in his place. You and I may never have literally done this procedure ourselves, but with Christ-converted hearts, we should definitely see something very familiar in this scenario. The LORD was preparing His people for the time when He would send His own spotless lamb. In the fullness of time, a Levite named John emerged from the wilderness to proclaim “Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world!” The harbinger of Christ pointed out not only a suitable sacrifice for a single man’s family, but for all of mankind.

Isn’t it ironic that the One who was called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the king of the beasts, ferocious and authoritative, became the lowliest of creatures: a lamb, Who stepped up to the altar willingly, without struggling—without even making a sound? Jesus Christ Himself condescended to this world, as the Book of Mormon says, to be judged and slain by *His own creation*. He willingly poured out His own life’s blood as a pure, redemptive stream to not only cover, but wash away the sins of all those who would personally and publicly acknowledge before God their sin and need for a Savior and repent. He did it for all those who would simply point and say, “Behold the Lamb of God!” and accept that sacrifice as sufficient to take away their sins.

A Lamb that was so perfect and flawless, the very best that God could find, has been chosen for us—He sent Himself to the cross. As Israel smeared the blood of the Passover lamb over the doors to their houses and passed from literal bondage to physical redemption, God has spiritually placed the blood of Jesus, the Messiah, on the entranceway of our hearts. By His grace alone, He has provided a means by which we can be saved—we have only to stay in the house all night. How beautiful is that Song of Zion, “Blessed are they who the blood have applied, passing the death angel over. Pass from the emptiness, pass from the pain. Pass from the *dying to LIVING again!* Oh, how precious the blood of the lamb on the door, waving the death angel o’er.”

During this time of year when many Christians recognize the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is so sweet to think back to the day we pointed to the one and true Redeemer and accepted that this Lamb is worthy to reign *our* lives. The death angel has bypassed us. He has no claim on us thanks to the Sacrifice to end

sacrifices. We have passed from the bondage of sin and death to the liberty of salvation and eternal life in Christ Jesus, the only one with both the courage and humility to spill His own blood for our sakes. What love.