

## Who's Brand Are You Wearing?

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Greetings to you in Jesus' name. I want to open the bible to Exodus 12. In several places it references about what I want to talk about this morning. In Some places it's called a token, in some places it is called a mark, in some places it is called a seal, but just to put it into a question to think about: Who's brand do you wear? We could take that several different directions, and we may, Lord willing, but I just want you to think about that.

*Exodus 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 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. ... 21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. 22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. 23 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.*

Does everyone understand what is happening here? God had been plaguing Pharaoh because he was holding God's people in captivity; they were slaves and he wouldn't let them go. God did all kinds of things to Egypt to destroy the land or to punish them so that Pharaoh would let God's people go. But he refused to do it ... he "hardened his heart" the Bible says, and would not let them go. Finally, this final plague that God brought upon Pharaoh - He told him that the death angel or destroyer was going to pass over the land and would kill the first born in everyone's house. The bible tells us there were no homes that wouldn't be affected by this plague in Egypt. God gave a remedy: whoever had the lambs blood marked on the front porch of his home, over the door and down two side posts; when the Lord went through and saw those marks on that house, He'd go right on past that door. But anyone who didn't have those marks, He was going to enter that home and the first born of that house would die that night.

If you were living in that time and the Lord gave you that message, what do you think you would do? I would hope that we would hear the Lord and sacrifice a lamb, eat it for supper, and then take the blood from that lamb and put it on our doorposts. *Marking ourselves as being on the Lord's side.* What do you think would happen if the Lord didn't pass through that night and the next morning the Egyptians came through and saw the blood on their doors but no one died? The Egyptians would know who was loyal to the Lord and who weren't. I imagine there would have been some trouble for those who had the Lord's mark on them because they were already blaming the Lord's people for the plagues God sent them. The Lord gave the blood as a token so He could tell who was His and who wasn't.

Who's brand do you have on you? Who's brand do you wear? Who's mark do you have? We have two choices - we either have the Lord's mark on us or the world's mark on us.

*Ezekiel 9:1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. 2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar. 3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; 4 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. 5 And to the others he said in*

*mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: 6 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. 7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.*

Here again, in Ezekiel, God told these destroyers, these men with weapons, to destroy the city and the people in the city. But before He did told them that he sent a man into the city with an ink horn, with a marker. He said, 'Find those men who are crying and sighing for the wickedness that is going on in the city and for the abominations that are committed. Look out and find my people, and mark them. And after you have finished marking them, the destroyers are going to go through. And whoever doesn't have a mark on their head showing they are on the Lord's side and wearing the Lord's brand, slay them. Young and old, men and women - every one of them. How did they know who to kill? It's real simple. Anyone who didn't have a mark on their head. How did the Lord know who to kill when He went through Egypt? Anybody who didn't have blood over their door and on the side posts; anybody who didn't live in a house that was marked.

*Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

Then it goes on to explain about those who are sealed at this time. God held His judgment back until those who would be sealed were sealed. I don't understand every thing here but that isn't the point I am trying to bring out. The point is, from the beginning of the bible until the end, God marks His people. The Lord's people and the world's people are all marked. God's people are marked ... sealed ... branded. We have cattle and brand them, or put ear tags on them, or we mark them some way or another so we know who the cattle belong to. We do that with sheep and pigs too - they have different markings or tags - different things to describe who's mark they have on them, and that tells who owns them. It goes that way in everything.

*Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 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. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.*

These beasts, these scorpions that are described here are sent as a plague to torment men for five months. To sting them like scorpions. I've never been stung by a scorpion but I've heard of people that have, and it is a painful thing. So painful that, according to this, men will wish to die to escape them but they won't be able to die because death was taken away from them. Only those people who had God's mark on them survived and were not tormented.

We look later and see those who have the mark of the beast, and we read about this mark of the beast - I won't try to describe what it is, but many people are waiting for the Devil to come around and tell them to take his stamp or he'll kill them. I think many are already wearing the mark of the beast, thinking they're Christians, and don't know it. They already have the devil's mark or stamp on them. Those who have this mark will be saving their lives on this earth (for a while) because they have the devil's mark; things will go better for them for a little while on earth because they have the Devil's mark. It says that there will come a time where those without the devil's mark won't be able to buy or sell or eat or do anything. Those who don't have this mark will be tormented, and might even lose their head for not taking this mark; the world's mark, the devil's mark on them. But when the Lord comes and His judgment comes, the role will be reversed; those with His mark will be spared the judgment, while those who are marked with the Devil's mark will be facing the judgment. It only depends on who is reigning at the time and who's mark or brand we are wearing whenever the Lord returns.

Does this mean we make up a little stamp and stamp our heads and say we belong to the Lord? What does all this mean? The Lord knows those that are His. The Lord says, "My sheep know my voice." He says that, "It's not him who saith I know Him but he who does the will of the Father." All these areas talked about show a clear distinction between God's people and the world's people.

Some places it was marked with ink, some places it was marked with blood, a mark in the forehead or hand, but they were marked and people knew who they were.

In 1 Corinthians 11:10 it talks about the woman's covering:

*1 Corinthians 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.*

People can make all kinds of excuses for not wearing the covering - it doesn't fit with society, it doesn't go along with what the world accepts, etc. - but isn't it a mark that establishes us as being on God's side? Doesn't it distinguish us? I always wondered what it meant in verse 10 "*because of the angels*". Someone preached on this and recorded it on tape and brought this point out (because of the angels) and said it was because the angels couldn't see what was in man's heart, but they could see whether someone would obey or not. God looks on the heart. There are people who could be obeying here and still have a bad heart. When the death angel passed through in Egypt, there might have been someone in there with a bad heart. In fact later it was proven that there were men of unbelief who were delivered out of Egypt and wound up dying in the desert because of their unbelief. But because of their obedience, they were spared the judgment of the death angel. That doesn't mean complete deliverance, but it spared that judgment and it should have been a lesson to them to trust in the Lord, but we find it wasn't.

We have God's mark or we have the Devil's mark on us. Sometimes that mark makes us very distinct and sets us out/apart. Whether people understand it or not, the angels do. The devils can see who's mark we wear. That's one thing I really appreciate about going to some of the places we go to preach. It's a blessing to be able to have a sign or at least a big bible - when you get on an air plane or go somewhere and you take your bible out, you mark yourself. Wherever I go, I like for people to know who's side I am on. I like for people to know that I am on the Lord's side and not on the world's. I like the ability to make that distinction known. The Lord gives us those distinctions. Who's brand do we wear?

I was down at the tire shop the other day and they offered me one of their hats that had their name embroidered all across the front of it. I looked at the hat and asked them, "Well do you think I could take all of this lettering off?" I don't really like making myself an advertisement for people - I'm not for sale. They laughed at me and said, "We paid money to get those things put on there to advertise for us! No, you can't have that hat if you are going to take the name off! Give me my hat back!" I went in there a few days later and they said, "Well, we opened up another box, and you'll never believe it. There was a hat on there that didn't have anything on it!" And they gave it to me. I don't like to wear the world's brands. That's what I appreciate about being called 'plain people' - that distinguishes us. We don't need to wear the world's brands. I'm not saying that just wearing a brand is the mark of the devil or mark of the beast or anything like that, but I'm saying I'm not for sale. Many times, if I get a brand name of something, I take the thing (tag/brand) off. I want the Lord's brand, and I want it to be clear.

*Acts 19:13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the LORD Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.*

I've always been blessed by this. What does that mean? There was a man who had an evil spirit. There were seven men, that were Jews, going around being exorcists, going around delivering people from evil spirits. They went to this man and they adjured this man possessed by a devil and said in the name of Jesus, this Jesus who Paul preaches; leave this man alone!

*15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

Seven men came upon one man, tried to cast the devil out of him, and those seven men got threw out of that house naked and wounded! But what I want to bring to your attention is that the evil spirit answered and said, "*Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?*" This is the enemy speaking!! "I know who Jesus is and I know who Paul is, but who are you?" Does the enemy know who you are? Does the enemy see who's mark you wear? He didn't know his own; the Devil doesn't care about his own. He didn't even know his own, "Who are you?" But he knew Paul. He knew Jesus. He knew who his enemies were because they were marked. The devil knows those who are marked with God's seal. Does the devil know who you are, or are you just one of multitudes he can look at and ask, "Who you are?" Then he just whips them good and sends them away like a whipped pup skedaddling out of there. They feared Jesus, they feared Paul; they fear those with the Lord's mark on them. They try to kill them and punish them - they are the enemy and they know who they are.

Often we are reprov'd, scolded, laughed at &/or mocked for standing against what is wrong. Maybe nobody will ever change, they may never even notice or care, but I want to be marked as one who stood against wrong whether anyone else in this world cares or not. As the saying goes, 'If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.' This world has fallen for anything and I want to

stand against what I know to be wrong.

The boys in Peru went the other night, and took a few sisters with them, to preach at a rock concert that someone has tagged Christianity with – they tried to put Christianity's mark on a rock concert and tried to call it Christian music. It was just pure wickedness, but they were trying to mix Jesus with it. There was about twenty people that came out to defend it; the boys got pretty upset about how the people could defend it. Two ladies thought it wasn't loving the way the boys responded. A hundred years ago the world would have thought it to be wicked but now a Christian isn't allowed to be against it without being reprov'd. Why? Because someone didn't stand a long time ago. Because someone wasn't willing to be marked as standing against wrong.

Thomas Jefferson said something once and people use it to get people to vote: [paraphrasing here] The only thing evil needs to triumph is for good men to do nothing. If you want evil to triumph, the only thing that has to happen is for good men to do nothing. For evil to triumph, for the world to get wickeder and wickeder, and further and further from God, men who supposedly call themselves Christians just need to sit back and do nothing. It will probably get worse anyway, but I want the Lord, and the angels, and the devil to know who's side I am on ... whether the world recognizes it or not. Who's brand are we wearing?

When we see evil, it should be a call to arms. Paul in Acts 17 saw the city wholly given to idolatry and it stirred him in his spirit – it stirred him to action. He might have even got mad; that's kind of what I think happened. Who's side do you want to be on? I guarantee you when the things in Revelation start happening and the angels start pouring out the judgment, this world's pleasure (or displeasure) isn't going to matter to us too much, but the angels will know who they are going to pour out wrath on because the others have been clearly marked ... the brands will be showing. You can claim, "God knows my heart" all you want, but those who are carrying out judgment and carrying out the punishment are looking for brands. They are looking for seals, marks, signs of who is on the Lord's side, and they won't have a problem determining who is who. Once in history there was a few Christians who fled into a city to hide and the Catholic armies surrounded the city. One of the generals or commanders came up and asked the one in charge, "How will we know who is with us and who is with them?" The other responded, "Kill them all - the Lord would sort who is who."

The Lord knows those that are His. The devil knows who belongs to the Lord too. May God help us not to be ashamed of clearly being on one side, clearly being marked for the Lord. Clearly being willing to stand against wrong and stand up for right ... because it will mark you. When the Lord returns, the bible says God will send angels to sort out the just from the wicked. The point we brought out earlier is that angels can't read your heart but they can see obedience. They know whose side we are on - not because of a false pretenses we have about ourselves, but because we are clearly marked because of the way we act, the way we live and the things we do. 'Jesus I know, Paul I know but who are you?' Are you just one of the Devil's nobodies, or are you on his top 10 list? Does he say about you, "I know who he is?" He knows his enemies. May the Lord help us be one of the Devil's enemies.