

## 12

### the law, the teacher - exodus 12v3

let us delve deeply into the physical, spiritual, and hidden dimensions of exodus 12:3, drawing from the well of the tanakh. this verse initiates the divine instructions for the pesach (passover), establishing the personal appropriation of the lamb.

the verse states: "speak to all the congregation of yashar'el, saying, 'on the tenth of this month they are each to take a lamb for themselves, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a household.'"

this command establishes the principle of individual and household-based redemption through a designated sacrifice.

### the physical meaning: the covenant responsibility

on a physical level, this verse commands a specific, personal action that initiates a household's participation in yhvh's covenant of protection.

1. **"on the tenth of this month..."**: this begins a four-day period where the lamb lives with the family. this is not about inspecting for

"flawlessness" for a substitution, but about **identification**. the family lives with the animal, making it a part of their household unit.

2. **"they are each to take a lamb for themselves..."**: the verb "take" (laqach) is an act of will and commitment. by taking the lamb, the head of the household is **taking responsibility** to obey yhvh's specific command. he is committing his household to the covenant process.
3. **"a lamb for a household."**: the lamb is the central element of the sacred meal that yhvh commands. its life (blood) and body (flesh) are essential to the ritual. the one lamb signifies the **unity of the household** in this act of obedience. they will all partake of the same meal, under the same sign of blood.

in essence, the physical meaning establishes that redemption from the plague requires active, obedient participation in yhvh's prescribed covenant meal. the lamb is not a substitute; it is the **divinely appointed means** by which a household demonstrates its faith and obedience, separating itself from the egyptians and aligning itself with yhvh's instructions.

### **the spiritual meaning: the life of obedience**

spiritually, this command teaches that deliverance comes through aligning our life with yhvh's derek (way).

1. **identification, not inspection:** living with the lamb for four days signifies a period of preparation and commitment. we are to identify so deeply with yhvh's way of life that it becomes part of our household.
2. **the act of "taking":** this is the essence of emunah (faithfulness); to hear yhvh's command and to act upon it. it is a public declaration: "my house will serve yhvh. we will follow his instructions."
3. **the unified household:** the one lamb for one house represents the complete unity required in serving yhvh. there cannot be division; the entire household must be committed to the same path of obedience.

in summary, the spiritual meaning is that salvation is not a passive transaction but an active entering into a covenant of obedience. we are saved by aligning our entire household's life with yhvh's prescribed path.

### **the hidden meaning (a tanakh-based view): the sign of the chosen vessel**

looking deeper, the lamb represents the nefesh (life) of the household being dedicated to yhvh's service.

1. **the lamb as the nefesh (life):** the lamb's blood is a sign because blood is the nefesh (flesh) (devarim (deut) 12:23). by placing the blood on the doorpost, the household is not applying a "substitute's death," but is marking themselves with **the sign of their own**

**dedicated life.** they are saying, "this house is a vessel for yhvh's chayim (life). our life-force is committed to his covenant."

2. **the tenth to the fourteenth:** this period represents the process of tikkun (rectification). the household is preparing itself, making itself a fit vessel to receive and act upon yhvh's command.
3. **one lamb, one house:** this signifies that the rectified nefesh (flesh) becomes a unified vessel for the divine will. the fragmented self (the individual egos of the family) is unified into a single purpose: to serve yhvh and follow him out of the mitzrayim (narrow places) of the ego.

therefore, the hidden meaning of exodus 12:3 is that the pesach lamb is the symbol of the household's own nefesh (flesh) being willingly dedicated to yhvh. the blood on the doorpost is not the payment of a debt, but the **covenant sign of a life so committed to yhvh's derek that it is visibly set apart from the world (egypt).** the destroyer passes over not because a debt was paid, but because the house is marked as yhvh's own possession, a vessel that has chosen his life over the death of the world.

this aligns perfectly with the messiah. he was the perfect human who fully embodied this principle. his life (`dam'/blood) was perfectly dedicated to the father's will. he is the ultimate "doorpost" upon which the sign of a fully obedient life was displayed. we are

saved by **his life** of perfect obedience (romans 5:10), which we align ourselves with by faith, not by a substitutionary death that pays a debt. his death was the ultimate consequence of a world in rebellion against that perfect life, and his resurrection was the vindication of it.