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NEW YEAR

OF

FREEDOM

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"And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 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: ... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 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. 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." (Exodus 12:1-3, 5-7)

As had been prophesied in Genesis 15:13, the Israelites had become slaves to the Egyptians for four hundred years. Those prophesied years of slavery had now been fulfilled. God was preparing to free them. Their slavery was an allegorical representation of fallen man's bondage to the slavery of sin. God was about to free His people

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from their slavery. However, it would take the death of a lamb to deliver God's chosen people. Blood of a Passover Lamb would be applied to the doorway of each Israelite dwelling. God would send His destroying angel to slay the firstborn son of each Egyptian family. God's people, however, would be protected and delivered by the blood of the Lamb marking their household. Each household protected by the blood of the lamb would be passed over by the destroying angel. He would not destroy the occupants of that household. This lamb represented the final Lamb of God. He is God the Son, Jesus Christ, Savior of sinners. Two millennia later, Jesus approached John the Baptist who saw Him coming.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)

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