

sorrow had gone forth until that fearful night when the judgment culminated in *death*—the death of “all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast.” Not a house could be found where there was not one dead in it. The grim messenger had entered even the courts of the king; and the captive in the dungeon was not exempt. A truly dismal heart-rending scene it was and it caused “a great cry in Egypt.” Death in all its terror was there and it was *felt*. And why this swift and terrible visitation? The answer is found only when we learn God’s character and His thought of sin. God is holy, and He cannot have *sin* in His presence; He abhors sin and can but punish it with *death*. “The wages of sin is death.” Egypt had sinned and they were now being made to feel God’s just judgment against sin.

But Israel, too, had sinned, and why were they not smitten down?

Ah! they were *sheltered by blood*. The lamb had been slain, and its blood sprinkled upon the door posts, and on the lintel over the door, and this was proof that *death was already there*: and now, screened by that sheltering blood from God’s wrath and judgment, the destroying angel passes over them and they are safe.

And how is it with the sinner, for God has shown us that *all* are sinners, that the *whole world* is guilty before God! What can the poor, guilty sinner do with the sentence of death hanging over him! He may try to be good, and by his good works to save himself. That is what thousands and tens of thous-