

**Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008**

**Exodus 12:7-13\***

My first choice for decorating the exterior of my home would not be to smear it with blood. So it would be easy to surmise this as a reason for marking the homes with blood—that it would make the Jewish homes distinct from all other dwellings. After all, blood is not something we see recommended by Martha Stewart or in *Southern Living*.

Unfortunately, that does not explain the choice of blood. Its use had much more to do with its sacredness.

Life was in the blood, according to the Jews. To spill blood was a serious matter. Animals had to be ritually drained of their blood before butchering, because it was an offense to eat it. Kill a human, and it was the victim's blood that would cry out from the ground.

To put blood on the doorway was a sign that the family within understood blood's sacredness to God, and had properly and reverentially prepared for the Passover. It was also a sign that the family in the house was sacred to God.

We don't need such markings to show us who is sacred to God today, for all people are. The question is whether we're being obedient enough to recognize that.