

Ladies and brothers, thank you very much for this occasion. All our greetings from Benin. "This is the day that the Lord has made". Even if it seems to be difficult, may it be for us a day of joy and gladness. We are living in a very difficult time throughout the world with the Covid-19. Our country Benin is not an exception. Our government, like other countries, has given us advice about the best way to guard against coronavirus. The Benin government has imposed a ban on all public gatherings like conferences, funerals, festivals, political rallies, church services, Islamic worship. This virus reminds us that, as human beings, we are not masters of our destinies. But fear not, our Lord does not change. May the Lord be with us, protect and preserve us. He is faithful.

About Easter, according to Exodus chapter 12: 1-13, Easter comes from an event named Passover. This name also refers to the special meal instituted that night, and which has been celebrated every year by the Jews since then as a memorial of the Exodus. Easter is announced as a rite, a celebration to be repeated from generation to generation, to serve as a teaching and reminder.

Easter prefigures the coming of God's Messiah, Jesus Christ the paschal lamb. Let's look at some of the highlights of this instruction.

First, there is the selection of one defect-free sheep per family or per house. The animals will be slain by the whole congregation in the first month of the year.

Second, the Israelites thus inaugurate a new history, and mark a new beginning. For the first time, a sacrifice is offered per family, and the participation of the whole assembly is solicited.

Third, there is the mention of community which marks the birth of the notion of people, of nation.

Fourth is the "bloody sign"; the blood from the animal will be put on the doorposts and lintel. It is at the sight of this bloody sign that the Lord will spare those who are in the house.

Five, the coming of God's Messiah, Jesus Christ, paschal lamb. Jesus is indeed the lamb without defect who will be offered as a sacrifice for the deliverance of every person and of the world from the bondage of sin.

The Apostle Paul states that Christ sacrificed is our Easter. This means that in this difficult situation of Covid-19, we must turn our faces to the Lord, who is the solution through his blood. As the Apostle Paul said, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future, nor any virus like Covid-19, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord of life." May the Lord bless each of us to lead a normal life; life without a trace of the past, in total rupture with all that has gone before, a Christian life that pleases God.