

## ***“The Lamb of God”***

---

John 1:29-36

This is one of the great texts of the Bible. It states one of the most cherished names of the Lord Jesus Christ—*“The Lamb of God.”*

John the Baptist pointed his listeners to Jesus! This was His calling—To prepare the way of the Lord (v. 23 cf. Mal. 3:1). It was never about John, but all about Jesus—*“He must increase, I must decrease!”* As John pointed men to Jesus, we are also called to point people to Jesus.

- DOCTRINAL CONTEXT: The name *“Lamb of God”* is peculiar to the Apostle John. He used it 22 times. It is noteworthy that the Apostle Paul never used the word “lamb” in Scripture.

**Why is this significant?** Because no one understood that Jesus Christ had to die for sins before He could reign on earth. Israel was looking for a Messiah to sit on a throne, not be nailed to a cross (cf. Luke 1:68-75; 18:31-34; 24:19-23).

When John the Baptist proclaimed, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the **SIN** [singular] of the world,”* he was not talking about Christ’s death on the cross for sins. John was expecting the Messiah to come and rid the world of sin and set up His kingdom on earth (Mt. 3:2). He was talking about Christ removing the whole package of sin (i.e. the cause of sin; effects of sin; penalty of sin; etc.).

It never occurred to John that Jesus would be rejected by Israel and be crucified. This explains why John later in prison had doubts and asked Jesus, *“are you **THE ONE** we should look for another?”*

It is true when an *individual* trusts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, He takes away all their SINS (1 John 3:5—*“And ye know that he was manifested to **take away OUR SINS**”*). But John was not referring to the sins of an *individual*—He was talking about *“the **SIN of the WORLD**,”* that is, removing the whole gamut of sin without leave a trace of it on earth.

Obviously, sin has not be been removed from the world. Sin is seen everywhere you look. Therefore, John’s statement reaches beyond

Christ's death on the cross to the time when Christ comes back and completely takes away all the effects of sin from the world.

Adam brought sin into the world—“*By one man SIN [singular] ENTERED INTO THE WORLD...*” (Rom. 5:12). Jesus Christ, “*the last Adam*” (1 Cor. 15:45), would remove sin from the world!

➡ In this message let's look at five things the Bible says about “the Lamb.”

**I. The CONCERN in the Old Testament**—“*Where is the lamb?*” (Gen. 22:7). First mention to “the lamb” in the Bible.

A. The PROPHECY (Gen 22:8—“*God will provide HIMSELF a lamb...*”).

1. It does not say, “God himself will provide a lamb...” Or, “God will provide for himself a lamb.”
2. It says God HIMSELF will be the Lamb. It is prophetic because God never provided Abraham with a lamb in Genesis 22. God provided a RAM (v. 13). [There is a difference!] “*THE LAMB of God*” doesn't show up until 1900 years later.
  - NOTE: Every modern translation of Genesis 22:8 changes the wording to remove the prophetic reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. The PICTURES of the Lamb.

1. Passover (Ex. 12). When God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He used the blood of a *spotless* lamb. God was going to send judgment. The only protection was to have the blood of the lamb applied on the lintel and door posts of the house with family abiding inside. The firstborn of anyone's family who did not have the blood of the lamb on their door would die.
  - A picture of Jesus as the “*lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1 Pet. 1:19), who would shed His blood for our sins. Any one who dies without their sins being removed by the blood of Christ will suffer the judgment of God—Death (Rom. 6:23).

2. Under the law of Moses, a lamb had to be sacrificed every morning and every evening upon the brazen altar (Ex. 29:38-39). This continued everyday from the time of Moses to 70 AD—About 1,500 years—equivalent to over 1,080,000 lambs slain. Gallons of blood all pointing Jesus *“the Lamb of God.”*
  3. Isaiah 53:7 personifies *“the Lamb”*—*“he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter.”* Acts 8:32-35 clearly states the lamb Isaiah wrote about was Jesus.
- C. The PROGRESSION—As the message of the Lamb of God unfolds through the Bible, it becomes ever more encompassing.
- In Genesis, Abel offered a lamb as a sacrifice for an individual.
  - In Exodus 12, each household sacrificed a lamb for a family.
  - In Leviticus, Israel was instructed to sacrifice a lamb for their nation.
  - In the New Testament, Jesus is identified as *“the Lamb of God”* who takes away the sin of the world.

## II. The CALL in the New Testament—*“Behold THE Lamb of God...”*

- A. His IDENTITY—There was no answer to Isaac’s question for about 1900 years. Pictures were given—Prophecies were made. But the identity of the lamb was left unanswered, until John the Baptist proclaimed, *“Behold, the lamb of God!”*
- *“The lamb of God”*—not of men, but *“of God.”* The word *“of”* denotes “from... out of... belonging to.” The idea is *“the Lamb”* is God’s lamb—The Lamb came from God.
- B. God’s INTENT—The provision of the lamb was not an afterthought or accident. God planned it from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 says Jesus was *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”*
- C. We INVESTIGATE—*“Behold the Lamb of God.”* The word *“behold”* means more than a casual glance.
1. It means to look away from everything else and look at Him.

2. It means to look at Him up and down. Look at Him from one side to the other. Study Him... Inspect Him... Investigate who He is and to know Him.
  - Jesus is not just “a” lamb, but **“THE Lamb of God.”** He is the only one who can take away sin, because He had no sins of His own—He is THE PERFECT lamb!
  - If you never trust Jesus as your own sacrifice for sin, you will die in your sins and spend eternity in Hell paying for your sins.

### III. **The CELEBRATION in heaven**—“*Worthy is the Lamb*” (Rev. 5:12).

➡ What a wonderful way “*the Lamb of God*” is revealed in Scripture:

- In Genesis 22:7, He is the Lamb **prophesied** by Abraham.
- In Exodus 12, He is the Lamb **typified** in the Passover.
- In Isaiah 53:7, He is the Lamb **personified** and lead to the slaughter.
- In John 1:29, He is the Lamb **identified** by John the Baptist.
- In Revelation 5:11-13, He is the Lamb **magnified** by the host of heaven.
- In Revelation 15:3-4; 22:1, He is the Lamb **glorified** upon His throne.

➡ WHAT A CELEBRATION that will be! We don’t have to wait to get there to praise the Lamb—He is worthy of our praise NOW.

### IV. **The CATAclysm as His coming**—“*The wrath of the Lamb*” (Rev. 6:12-17).

- A. Jesus came 2,000 years ago as a lamb lead to the slaughter to pay for man’s sins on the cross.
- B. When He comes again after the tribulation, He will come in great wrath to completely rid the world of sin and set up His kingdom of righteousness (11:15-18). This is what John the Baptist was referring to.

### V. **The CASTING into the lake of fire**—“*The Lamb’s book of life*” (Rev. 21:27 cf. 20:11-15; 14:10).

**SUMMATION:** Notice in John 1:37, when two of John's disciples heard him say, "*Behold, the Lamb of God*" they immediately followed Jesus. How about you? Are you following Him? He is worthy!

I read a story this week that illustrates Christ's sacrifice as "*the Lamb of God*." However, I hesitated to use it since it is very graphic. But the truth is, Christ's death at Calvary is graphic and not for the squeamish.

A young man who worked in a slaughter house tells this story: "One day there was an exceptional animal that was penned in the slaughter barn—A lamb. Usually, I would just slit the throat of the animal and it would fall to the ground. But, I never killed a lamb before. I would usually have to chase down the animal to be killed. They were all very skittish; probably because of the smell of death and blood. But you know, this little lamb just walked right up to me and nudged my hand with his head as if to be petted. I stuck to my routine and grabbed under the chin of the lamb, put the knife to his throat, and pulled hard and swift.

The cut was deep, severing its throat. Blood began to flow from the wound. I let go of the lamb and it staggered as if it were drunk. With its blood on my hands, I dropped the knife in disbelief, as the next scene that I saw changed my life completely, as a Christian.

The lamb did not immediately drop to the ground whizzing for breath. The little lamb staggered back to me and nudged my bloody hand for the second time with his nose! I could not believe what I was experiencing!

I started to think of how Christ endured his suffering and painful death for me on Calvary. Even though my sin nailed Him to the cross, He loves me. I quit my job at the slaughter house that day never to return."

This young man realized what should humble every one of us. We should always be humbled by Christ's sacrifice as "*a lamb lead to the slaughter*."

Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you pointing souls to Jesus, "*the Lamb of God?*"