

KEY ADVOCATE: The Lamb of God

Just as Jesus was about to step into public ministry his forerunner, John the Baptist revealed one of the prime job descriptions of Jesus. **"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."** John had spoken to the religious leaders about the wrath of God, but then he announced that Jesus would be the solution to mankind's sin problem, a dilemma that started with a serpent in Eden.

A day after the baptism of Jesus, John again said, **"Look, the Lamb of God!"** Two of John's disciples heard him say it and followed Jesus out of curiosity. They asked him where he was staying, and Jesus replied to Andrew and the other man, **"Come and see"**. - John 1:39 They spent a day with Jesus and Andrew decided to stay on with Jesus. The next day he told his brother Peter that they had found the Messiah! John the Baptist displayed true humility when he let his disciples follow after Jesus instead of himself. **There is a time when we must let go of those we disciple. They must look to Jesus and not be dependent upon us.**

Jesus may have shared with Andrew and the other person the many passages from the Hebrew scriptures where an innocent animal becomes a substitute sacrifice for man's sin. God had done it for Adam and Eve after they sinned. There is an historical progression of who the slain lamb was for. **One lamb for a man** as seen in Abel's sacrifice. On Mount Moriah God provided the sacrifice for Abraham - Genesis 22. God revealed himself as Jehovah Jireh, our provider. The word provide reveals its meaning. Pro = before. Vide = to see. God sees before and anticipates what will be needed. In God's **providence**, he caused a ram to get caught in a thicket just in time for Abraham to use as a substitute sacrifice for his only son Isaac.

The story of the Passover in Exodus 12 reveals the way that God protected his people from the death angel. **One lamb for a family** was needed. The head of the household was to take a lamb without defect and slaughter it. (Jesus would later be found as a Lamb without defect before he laid down his life at the cross). The blood was placed on the doorposts, at the top and the sides; it was also on the threshold. If one connected all those sides it would form a cross. Some traditions include the practice of a bridegroom carrying his bride over the bloody threshold. This is a reminder that marriage is a blood covenant. All those inside were protected from God's judgment through the blood of the lamb. The blood sacrifice of Jesus is the doorway to the kingdom household of God. There is no salvation without the blood of Jesus.

After the Jews left Egypt and traveled into the desert, God had them construct a tabernacle where animals would be sacrificed on the altar. Once a year the priest would take a lamb without defect or blemish and sacrifice it in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. It was **a lamb for a nation**. However, these sacrifices could never take away our sin; they only covered them. Man was temporarily shielded from the punishment for sin. Since man had sinned, a perfect man would have to be found as a sacrifice. Jesus was and is that man! He would not just be a lamb for a man, a lamb for a family or a lamb for a nation.

Jesus would be a lamb for the whole world!

Jesus did not come to just cover our sin but to remit it. He came to take it away. In the Old Testament, the wrath of God is mentioned 585 times. Jesus came to save us **from** our sins and the wrath to come. - 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:9. He turned aside God's wrath toward us. - Romans 3:25. If you are accused of a crime, you must appear before a judge in a courtroom. Some people prefer to plead their own case, but if it is serious charge, they are wise to get the best lawyer that they can afford.

All of mankind will one day appear before **God's Holy Throne**. They face a serious charge, for 'All have sinned and have fallen short of **God's glory**'. 'The wages of sin is death'. (eternal separation from God). -Romans 3:23; 6:23. However, Jesus will be there to represent those that claimed their **eternal life insurance policy** in this life. It is free of charge, since **Jesus Himself has paid the premium**. Our part is not to sign our name on a document but to give our life over to Jesus the Messiah. There must be a **total exchange**. We must **give him all** that we are and have: our past, present and our future, We accept Him as:

- Prophet: All His teachings are trustworthy, true and worth following
- Priest: He was the perfect substitute sacrifice who paid for our sins
- King/Lord: He is the most gracious King who deserves our loving obedience

He has given us his life, full inheritance and glorious future! We become **His joint heirs!** - Romans 8:16-17. Our Bibles have an Old and New Testament. A more accurate rendering would be the word Covenant. In another series we look at the subject of **The Blood Covenant**. We cannot fully understand our relationship with Jesus in his kingdom without comprehending the blood covenant. Before I launched into full-time ministry, God led me into a deeper study of the Blood of Jesus and the benefits of the covenant. One scripture that came alive to me was the following verse in Revelation. It shows how we can overcome the accusations of the devil.

"They overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb, by the **word of their testimony** and they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."** - Revelation 12:11 NIV

That is blood covenant language. We see the **Cross**; God's part. We see our part; our **confession** based on what God has done and our full **commitment** to it, even unto death! In the past year I have had a greater revelation of the awesomeness of God for His power, knowledge and qualities are so far beyond our human comprehension. He is working his divine plan through the corridors of history. He foresaw the plight of sinful man even before creation and **prepared a lamb** for all of mankind.

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the **precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world but was revealed in these last times for your sake."**

1 Peter 1:18-20

During election times in America we are bombarded with political posturing in anticipation of who will be elected to lead the country. The Republicans have the symbol of the elephant and Democrats have the symbol of the donkey. Ultimately, no political election will fully solve our world problems. The answer for our world cannot be found in a donkey or an elephant, but in a lamb. No human leader can save us now. Only Jesus can save this sin sick world. The Book of Revelation reveals Jesus not only as a Lion but also as the Lamb, the one whom the beast systems will rage against.

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers. - Revelation 17:14 NIV

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD!

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