

The Precious Lamb of God

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Since God killed an animal and used the skins to cover Adam and Eve, many sacrifices for sins have been offered to God. The Jewish temple was meticulously designed for offerings and sacrifices (a daily activity for the people of Israel) that would be acceptable to God. And every sacrifice pointed to Christ the Lamb, our substitute.

Josephus, an historian of that era, tells us that 250,000 lambs were slain every year for Israel's various sacrifices. If a family couldn't afford a lamb, a number of families could get together to purchase one lamb. Because of their poverty, that one lamb was sufficient to represent all of those families. So the sacrifices continued, but just as a temporary provision.

Today, there is no more sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 10:26). Even the richest person, convicted of his sinful condition, could not pay the price that God would accept. Faced with eternity in

hell, if he gave even his own life, every man falls short.

The images presented in this booklet are to help us grasp an understanding of God's only provision for Fallen men. It is the precious Lamb of God.

Chapter One

WHERE IS THE LAMB?

In Genesis 22, Abraham was awakened early one morning. Something very beautiful was about to be revealed.

God told Abraham to go on a three-day journey to Mount Moriah. He was to take his son Isaac, and he was to bring the wood for a sacrifice on a beast. Besides himself and Isaac, two others would go with them up into the mountains. The burden was loaded upon the beast—that animal carried *all* the wood upon its back—and they were on their way.

In this story, the wood represents sin. The beast represents you and me as we travel in this life. It was very difficult for the animal to go and find fresh drinking water—difficult, because the wood was upon him. He was limited by the weight of the burden.

Finally they arrived on Mount Moriah where the wood was taken off of the beast and

placed upon the altar. And, in Genesis 22:7, Isaac asked this question. "Where is the lamb?"

Where is the lamb?

The answer from Abraham was beautiful: "God will provide Himself a lamb."

Think of the many times those words have been spoken. Yet their meaning is far different from what the first glimpse would indicate. Abraham, who had failed many times, had started to grow in faith. If we were to study Abraham's life of faith, we would find it extremely interesting. Yes, he had his ups and downs, but he always ended up winning.

A man of God may go back six steps and then take ten steps forward. Or, he might go back eight and then go ahead nine. Every time a man or woman of God goes back in failure, when they look to God, they will always go forward more. So it was with Abraham. Even though he failed, he continued to get up and move forward.

Faith under Pressure

"Where is the lamb?" Isaac asked his father.

And this man, who had grown so beautifully in faith, made an amazing statement. What he really was saying is this: "God will not have

me kill my son. He will provide a lamb for Himself.”

Abraham understood the mystery of the centuries in the kaleidoscope of time.

Picture his child there, the promised son (Genesis 15:4). Abraham had waited all those years—until he was one hundred years old. Picture the knife ready to be used for the sacrifice, and in comes a tremendous faith for this situation.

Why? Because, without wavering he said, “God will provide Himself a lamb for the sacrifice. It is not going to be Isaac. You want to test my faith, Lord? Go right ahead. I trust You. Do You want me to come this close? Fine. I trust You. If You have me kill him, You will resuscitate him.”

Faith in the Fire

But what about Isaac? His father is holding the knife in the air, and Isaac is on the altar. Not a single thing is said by Isaac. This is a picture of Jesus Christ offering to die for us. Before He became our sacrifice, Christ volunteered to die in our place.

Then the angel spoke, and said, “Abraham! Abraham, don’t do it.” It was a test of faith.

“God will provide Himself a lamb.”

There, in the thicket, was the animal God had prepared for that moment—the *real* substitute. The real substitute, used instead of Isaac, represented Christ as our substitute.

Chapter Two

PRECIOUS BLOOD FROM A PRECIOUS LAMB

The nation of Israel was chosen to be God's people. Through them, He would reveal to every nation on earth His nature of mercy, goodness, lovingkindness, longsuffering, and forgiveness. In God's plan, Israel spent many years in captivity in Egypt under cruel taskmasters. God saw their affliction, heard their cry, and knew their sorrows (Exodus 3:7). So, remembering His covenant with Abraham, God raised up Moses to deliver His people.

When Pharaoh rejected Moses' pleas, he actually was rejecting the Gospel. With the ten plagues sent by God, Pharaoh had ten opportunities to receive the Gospel. Ten times, he rejected it. The final plague was death to all the firstborn in Egypt, including Pharaoh's son.

So, the Lord spoke through the Holy Spirit

to Moses and said, "A lamb must be killed for every family. The blood from the lamb will be taken and put on the doorposts and on the lintel above the door," in the form of the cross. The death angel would go over and pass by every house represented by a lamb (Exodus 12:21-23).

In the land of Goshen, that terrible night came when the death angel visited every house, killing the firstborn sons. But everywhere that the blood was on the doorposts, representing the cross, the people were safe.

Do Not Insult the Spirit of Grace

God instructed Moses on how the blood was to be applied. He said the blood must never go on the floor. For us, that means that we must not ever tread over the Blood with our lives.

Hebrews 10:29 says do not count the Blood of the covenant an unholy thing nor insult the Spirit of grace, wherewith we have been sanctified, by treading it under your feet.

If you can willfully plan to sin and practice sins, fulfilling the flesh, you are treading the Blood under your feet. It is precious Blood. Precious because it was God's blood in human form (1 Peter 1:19). Precious because there was life in the Blood that represented God's life being

given for us. Precious because it blotted out every sin. Precious because it takes care of the unconscious mind (Hebrews 9:14) as it wipes away and purges the past.

It does more than deal with the past. The Blood purges the evil and sin that wants to attack us today. In other words, if we are walking in the light of the Word of God, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us—not just from all sin but from *wanting* to sin. Why? Because we are walking in the light.

So the Blood not only has a saving impact upon us, it also has a preventive impact upon us. It means that if we fellowship with the light of God's Word, His blood is continually working for us, spiritually, in our souls.

Power in the Blood

There was power in the blood on the doorposts. The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8b). And ever since then, before the human race was created, God's plan has to be seen through a Lamb.

They kept crying out in Old Testament times—throughout the first five books of the Bible, the books of prophets, and the minor prophets. Read Isaiah 1:6 and ask, "Is there an

ointment to mollify our wounds?" In Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" So many are plagued with problems that stem from a root of bitterness, in Hebrews 12:15. Is there a sacrifice that can deal with the root? *Where is the lamb?* There has to be a lamb. And we know that the blood of an animal has no value—except as it points to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

"Where is the Lamb?"

A thousand years went by. Two thousand. Three thousand. Four thousand years went by from the time of the first sacrifice in Genesis 3:21. And still the cry went up, "Where is the Lamb?"

Then one day, the question of the ages was answered.

A Voice in the Wilderness

John the Baptist, who preached a strong message of repentance, said, "...the axe is laid unto the root of the trees..." (Luke 3:9). "Start out your life with God by repentance! Get to the root of the problem." And as he stood there preaching, in the midst of the crowd his eyes beheld Jesus Christ. Then, in John 1:29, he cried out, "There is the Lamb! *There is the Lamb!*" The Lamb of God had come.

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53). He was God incarnate, the God-Man. It was precious blood in the veins of that One who never sinned, sacredly shed to blot out the transgressions of every person in the human race. Those who would receive Him would be free forever. And those who would walk in fellowship of the Blood would have power over sin. Though they would not be sinless, they would sin much less than others because of power in the blood that came from a spotless Lamb.

Chapter Three

THE ETERNAL LAMB

Now the Lamb was slain. The Pharisees rejected the Lamb. The scribes rejected the Lamb. The Sanhedrin rejected the Lamb. But, why would anyone want to reject a Lamb?

Seven times in the Gospels when He represented us as sinners before His accusers, Jesus did not open His mouth. But seven times when He represented God, He spoke out.

Now it is over. The Lamb was crucified. Finally, after 250,000 lambs a year had been slain, the real One came. Therefore, there is no more need to sacrifice lambs. God sanctified us—once and for all—through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:10).

And yet, because of persecution, after thirty years of church growth in Jerusalem, the Hebrew Christians went back to offering lambs again. They did it because as believers they were discriminated against. They were unable to get

jobs and their children could not go to school. That is why God had so much to say in Hebrews 6 and 10 about the backslidden Hebrew Christians. Many of them had given in to persecution.

But now, it is over. *It is finished.* The Lamb was slain. Now He has come forth from the grave—and He is still a Lamb. In John 20:27-29, He said to Thomas, who doubted His resurrection, “Put your finger into My hands, and put your hand in My side. But when you do it, *believe*. I am still the Lamb. Though the wounds are fresh, there is no blood in My body. I poured it out for you.”

Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.” Here is the Lamb again.

Who Is Worthy?

Now, imagine that we have been raptured, and we have entered into heaven. Above the Throne of God is a magnificent rainbow. More than the average rainbow, it is heavily accented with emerald green, the color of mercy. Here we are at the throne of holiness, finally perfected and with glorified bodies. There is that rainbow, which meant no more judgment—the rainbow that forever stands for our perfection in heaven. But that is not all. There are songs of praise and

continual worship. Really, we cannot begin to imagine the glory that will be there.

So there we are. The Father is seated on the Throne, with the multitudes of saved people. When the apostle John recorded this scene in Revelation 5:5, he said he wept because it seemed there was no one who was able to open the book, to take back the title deed to the earth: There was no man worthy to buy back the birthright that Adam sold out to Satan, the god of this world.

And John said, “I wept much.” He said, “Here is a multitude of people, and we can’t take back the title deed that *we* sold to Satan.”

Only the Lamb

Then he said, “All of a sudden, the eternal provision of the most amazing and beautiful manifestation that anyone could hope to see—there in the midst stood a Lamb as it had been slain” (see Revelation 5:6).

Here is the Lamb again.

Picture all of us together with tears in our eyes. Every one of us, without exception, weeping. Saved, yes, but feeling remorseful that no one can take back that title deed.

And Jesus comes out. We see the wounds in

His side. We see the wounds in His hands. We see the wounds in His feet. The Holy Spirit wants us to know Him instantly, and immediately we recognize Him as the Lamb.

He walks over to the Father. I can visualize the Father's face, because God did all of this for His pleasure as well as ours (Revelation 4:11). And here is this precious Lamb taking the title deed and walking back to His place, at the right hand of the Father.

In Revelation 5:9, "they sung a new song..." What was the new song about? It was a song about the Lamb—the blood of the Lamb! The blood of the Lamb is no more inside His body because it was given for us.

The Fragrance of Answered Prayers

Can you imagine multitudes of people redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, now in a heavenly chorus with perfect bodies and perfect voices, all singing as a choir to the Lamb? This is what the Word of God says:

"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials *full of odours*, which are the prayers of saints" (Revelation 5:8).

Here in heaven, we will see that the Blood took care of our sins, and our prayers have all been answered. And here is the odor of the most beautiful thing in the world. It is the fragrance of prayers that perhaps you didn't think were answered, or you didn't know were answered, *but they were!* Your prayers were answered, but you just could not see the mystery of it all. And now you can see that hundreds and hundreds of your prayers have been answered, and you see it before your eyes.

Chapter Four
LED BY A LAMB
WHO IS ALSO OUR SHEPHERD

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and *we shall reign on the earth*” (Revelation 5:9-10). What encouraging words!

Why does it say that all these multitudes will reign? It doesn't say that just some of them will reign. This verse says, “*We shall reign on the earth.*”

Follow this with me. He made us to reign over the earth (Genesis 1:26), and He is going to get His way through the blood of the Lamb. People who have not reigned *will* reign, because of the Lamb.

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of

many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb...”—they say it again—“...that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing” (Revelation 5:11-12).

Taking on the Spirit of the Lamb

There is a God-Man in heaven, and He is glorified. This Man has every right to have everything. Yes, God the Father possesses everything anyway. But this Man, who is glorified, is now as a Man who is worthy, because He was *always* a sinless Lamb. And this is why a number of times when Scripture describes the Lamb, it describes Christ with His wounds.

Christians who follow Jesus Christ often manifest His wounds. In a sense, they are wounded feet that go to places in Europe, Russia, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America. They are wounded, in a sense, because the missionaries who go forth are leaving the comforts of their area and probably will suffer in their walk as they identify with Christ.

There is a sense that every person who follows Jesus has some wounds because of suffering, because they have taken on the spirit of the Lamb.

In Romans 8:36, we are all like Him, “accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” We are *led* to the slaughter. In other words, we also have been placed on the earth to bear wounds for others.

But, thank God, Romans 8:37 says that “in all these things we are *more than* conquerors through him that loved us.” The Lamb conquered.

The Lamb spirit will *always* conquer. It conquers by itself. This means that through our right decisions to obey the Word, the spirit of the Lamb in us conquers the spirit of evil.

Taking up the Yoke of the Lamb

The Lamb spirit is Christ. And when we yoke up with Jesus Christ, we are yoked up with the Lamb. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 11:30 that His yoke is easy, and *His* burden is light.

Our yoke is not with a lion or a beast of burden—we are yoked with Christ, the Lamb of God. The animal that bore the wood for Abraham’s sacrifice was set free of its burden. The

wood was taken off the animal and placed on the altar. It was free to go home like any animal, free to roam and drink water with no burden to carry anymore.

Now, likewise, we have no more heavy burden on our back. Oh, we bear the burden of love. And the burden of caring for others is on our back. But we are no longer encumbered with the burden of sin, because the Lamb took it—once and for all.

CONCLUSION

Thousands of spotless animals were sacrificed for sins. Once was not enough. But every single time blood was offered up according to the Law, the foundations of a sure salvation by grace were being revealed.

When a man or woman is exhausted from so many times of trying and failing, they need to see the precious Lamb. That is why Paul said we ought to rejoice in weaknesses and infirmities. We belong to a Lamb! He has conquered over death and hell, sin and iniquity. If we will only look up, the situation will always reveal the Lamb.

Dear Father, thank You for Your perfect plan that saw our potential. Thank You that the Lamb is also our Shepherd. May we always manifest Your nature and be willing to take up our cross as we lay down our lives for others. As Your Spirit abides in us, we can go forward as conquerors by the power of Your Blood and with a heavenly vision. In Jesus' name, Amen.