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Inviting all to COME to Christ, GROW in faith, and GO change the world

John 1:29, 35-36 - *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"*

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Lamb - Part Four

Every day, all across America, hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people enter into contracts with one another. We get loans for cars, homes, personal loans ... you can finance anything. We enter into these contracts and agree to pay the money back. Creditors hold us to that agreement and have the expectation we are going to pay them back with interest. We've all experienced that. But what if we just got to the point where we decided we weren't going to pay? The creditor would still come to our house and say, "You made an agreement with me. You have defaulted, and you owe me the money." The creditor wants justice, understandably so. The debtor wants mercy. Well, nobody is going to get what they want unless maybe a third party enters in to help satisfy the debt. The third party says, "I will satisfy the debt and pay what is owed." They extend mercy to the debtor and says there's no obligation to pay me back.

That's a pretty good illustration of exactly what Jesus Christ does for us. We have accumulated a sin debt which we cannot pay. And God the Father is a God of justice. He has every right to hold us to the standards He has set up for humanity. We, as those of us in debt, we desire mercy. The only way for both of us to get what we desire ... justice and mercy ... is for a third party to step in the equation to satisfy the debt. That person came in the form of Jesus Christ. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves.

We'll start in **John Chapter One** this morning. We're going to look at a good portion of God's Word today. John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, makes a statement about Christ –

John 1:29, 35-36 - *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"*

John says, 'Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.' **Verse 35**--John the Baptist himself had some followers. For us in the 21st century, that's kind of a weird title to our

culture to describe, “The Lamb”. To the Jews at this time, it would have been a pretty good illustration because they understood the relevance of a lamb in Scripture; they understood the sacrificial nature of a lamb throughout Scripture.

This morning, we’re going to go back to the very beginning and examine some key passages of Scripture that talk about this Lamb. This is an incredible study, to see the consistency of God and that God had a plan from the beginning of time as to how He was going to deal with the sin debt of man.

The Lamb Typified

Most of you are familiar with the Creation account in the **Book of Genesis**. God told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that they could eat anything except from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil or they would surely die. But they wanted the only thing God told them they couldn’t have. They fell into sin and disobeyed God and ate from the tree. The moment they partook, they understand they are naked and they hide themselves from God. God is walking through the Garden and asking, “Adam, where are you?” He wants Adam to admit where he is, and to admit that he’s broken God’s commandment and is now a sinful creation. Everybody is pointing fingers as to why they’ve done this ... and after God gets all of that sorted out, notice what He does ...

Genesis 3:21 - *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”*

Where did the coats of skins come from? He didn’t run down to Burlington Coat Factory! Something innocent had to die in order for them to be covered and clothed. They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. That points to the self-righteousness of man, to try to cover up our sinfulness by doing good things. They try the best they can to no avail, so God has to have innocent blood shed for their sin ... just as we need the Lamb of God to cover our sin. Look at **Genesis Chapter 4 --**

Genesis 4:3-5a – *“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. ⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: ⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect ...”*

Here again we see the contrast between man trying to justify himself through his own works versus offering something innocent to take his place. Cain offered fruit from the ground ... which pictures self-righteous works to try to pay the sin debt. First of all, that’s not what God said to do. It wasn’t His standard. The other problem is, the ground was cursed. This fruit was probably incredible! This was right after the fall and the ground was bringing forth fruit that was absolutely amazing! But it wasn’t what God asked him to do and it was also cursed.

Notice what Abel brought. He brought the firstlings of his flock. He brought a Lamb. It pictures a substitutionary debt. Way back in **Genesis Chapter 3**, God begins to paint the picture of the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The Lamb Personified

Turn to **Genesis Chapter 22** --

This is the story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham's wife was unable to have children, but God promised Abraham a child. He was his beloved son, and God wants Abraham to sacrifice his son for Him.

Genesis 22:8 - *"And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together."*

Notice that God will provide. We've got an issue; the penalty of our sin is death, but God will provide for that need Himself. Don't miss the word "Himself". God will provide Himself ... God became man. **God became the Lamb.** He took on the form of a human being, born of a woman in order to provide the need that we had.

Genesis 22:14 - *"And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."*

God raises up a Lamb to offer that as a substitute for His Son, picturing the provision of God through Jesus Christ for our sinfulness. "Jehovahjireh" means "the Lord shall provide". "It shall be seen" is future tense, isn't it? Here's 2 interesting things: Mount Moriah is the very spot where Solomon built the temple. Do you see the consistency of God? He says go to the land of Moriah and upon the mount I tell you, you offer your son. It's in Mount Moriah that Solomon eventually builds the temple. You can see that in [2Chronicles 3:1](#). Also notice He doesn't tell Him the specific mountain to go to, does He? I think that's the very spot of Calvary. Jerusalem is a city surrounded by hills and mountains and He doesn't say, 'I want you to go to Mount Moriah', He says, 'Go to the land of Moriah and I'll tell you which mount.' Jesus was crucified outside the city walls in a place called Calvary, Galgotha. I think it was the very spot where the Lamb of God was crucified.

The Lamb's Blood Applied

Let's look at another famous story.

Here in a couple of weeks, we're going to be celebrating Easter. The old classic "Ten Commandments" movie with Charlton Heston is played annually. In it, God tells Moses how they can make it through the plague with no one dying ...

Exodus 12:5-7, 13 – *"Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take [it] out from the sheep, or from the goats: ⁶ And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. ⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike [it] on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. ¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."*

This lamb was to be without blemish, which points to the fact that Christ was perfect, sinless.

1Peter 1:18-20 – *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰ Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”*

“Conversation” means “lifestyle”. Peter is saying, ‘Your religion won’t save you.’ So how can we hope to be redeemed? By the precious blood of Christ. Jesus was the Lamb of God Who was without blemish. He was tempted like we are but was yet without sin. He was able to keep God’s perfect standard so that we don’t have to. That’s how God redeems humanity.

Exodus 12:6 - *“And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.”*

Does that sound familiar? It was the nation of Israel that killed The Lamb of God, by the way, in the evening. They took Him and hung him on a cross.

Exodus 12:7 – *“And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.”*

So they were to take the blood from that Lamb and they were to strike it on the doorpost. They would strike it on each side of the door, and above the door. That pictures Calvary’s cross. There were three that were crucified with Him. Even way back in Exodus, He’s painting a picture that He has a plan.

Exodus 12:12 – *“For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.”*

Who is this curse against? The firstborn. Jew of Egypt. It is showing us there’s a problem with our first birth. We are born into sin and we have to be born again into the family of God. We’re all born into the devil’s family and have a sin nature. If we stay in that first birth uncovered by the blood of the Lamb, God’s wrath will be upon us.

Exodus 12:13 – *“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”*

What was the token? The blood. There needed to be innocent blood shed in order for God to pass over them and for them not to endure the wrath of God on the firstborn. We just read about it in [1Peter 1:19](#). That’s how we are redeemed, is through the blood, pictured in the Passover.

1Corinthians 5:7 says, *“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:”*

You can't beat this Book! You can't beat it! God is consistent all the way through. It is a picture of our life being under Christ.

Acts 20:28 - *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*

The Lamb Personified

Up to this point we've been talking about *literal* lambs. But now we're going to see that God's Lamb is not a literal Lamb but an actual man.

Isaiah 53:3-7, 10-12 – *"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see [his] seed, he shall prolong [his] days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, [and] shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore will I divide him [a portion] with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."*

It is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we have forgiveness and healing, a prophecy written many years before Jesus shows up. It is **His stripes** that give us healing. We can find forgiveness in Christ.

1Peter 2:24 - *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*

Jesus stands there and takes the accusations. He could've defended Himself but He didn't. He voluntarily came down and took our sin. He was innocent but took our guilt and hung on the cross at Calvary. **Verse 10** – how in the world could God be pleased to bruise His only Son? It would not give me pleasure to sacrifice you! Yet God was willing to sacrifice for us and for His enemies also. How can that be that it pleased Him? Because God saw past Calvary and He saw you and He saw the redemption that humanity had through Christ. The spiritual pain was horrible. But God saw the forgiveness, healing and reconciliation through what Christ did. What a blessing! Let's go back to **John Chapter 1**.

The Lamb Identified

John 1:29 - *“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

Who is this Lamb? He is Jesus! He came for the purpose of doing for mankind what nothing and no one else could do. That's why He's unique. There have been many moral upstanding leaders who have claimed to offer the way, but only Jesus is able to reconcile man to Christ. He didn't say “behold A Lamb of God” but he said “THE” Lamb of God.

Hebrews 10:11-12 – *“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;”*

The Jews daily brought their offerings to the priests because those offerings didn't take away sin, they just provided a momentary *covering* for sin. They had to do it over and over again. But Jesus offered one sacrifice forever. Those Old Testament priests could not take away the sin of humanity through those animal sacrifices, but the Lamb of God took away our sin with one sacrifice, forever.

Colossians 2:14 - *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”*

There are ordinances, laws that are against us. In other words, they show our sinfulness. The 10 Commandments ... you go through the list ... there are many that you have done. If you're guilty of one, you're guilty of them all. God's standard is perfection, which is why Jesus had to come. He was perfect. We cannot stand before God in our own righteousness. We would be guilty. We don't have to do that because Jesus took our sin and nailed it on the Cross, blotting out the handwriting. He erased the ledger and took the debt that you owe, just like it never existed. Jesus took that sin off of us. He's the Lamb of God that took the sin of the world.

The Lamb Magnified & Glorified

Turn to Revelation Chapter 5. John is speaking --

Revelation 5:6-14 – *“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. ⁷ And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. ¹¹ 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; ¹² Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. ¹⁴ And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”

Redeemed by the blood ... ten thousand times ten thousand is 100 million. Imagine 100 million people standing in the general vicinity of one another and in unison saying, “Worthy is the Lamb”. Imagine if just 99 of us in unison screamed out “Worthy is the Lamb!” But 100 million of us screaming it ... HE IS WORTHY! ONLY HE IS WORTHY! The Lamb ... glorified and magnified. Everyone in God’s presence is looking at the Lamb and saying, “You are worthy! You’re the only One that is worthy!” He alone is worthy!

Notice that those who see Him in this place, some of them just fall down. Those 24 elders are big-time followers of God and their response is to get on their face and worship the Lamb.

A lot of times we emphasize the friendship of Jesus Christ – He is your friend. He was human, but don’t ever lose sight of the fact of Who He was. He alone is the Lamb and He alone is worthy of worship, honor. When we receive Jesus Christ as Saviour, we get the gift of eternal life. When we worship Him as Lord and Saviour, we give Him the gift of our life. He is worthy!

In America, 2019 credit card debt was \$810 billion, averaging \$6,200 per person. At some point in time, we are expected to repay our debt. It is not free money! God has given you a life ... do you know whose life it is? It is your life. He gives you free will. You can choose to live your life as you desire. But He’s keeping track and at some point in time, the balance is going to become due. You’re going to owe ... the wages of sin is death. You are responsible for that debt. We are each responsible for the life that we’ve been given from God. When we stand before Him someday, the only thing that’s going to matter is how will our debt be paid? We might be able to pay off our credit card debt, but we aren’t doing that with our sin debt. We can’t accumulate enough righteousness to pay it off. We cannot do that. Don’t forget the fact that God paid the bill, we’ve just got to receive the gift that He’s offering. Humanity will not get away with their sin, but He provides the way for us to be forgiven, for the debt to be washed away and remembered no more. He paid it and extends mercy to me and you. What are you going to do with it? Receive it or reject it?

Are you going to stand before God with the huge debt you owe or stand before Him with your sin debt paid by Christ?

That’s life’s biggest question!

What are you going to do with The Lamb? He won the victory over sin and death! If you believe that, you can be saved.

[Click here for information on how to be saved and spend eternity in heaven.](#)

Believers, give the Lamb of God the honor due His name. Hold Him in high regard, not as our ticket to heaven but to cry out to Him, You are Worthy! Live that out in your heart and your life.

† Father, we come into Your presence thanking You for the salvation we have in You. Thank You for Your Word and for paying the price for us. I pray we would hold You in high regard and bow down in worshipping You by giving You our life. I pray for those that were saved this morning or who hear this message that the truth of Your gospel would go forth and You are lifted high. I pray that our eyes would be on You and You alone.

We ask these things in Jesus name, Amen. †

♪ ♪ [Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus](#) ♪ ♪

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The preceding notes were taken from a sermon by Brad Nelson, Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The notes are in no way endorsed by Pastor Nelson, but are shared for the benefit of furthering God's kingdom. Feel free to share with anyone you are led by the Spirit to do so. Any errors or discrepancies contained in this document, although not intended, are those of the transcriber.