

# BEHOLD GOD'S LAMB

## JOHN 1:29, 36

### INTRODUCTION

- A. John The Immerser's Ministry
  - 1. Message – **Mt. 3:2** Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand
  - 2. Task
    - a. **Mark 1:2-3** BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY; <sup>3</sup> THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT
    - b. **John 1:7-8** He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light
- B. When John The Immerser Sees Jesus Coming, He Cries Out "Behold The Lamb Of God Who Takes Away The Sins Of The World" – Jn. 1:29, 36
  - 1. The exact phrase "lamb of God" (ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ) is found only these two times in the NT – Jn. 1:29, 36
  - 2. The same word for "lamb" (ἀμνὸς) is used two other times in the NT - Acts 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:19
  - 3. One of the first descriptive titles given to Jesus
  - 4. We are probably so familiar with the title that it may take some work to deepen our appreciation for this aspect of Jesus
- I. THE DESCRIPTION: "THE LAMB OF GOD"
  - A. This Is God's Lamb – Jn. 1:29, 36
    - 1. **John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
    - 2. Provided by God
    - 3. Belongs to God
    - 4. The lamb was the animal of sacrifice par excellence
      - a. it was often seen by Israelites as a symbol of innocence and gentleness

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- b. it was the most common sacrificial animal
  - c. there are at least three concepts connected to it
- B. The Sacrificial Lamb – Gen. 4:4; Exod. 29:38-42; 1 Pet. 1:18-19
- 1. Abel's sacrifice came from the flock – Gen. 4:4
  - 2. The lamb of burnt offering that became part of the daily temple sacrifices – Exod. 29:38-42
    - a. seven lambs were sacrificed each morning and seven each evening
    - b. on the Sabbath, all 14 were sacrificed at one time
    - c. according to Josephus, on one Passover 256,000 lambs were sacrificed
  - 3. There was hardly a Jewish sacrifice in which a lamb was not involved
  - 4. "Sacrifice" – a costly gift that you give to someone else (to appease him)
  - 5. **1 Pet. 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.
- C. The Substitutional Lamb – Gen. 22:8-14; Isa. 53:3-12; Acts 8:32
- 1. The lamb that was sacrificed in the place of Isaac – Gen. 22:8-14 (v. 13 – "in his place")
  - 2. The entire OT sacrificial system was based upon the concept of substitution
  - 3. Jesus is definitely the innocent lamb who took our place and bore our penalty – Isa. 53:3-7, 11b, 12b (see also Acts 8:32)
    - a. **Isaiah 53:3-7** He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

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- b. **Isaiah 53:11-12** As He will bear their iniquities . . . He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.
  - b. took our place ⇒ paid the penalty for us ⇒ voluntarily
- D. The (Passover) Lamb Of Salvation – Exod. 12:1-11, 43-47; Jn. 1:29, 36; 19:14, 29, 31-37; 1 Pet. 1:19
- 1. The Passover lamb from Exod. 12:1-11, 43-47
    - a. without blemish (12:5) and no broken bone (12:46)
    - b. had to be perfect (without defect)
    - c. the death of the lamb was essential for the deliverance of the people
    - d. **Exod. 12:13** when I see the blood I will pass over you
  - 2. The Passover lamb is significant for the Gospel of John
    - a. Jn. 1:29, 36 is about a week or so before the first Passover recorded in John (see 1:29-2:12) and begins the Passover theme in John’s Gospel
    - b. John’s chronology has Jesus on the cross when the Pascal lambs are being sacrificed in the temple
    - c. fulfilled “no broken bone” – 19:14, 29, 31-37
  - 3. Jesus fulfilled all that the Jews looked for (and could not find) in the Passover
    - a. **1 Cor. 5:7** For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed
    - b. **1 Pet. 1:18-19** you redeemed . . . with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ
    - c. Jesus brought true redemption/deliverance and he (the lamb) had to die in order for salvation to become available
- E. It Is Clear That For The Palestinian Jew, All Lamb Sacrifices Were Memorials Of:
- 1. Deliverance
  - 2. Forgiveness of sin
  - 3. Messianic salvation

## II. THE DESIGN: “TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD”

- A. “Take Away Sin” (ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἀμαρτίαν) – Jn. 1:29; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Jn. 3:5

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1. **John 1:29** Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
2. Removal from the one on whom it formerly rested (substitutionary atonement)
3. **2 Cor. 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him
4. **Gal. 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"
5. **1 John 2:2** He Himself is the propitiation for our sins
6. **1 John 3:5** You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin
7. Only Jesus' blood can supply the cleansing for the sin of our souls (**1 John 1:7** if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin)

### B. "The World" (τοῦ κόσμου) – Jn. 1:29; 1 Jn. 2:2; Heb. 10:10, 12, 14

1. **John 1:29** Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
2. **1 John 2:2** He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world
3. The totality of sin (comprehensive atonement)
  - a. a once for all sacrifice
  - b. **Heb. 10:10** By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all
  - c. **Heb. 10:12** He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD
  - d. **Heb. 10:14** For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified
4. My sin, your sin, everyone's sin
5. There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains

### III. THE DESIRED ACTION: "BEHOLD" (ἰδεε)

#### A. The Meaning Of "Behold" – Jn. 1:29

1. **John 1:29** Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

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2. Look, see, watch, gaze
3. Take a good long look at, stare
4. Not just a quick glance or a passing notice
5. Contemplate, observe and appreciate

### B. What Do You “Behold”?

1. Think about (really behold and appreciate) the lamb of God
  - a. sacrifice
  - b. purity
  - c. innocence
2. God is willing to be reconciled but are you?

### C. One Becomes Like What One Beholds – 2 Cor. 3:18

1. It controls their life
2. **2 Cor. 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

## CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus Was God’s Sacrifice – Jn. 3:16; Eph. 5:2
- B. Jesus Is Our Substitute – 1 Pet. 2:24
- C. Jesus Is Our Salvation – 1 Pet. 1:18-19
- D. Will You, By Faithful Obedience, Allow God To Apply To Your Soul The Blood Of The “Lamb Of God”?
  1. The judgment of God will only pass over those upon whom is the blood of the lamb
  2. Without the blood of the Lamb of God, we are condemned to die in our sins