

# LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

We're taking a look at some of the more than 700 names and titles of Jesus Christ. Each Communion service we choose a title based on the letters of the English alphabet. Thus far we've discussed the following names, from A through K:

1. The Last **A**dam
2. The **B**ridegroom
3. The **C**omforter
4. The **D**oor
5. The **E**xpress Image of God.
6. The **F**irstborn from the dead
7. **G**od
8. The **H**ead of the Body
9. **I**ntercessor
10. **J**udge
11. **K**ing of kings

There are a whole lot of names that begin with the letter 'L': Light of the world; Life; Lion of Judah; Lord; Lawgiver; Last. Then there are names incorporating the title, Lord – like Lord of Hosts; Lord of the Sabbath; and, The Lord of Righteousness.

We want to talk about Jesus as He was introduced to the nation of Israel as [The Lamb of God](#).

The Lamb of God is initially a strange statement to our ears... Until we read through the Old Testament. There you learn that a sacrificed lamb can be your offering for sin.

From the earliest times, the Jew had built an altar for sacrifice. To the altar would be brought a lamb, white and without blemish. The lamb would be laid across the altar and then, as it was held down, the Jewish man would quickly and deftly cut its throat.

As the blood spurted out upon the altar, the man would place his hand upon the head of the dying lamb, signifying that this lamb was being identified with his sins and that it was dying in his place.

Later it was the Tabernacle and then the Temple that became the center for sacrifices. It was here that the priests began to minister these sacrifices for the people of Israel. Even in the days of Jesus, lambs were still being brought each day to the temple to be sacrificed for sins.

A lamb could be slain for the sins of a man. A lamb might occasionally be slain for the sins of a family. There were even times when a lamb was sacrificed for the sins of the entire nation. But there had never been a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

The Jews understood this concept. They understood the principle of a substitutionary sacrifice. Isaiah had spoken of One who would come to take sins upon Himself.

Isaiah had used this same comparison of a lamb:

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.

It all began at the beginning. God told our parents that in the day they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely die.

They ate; **they died!**

1. They immediately died spiritually. They no longer had a spiritual relationship with God. You saw the result of their spiritual death as they became aware of sin and its shame; and as they actively hid from God.

2. They began to die physically. The entire creation went into groan-mode and started to decay.
3. They would have died eternally. There was nothing Adam and Eve could do to undo what they did!

God came seeking them – while they were yet sinners and still sinning! He promised to send a Savior who would be bruised saving them.

What did He mean? God gave them a glimpse of what He meant by providing skins to cover them. He didn't get them from the Burlington Coat Factory. Those skins came from animals who were sacrificed on their behalf. It was a vivid illustration that the wages of sin is death.

We can't be certain, but I suggest those animals were lambs. One reason to think they were lambs is that Adam and Eve taught their sons about sacrifice; and when you see Abel sacrificing, he brought a lamb.

As time goes on, the sacrificial lamb expands to include more-and-more people:

1. Abel sacrificed and offered a lamb for himself alone.
2. Then, in Exodus, each family is called upon to sacrifice and offer a lamb at the first Passover.
3. As we've said, there were times a lamb was slain for the sins of the entire nation.

Now, in the gospels, one Lamb will be sacrificed and offered for the entire world! When John identified Jesus as God's Lamb, the Jews knew what he meant: He was God's final sacrificial Lamb, offered once-for-all for the sin of the world.

Or at least they should have and could have known! As I said, it was near the Passover feast, when millions of Jews came to Jerusalem to eat the Passover meal to commemorate the first Passover in Exodus. The Jewish historian Josephus says that as many as a quarter of a million lambs would be sacrificed in one day! They were sacrificed on a very important spot: Mount Moriah.

Some centuries earlier Abraham had climbed Mount Moriah with his son Isaac. God had told Abraham,

Genesis 22:2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

On the way up to the top, Isaac asked his father,

Genesis 22:7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham answered, saying,

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering...

Abraham offering Isaac instead of a lamb... the father offering his son, speaking of God the Father Who would offer His Son, Jesus Christ. God would provide Himself the Lamb – He Himself would come in human flesh to **be** the Lamb of God.

It wasn't just the same spot, on Mount Moriah, where the lambs were being slain. It was at the same time. Jesus died on the Cross just as the priests were sacrificing the lambs over in the Temple. He perfectly fulfilled the symbolism.

Jesus continues as the Lamb of God. In The Revelation of Jesus Christ, the apostle John is Raptured to Heaven. While there, he sees many wonderful creatures. One is a Lamb:

Revelation 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

John sees Jesus in Heaven as having been slain. Jesus will, for all eternity, bear in His resurrected body the scars of His crucifixion. They are trophies of His love for you.

Although we take this book literally; that doesn't mean it never uses figurative language. Jesus does not have **horns** on His head! Horns are symbolic of authority. And He doesn't have **seven eyes**. You're told that these represent **the seven Spirits of God** - an Old Testament name for God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is called the Lamb at least twenty-nine times in The Revelation. The last is in the last chapter:

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

The Bible is one book, really; and it tells the story of God's Lamb, Who takes away the sin of the world.





