

## THE LAMB OF GOD

**John 1:29 Exodus 11:1ff**

**Introduction:** Not being shepherds, not even being around sheep, most of us are not very familiar with "lambs" and perhaps wonder why Jesus is so often referred to as "the Lamb of God." We sing hymns about the "lamb of God" and we read in the scriptures about Jesus being the "Lamb of God." Our salvation is connected to the term of Jesus being the "Lamb of God." Just what does a "lamb" have to do with Jesus and with our salvation?

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "LAMB" STARTED WITH THE "PASSEOVER"

1. God's people had been in bondage to Egypt for several hundred years and was now ready to free them.
2. God instructed Moses to tell the people to slay a pure lamb and sprinkle its blood over the door posts of their homes.
  - The blood of the innocent lamb would serve as a sign that judgment was coming and that upon seeing the blood, God would pass over that house and not bring judgment.
  - Those who believed God applied the blood to their homes and were spared, saved.
  - Those who did not do as God said, their firstborn were killed.
3. Applying the Passover events to Jesus in how He is named "the Lamb of God" it is seen:
  - The innocent lamb without blemish of the Passover pictures Jesus and His perfect, sinless life.
  - The blood of the lamb applied to the door posts of those of the Passover pictures the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.
  - The blood of the lamb on the door posts was a sign that the life of an innocent lamb had been substituted for the firstborn of that family.
  - The eating the flesh of the slain lamb would represent the need for spiritual nourishment gained by "feeding" - receiving from Jesus Christ (later called the Bread of Life).
4. The blood of the innocent lamb saved the firstborn.
  - The lamb was killed (sacrificed).
  - It's blood was used as a substitute for the firstborn.
  - The lamb symbolizes Jesus who is the "Passover" lamb for the world (us).
  - If a person believes in Jesus and "applies His blood to his/her heart and life, he/she is saved.
  - If a person does not believe in Jesus and does not apply His blood to his/her life, he/she will be destroyed.
  - The Passover lamb's blood saved the firstborn of all those who applied its blood to their doorways. The blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, when applied to one's life, will also save.

### II. THE LAMB REPRESENTS WHAT JESUS CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US

1. Two lambs a day were sacrificed as substitutes for the people of Israel.
  - Without blemish, without spot.

2. The people knew that their sins separated them from God and their sins had to be removed before they could be right with God.
  - The sins of the people were symbolically placed upon the lambs, and the lambs bore the judgment of the sins of the people which was death.
  - The lambs were sacrificed for sin and by their death, symbolically, the people were set free from their sins.
  - IT WAS NOT THE DEED of killing the lambs that brought about forgiveness, but it was the FAITH of the people in believing what God said that He would remove their sins.
  
3. All this is a picture of Jesus Christ as the "Lamb of God."
  - Jesus is perfect, without blemish or spot.
  - Jesus is the One upon whom the sins of all the people were laid.
  - Jesus is the One who took God's judgment for sin, which is death.
  - Jesus is the One who deliberately, voluntarily allowed Himself to be sacrificed for man's sin.
  - Jesus is the One whose death sets people free by redeeming them.
  - Jesus is the One whose blood is counted precious by God and by believers.
  - God is satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for man's sins.
  - Man's faith/belief in Jesus is accepted by God and brings forgiveness and righteousness.

### **III. JESUS, AS THE LAMB OF GOD, IS OF GOD, NOT OF MEN**

1. The Lamb of God belongs to God for He supplied and provided the sacrificial lamb, just as He did for Abraham.
  - God has an unbelievable love for mankind.
  - Jesus underwent a great sacrifice and humiliation for mankind.
  - Forgiveness of sins and giving of salvation comes from God's grace and not from man's efforts.
  
2. The Lamb of God takes away, lifts, carries off, on behalf of sinful mankind, all sin.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. The Passover was God's idea and workings, not Moses' or anybody else's.
2. Obedience to God's instructions at the Passover spared the lives of the firstborn of that household.
3. Jesus as the Lamb of God is God's idea and workings, not anybody else's.
4. Obedience to God's instructions to believe in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will bring salvation, eternal life, and forgiveness to those who obey.