

BEHOLD! The Lamb of God!

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Jesus' words regarding the 1st and greatest commandment:

Matthew 22:36-38 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “ 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment.”

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A W Tozer: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

The Knowledge of the Holy – A.W. Tozer

- We must think rightly about God.

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Charles Spurgeon: “The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of the child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.”

Quoted by J.I.Packer – Knowing God

- To know the Lord for Who He is - is the ultimate relationship.

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- Knowing our God as He should be known is impossible - without knowing, loving, and embracing – the Lamb of God.

Jesus said:

Matthew 11:27 No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

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- The most important thing about us is how we respond to what the Lamb of God has done for us.
- The highest praise, the loftiest honor, the mightiest worship which can ever be delivered from the heart of a child of God must go to the Lamb of God who gave Himself for us.

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Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and

BEHOLD! A LAMB

standing on Mount Zion,

and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand,

having His Father's name

written on their foreheads.

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ABOUT SHEEP:

1 - Sheep are grouped in the category of *clean animals*:

Leviticus 11:3 You may eat any animal with divided hooves and that chews the cud.

- great value, don't compete with humans for food
- valued for their milk and their meat, as well as their wool
- reared in huge numbers

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ABOUT SHEEP:

2 - Sheep are passive, docile

- require great deal of care at all times
- don't know how to find green pastures
- have to be led to the right place for food and water
- must be watched and guarded so that they don't wander off and get lost (must be rescued)
- must be protected from predators, having no defenses of their own (they run away)

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ABOUT SHEEP:

3 - Sheep generally follow the shepherd when he calls them.

John 10:3-4 the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

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ABOUT SACRIFICING SHEEP:

1 –the animals God sacrificed to provide skins as clothing for Adam and Eve could have been sheep.

Genesis 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

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ABOUT SACRIFICING SHEEP:

2 – God provided a ram – a male sheep – as a substitution for Abraham's son Isaac.

Genesis 22:12-14 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

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ABOUT SACRIFICING SHEEP:

3 – in Egypt, the event occurred that is remembered and celebrated every year at Passover: The death of the lamb was a substitute for the death of the firstborn

- a substitutionary death, because this was a judgment for Israel's sins against God.

Joshua 24:14 Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt.

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ABOUT SACRIFICING SHEEP:

4 – Leviticus explains the sacrificial system that God put into place to provide ceremonial cleansing from sin, and how people could enter the presence of Holy God.

HOWEVER -

Hebrews 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

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ABOUT SACRIFICING SHEEP:

4 – Leviticus explains the sacrificial system that God put into place to provide ceremonial cleansing from sin, and how people could enter the **presence** of Holy God.

HOWEVER -

Hebrews 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5 So when he came into the world, he said, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.

Hebrews 10:10 By his will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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- 1 -Sin against our Holy God – any sin – one sin – **requires death.**
- 2 - **God provided** an animal –the death of a lamb – as a substitute for a person's death.
- 3 - This was a **temporary** solution to a problem – because the death of an animal could not take away – could not cleanse – a person from their sins.

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The teaching from God that set the stage for **ONE PERSON** to be a **substitute** for all people:

THE FIRST GOSPEL

Isaiah 53:5-7 But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds.

We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth.

Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not open His mouth.

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THE FIRST GOSPEL

Jesus is the person – spotless, sinless – the only one who could take the place of a person who sinned, and satisfy the wrath of God against sin.

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

John 1:34-37 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. Again, the next day, John (the Baptist) stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold! the Lamb of God!**" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

The very first time that John the disciple saw Jesus – he heard : ***Behold! the Lamb of God!***

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This phrase, the Lamb of God, is only used by John.

Luke quotes Isaiah in **Acts 8:31-32** And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer *is* silent, So He opened not His mouth."

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

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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.

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John uses the title “LAMB” for Jesus **26 times** in Revelation, from chapter 5 when we see Him in the throne room... all the way through to the last chapter of the book.

- It is the Lamb who was slain – for our sins - who had the **authority** to open the scroll
- It is the Lamb who was slain – for our sins – who is **worthy**....:

Revelation 5:12 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.

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- It is the Lamb who was slain who has the authority to judge and carry out His wrath:

Revelation 6:16 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb

- It is the Lamb who was slain for our sins that provides salvation to those who humble themselves before Him

Revelation 7:9-10 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

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- It is the Lamb of God who was slain for our sins who becomes **our Shepherd**

Revelation 7:17 "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- It is the Lamb of God who was slain for our sins who makes us **overcomers.**

Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

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The beast – sacrifices people – for himself.

The Lamb – sacrifices Himself – for people.



				 Half a time	Time 1 year		Times 2 years
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Times