

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD



CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS

JESUS IS THE CHRIST WHO DIED FOR OUR SINS

JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD

WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD

1. **Behold** the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, 1:29-34.

- (John 1:29–34 ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**” 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ 31 **I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.**” 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 **I myself did not know him,** but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 **And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.**”

A. John the Baptist calls/urges/exhorts the people to behold (to truly see) Jesus as the Lamb of God.

Behold—GK. οἶδα [oida]—means to see; to truly see; to perceive with the eyes; to fix the eyes upon; to see with attention; to observe with care; to turn the eyes, the mind, the attention to; to become aware or conscious of (something) to the fullest degree in accordance with fact or truth.

People needed to truly see Jesus for who he was—the Messiah, the Son of God—and believe in his name.

B. The term “Lamb of God” was a new term in the Christian world and was not known in the OT.

C. John again emphasizes Jesus’s much higher rank—so much higher that it implicitly speaks of his glory.

D. In verses 31 and 33 John speaks of not knowing him in the sense that God must reveal to each person that Jesus is the Christ.

- (Matthew 16:16–17 ESV) Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! **For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**”

E. John’s purpose for baptizing with water was to prepare people to know who Jesus was when he was revealed to Israel in the coming days.

F. We previously studied John’s purpose in baptizing in 1:19-28 as preparation for people to believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

G. John boldly proclaims his witness as to what he has seen—that Jesus is the Son of God.

H. John then announces that the Lamb of God (who is Jesus) takes away the sin of the world.

That Christ died for our sins to take away our sins is sufficient for all people but it provides salvation only to those who believe in him—in his name.

2. **How** Jesus took away the sin of the world.

- (John 1:14–18 ESV) **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 **For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace**. 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**. 18 No one has ever seen God; **the only God**, who is at the Father’s side, **he has made him known**.

A. He came into the world and took on a human body—becoming one of us and living among us.

B. He was made like us in every respect.

- (Hebrews 2:14 ESV) **Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

C. He came into the world to offer his body by the will of God as a sacrifice for sins because it was impossible for anything else to take away sins.

- (Hebrews 10:4–7, 10-14 ESV) **For it is impossible** for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, **but a body have you prepared for me**; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘**Behold, I have come to do your will, O God**, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ... 10 **And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**. 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly **the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins**. 12 **But when Christ had offered**

for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

D. He made it possible for our sin to be taken away when he died for our sins.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 **that he was buried**, **that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**.

3. **Why** Jesus took away the sin of the world.

A. Jesus took away the sin of the world so that through him we could receive from his fullness grace upon grace ... as grace and truth were given through him.

- (John 1:14–17 ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. ... 16 **For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace**. 17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**.

B. Jesus took away the sin of the world so that we might have life and have it abundantly.

- (John 10:10 ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly**.

C. Jesus took away the sin of the world so that we may know his love and be filled with the fullness of God.

- (Ephesians 3:19 ESV) **And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**.

Transition ... time warp ... we fast forward about fifteen years or so and find the Apostle John in tears in heaven before the throne of God. But never fear ... the Lamb of God saves the day.

4. **Why** he was worthy to open the scroll.

- (Revelation 5:1–14 ESV) Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the

back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”** 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 **and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it**. 5 And one of the elders said to me, **“Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”** 6 **And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain**, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 **And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne**. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, **“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God** from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, **“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”** 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, **“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”** 14 And the four living creatures said, **“Amen!”** and the elders fell down and worshiped.

A. He was worthy to take the scroll and open its seals **because he was slain and by his blood he ransomed people for God**.

- (Hebrews 9:26 ESV) But as it is, **he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages** to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

B. The scroll is a document of judgment and blessing that is sealed with seven seals and inaugurates the final day of the Lord in reclaiming the earth, ushering in the new heavens and new earth and the judgment of the wicked and the righteous assuring their final, eternal destinations.

5. **What** that means to those who receive him and believe in his name.

- (John 1:12–13 ESV) **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,** 13 **who were born,** not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of *[the will]* God.

A. Those who receive the true light, who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God.

The high authority necessary to bestow this privilege is based on the person and the position of the One granting the right for the recipients to become children of God—John reveals this Person to be Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

B. Those who receive this legal authority are recognized by Almighty God as children of God ... who are born by the will of God who will one day join him in his eternal kingdom in glory.

C. This is a powerful demonstration of the kind of love the Father has shown us.

- (1 John 3:1–3 ESV) **See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God;** and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, **we are God's children now,** and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

D. The person who has this hope as a child of God purifies himself.

6. **What** that means to those who continue in sin and live in disobedience to God's truth.

- (1 John 3:4–7 ESV) **Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness;** sin

is lawlessness. 5 **You know that he appeared in order to take away sins,** and in him there is no sin. 6 **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.** 7 Little children, **let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous,** as he is righteous.

A. The person who keeps on sinning is marked by a life of disobedience and also practices lawlessness.

B. Sin is lawlessness—lawlessness is sin.

The word ἁμαρτία [hamartia] means to miss the mark. Sin involves destructive and corrupt actions or thoughts that miss the mark of what God would consider right and good.

C. This person's life is characterized by an open defiance to the restraints of the law of God.

Lawlessness is the state of being or behaving in open defiance to the law. The word ἀνομία [anomia] speaks of the condition of without law; without law because ignorant of it; because of violating it.

D. **Deduction:** The Lamb of God made a sufficient sacrifice to take away sin, so if the person is still practicing sin and lawlessness, then his sin has not been taken away because of his unbelief.

E. This person has not seen and does not know God.

F. This person has been deceived and believes himself to be righteous.

What is the warning here—"let no one deceive you"? The deceived person practices sin but believes himself to be righteous. He is disobedient but believes himself to be obedient. How do we bring this person to his senses? The standard is "*as he is righteous*"—speaking of Jesus Christ.

- (2 Timothy 2:24–26 ESV) And the Lord's servant must **not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,** 25 **correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,** 26 **and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.**