

“The Lamb”

John 1: 29

Since the first entrance of sin into the world as recorded in the Book of Genesis, the shedding of the blood of a spotless lamb has been required by God as a substitute for the life of the guilty sinners who desired forgiveness. We find in the scriptures a progression of the sacrificing of an animal to deal with the sins of human beings.

1. A sacrifice (lamb) for an individual. A time came when God tested Abraham and told him to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering on a mountain. Abraham took his son and the wood and fire and started to the mountain. As they walked along Isaac said to his father, “We have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham replied, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” When they came to the mountain, Abraham built an altar and prepared the wood on it and then bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar. As he raised the knife to slay his son, an angel of the Lord called out to him, “Abraham, Abraham, do not lay a hand on the boy, for now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld from me your only son.” Abraham looked up and there in a thicket was a ram caught by its horns, so Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. (Genesis 22).
2. A sacrifice (lamb) for a family. When God delivered Israel from Egypt, he gave Moses these instructions; “tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.” (Exodus 12: 3). The lamb was to be sacrificed and used for the Passover meal and the blood was to be put on the sides and top of the doorframes so the death angel would pass over that house when the first born of every Egyptian home would be slain. This was the beginning of the annual Passover feast the Israelites would always remember.
3. A sacrifice (goat) for a nation. Once a year on the Day of Atonement a goat was to be sacrificed and the blood offered for the sins of the nation, all the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites. However, in reality this was only symbolic because according to (Hebrews 10: 4), “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” These things were done according to the law that God had given through Moses, but the sacrifices of the law were insufficient whether an animal slain for an individual, family or a nation could at best only testify to faith in God’s promises that God in his grace would accept the shed blood as a temporary atonement or covering over their sins. This was done year after year, over and over. There was still a need for a permanent sacrifice that would not just cover over sin, but would take away the sins of all believers everywhere.
4. The sacrifice (the Lamb) for the world. (John 1: 29). The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” Finally Jesus came! The true Lamb of God. Further through (Hebrews 10) we find the old sacrificial system was abolished and the new covenant was established as Jesus finished his work on the cross of Calvary where he died once for all who would believe on him. His shed blood would not

simply cover over sin, but wash it away to be remembered no more. Yes, Jesus' sacrificial work was finished, but he is not just the slain Lamb, he is the risen Savior of all who come to him in faith. Believe on "The Lamb of God" and his precious blood will wash away your sins.

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