

MESSIAH IN THE OT

WEEK 11 – The Lamb of God Through Scripture

April 2, 2019

Bible study tools:

God's plan is summed up in four words:

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

The two sentences that address the summary statement of the entire Bible:

The Bible lays out God's plan for the nations through the nation of Israel.

And, within God's plan for the world, following sin entering the world, we read the unfolding of God's plan of redemption for both Jew and Gentile.

REMEMBER WORSHIP ANTICIPATE

God tells us to remember Him...

To worship Him NOW...

And to anticipate what He will do!

Jesus was promised to the Jewish people.

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream about Mary – to whom Joseph was betrothed. Mary was a virgin who would conceive the Son of God. This angel told Joseph – *You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins* (Matt. 1:21). “His people” in this context are the Jewish people. JESUS' name in Hebrew is YESHUA which means God is salvation! And in Matt. 1:23, quoting from Isa. 7:14, we read *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'*

Scripture teaches that Jesus, the Messiah, would come for both Jew and Gentile. Gen. 12:3 – through you, Abraham, ALL the families of the earth will be blessed – through the Jewish Messiah. Isa. 49:6 – God the Father, in speaking to God the Son, tells Him – *It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.*

The Jewish people were the ones looking for the Messiah. When we turn from the last book in the OT, Malachi, to the first book in the NT, Matthew, we're reading the continuation of the story of the LAMB OF GOD! The entire Bible tells us the story of the Lamb of God.

Sin entered into the world through man... God promised that the “Seed of the woman” would come in the future and provide the resolution for sin. Man tried to cover their own shame with the works of their hands... covering themselves with fig leaves they had sewn

together (Gen. 3:7). God killed an animal, shedding its blood, and covered Adam and Eve. Something had to die for sin. That innocent animal died as a substitute.

2

In Lev. 17:11 God required blood to be shed to atone for sin. *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*

Matt. 3 – Jesus was preparing to announce Himself to Israel. He was preparing for His public ministry. Jesus’ relative, John had been preparing the way for the Messiah... preparing the way for the Lord We’re told in Matthew 3:5-6 that people from Jerusalem, and ALL Judea, and ALL the region around Jordan traveled to the Jordan River to hear John the Baptizer. Jewish people flocked to the Jordan River to hear John. Jewish people confessed their sins. Jewish people were immersed in the Jordan River. Immersion into water was nothing new to Jewish people. Moses, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had written of immersion/Jewish purification rites in Leviticus 15.

Matt. 3:13 – *Then Jesus came....* Jesus walked from Nazareth in Galilee to the Jordan River – a distance of approx. 60 miles. He was expected! We read John’s very pointed proclamation in the Gospel in John 1:29 - *BEHOLD the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.* John told his people, “LOOK! Here He is!! Here is the One for Whom you’ve been waiting!”

Was this a special message for the Jewish people? Why? What did the people of that day think about John’s statement concerning the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world?

John 1:32-34 - *And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”*

John 1:35-42 - *Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.*

The Jewish people had heard about the lamb throughout their history. They read about the lamb in Scripture. Jewish people knew full well about lambs. Lambs were sacrificed in the Temple to cover sin! The lambs died in their place. If you were Jewish, your ancestors passed along the story of the Lamb. God promised the Jewish people THE Lamb...and that HE, GOD, would be the Lamb (Gen. 22:8).

3

God first introduced the Lamb in Genesis. In Gen. 4 we're told that Abel was a keeper of sheep. We're further told that *Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock* as an offering to the Lord. Abel sacrificed a lamb.

In Genesis 22 the story unfolds and we're given more details as we read of Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac. Genesis 22 is the account of a FATHER taking his SON...his only son whom he loved...to a mountain to sacrifice him! This is the first time we see the word "love" in Scripture! After Abraham and Sarah waited for a son, Isaac, the son promised by God. After waiting for 25 years, Isaac was born. And then God told Abraham to kill this son??!! A son, followed by his descendants, would be necessary for the great nation God promised Abraham. Abraham obeyed God's instructions. In the book of Hebrews we're given insight into Abraham's thinking. In Heb. 11:19 we read that Abraham concluded that God was able to raise Isaac up, even from the dead. On the way up the mountain, Isaac asked his father, "Father, we have the wood and the fire – but what about the sacrifice? Where's the sacrifice?" In Gen. 22:8 – the English from the Hebrew translation reads - *And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide HIMSELF the lamb for a burnt offering.'* God promised a LAMB. . .and He promised that HE, GOD, would be the lamb who would be the sacrifice for sin – a substitutionary sacrifice.

Abraham obeyed God's instructions. Gen. 22:9-10 - *And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.* But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, *Do not lay your hand on the lad. . . for now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me* (Gen. 22:12). Abraham lifted his eyes and looked and behind him was a RAM caught in the thicket. What about the lamb? A lamb was promised. This lamb, about which God spoke to Abraham, is the Lamb to come. We have the promise of a future Lamb.

The Jewish people knew that THE Lamb, which would be sacrificed in their place, was yet to come. And so the children of Israel waited.

That Lamb is reintroduced in Exodus 12. In Exodus 12 we read of the first Passover in Egypt. God provided a lamb for each family/household (Ex. 12:3-5). Scripture is very pointed in telling us that there is a lamb provided according to each man's need. We are

reading of a personal lamb from a personal God! A lamb was brought into each home. The lambs lived with the families for four days. The families scrutinized the lambs to make sure they were spotless/without blemish. Then God told the people to kill the lambs that were spotless (Dt. 15:21 [they couldn't be lame, blind, or have any serious defects]). God told the people to apply the blood of the lamb on the lintel and on the doorposts of each home. And God physically delivered those who obeyed His instructions, killing the lamb and applying its blood. God delivered them out of bondage to slavery in Egypt and set them upon the path to the Promised Land. What a graphic picture of salvation through Jesus' shed blood on the cross which delivers us from bondage to sin when we each individually confess our sins and ask His forgiveness for

4

our sins. Upon give us new life in the Messiah we are promised eternal life with Him in the ultimate promised land!

In Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, as God unfolds His story, we read of countless lambs being sacrificed to cover sin while the Jewish people waited for THE Lamb of God Who would come to TAKE AWAY sin.

But, how would the people recognize the Lamb for Whom they waited...the Lamb Who was promised in Gen. 22...the Lamb Who would die – Who would shed His blood for our deliverance as foreshadowed in Ex. 12? In Isaiah 53, written 700-800 years before Jesus, that Lamb/the Lamb is identified. The Lamb is the Messiah Who would be crucified. *“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed. . . He was led as a lamb to the slaughter (Isa. 53:5, 7) The LAMB OF GOD is Jesus the Messiah. Isaiah 53 in the Hebrew Scriptures identifies HIM!*

HERE IS JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD Who came to DIE.

Isa. 53:6 - *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.*

This LAMB OF GOD came for the world. God's gift of Jesus was not only for the Jewish people. Jesus came for Gentiles as well. All people need to come to faith in Jesus to have eternal life. *There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).* Salvation is through Jesus ALONE for Jew and Gentile!

In Rev. 22:1, 3 we read the words of the Apostle John who was given the revelation of Jesus. John writes – *“And he showed me a pure¹ river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 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.”*

We will have the LAMB OF GOD for all ETERNITY!

Rev. 21:1-5 - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'*

Rev. 21:16 - the dimensions of the wall around the New Jerusalem are twelve thousand furlongs...about 1400 miles in length, width, height (equal). The city is a perfect cube.

5

There are 12 gates which are 12 pearls (Rev. 21:21). Each gate is a single pearl 1400 miles in height. These pearl gates allow the suffering of the Lamb to live on eternally. Bruised and broken lives remind us of the sacrifice of the Lamb. He was bruised for us.

Questions

Has your understanding of the Bible been impacted? If so, how?

Has this study changed you? If so, how?

How will your study of the Bible change?

Will this study have an impact on how you share Jesus?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Read through Joshua to II Samuel and note Messianic passages and how the Messianic hope unfolds.

Share what you're reading and studying with at least one person.