

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 17 – The Lamb of God Throughout Scripture

September 13, 2026

The Jewish people were the ones looking for the Messiah...because God had promised the Jewish people the Messiah! The first believers in Jesus were Jewish. The early church was primarily Jewish.

When we turn from the last book in the OT, Malachi – to the first book in the NT – to Matthew 1:1 - *This is the book of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham*. We're reading in the first book in the NT the continuation of the story from the OT.

Jewish people read from Genesis chapter 22 at Rosh Hashanah, during the Fall Feasts. Genesis 22 focuses on the Lamb of God!!! Consider sharing with your Jewish friends the LAMB OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE!

The Jewish people were given the sacrificial system by God. They sacrificed pure, unspotted animals for 1500 years! In the Torah, the first 5 books of Moses, Lev. 17:11 tells us that God required blood to be shed to forgive sin. God promised that the LAMB of God would come and shed His blood for our sin (Isa. 53: 7, 10).

We're going to look at the LAMB OF GOD from Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Matthew, John, and Revelation. ONE STORY!

Let's begin in the Gospel of Matthew....

We're going to visit the Jordan River. In Matthew 3 Jesus is preparing to announce Himself to Israel.

Jesus' relative, John – John the Baptizer/John the Immerser from the tribe of Levi has been preaching. He's been preparing the way for Jesus, the Messiah – preparing the way for the Lord (Isa. 40:3 – *The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the LORD....'*). We're told in Matthew 3:5-6 that people from Jerusalem, and ALL Judea, and ALL the region around Jordan went to the Jordan River to hear John..

These were JEWISH people who were flocking to the Jordan River to hear what John was preaching. AND, these Jewish people were confessing their sins (v. 6). These Jewish people were being immersed in the Jordan River. These were Jewish people!

You see – immersion into water was nothing new to Jewish people. Moses had written of immersion in the book of Leviticus. Immersion was part of the Jewish purification rites which we find in Lev. 15.

And as John was preaching and baptizing, we read in Matt. 3:13: “THEN JESUS CAME.” Jesus walked from Nazareth in Galilee to the Jordan River – a distance of 60+ miles. He was on a timetable – GOD’S timetable; AND, He was EXPECTED!

What does John proclaim when he sees Jesus? We find John’s very pointed proclamation in the Gospel of John – John 1:29 - *Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.* John is telling his people - Here He is!! Here is the One for Whom we’ve been waiting! Here is the One God promised to us!

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Why was this such a PRONOUNCEMENT to all these Jewish people at the Jordan River? Are we observing that ALL who came to the Jordan to be immersed were Jewish? As we’ve read the book of Matthew in the past, have we ever asked ourselves – what did the Jewish people of that day think about John’s statement concerning the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world??

If you were Jewish in Jesus’ day and you heard John make this declaration as he pointed to Jesus...YOU KNEW!!!!!! The Jewish people had heard about the lamb throughout their history. They read about the lambs in Scripture!

Jewish people knew FULL WELL about lambs. Lambs were sacrificed (twice daily [Ex. 29:38-39; Num. 28:3-8]) in the Temple to cover sin! For 1500 years, Jewish people brought lambs to be killed as their substitute!

If you were Jewish - your ancestors passed along the STORY of **THE** lamb. God promised the Jewish people a Lamb – THE lamb – and that HE – GOD - would be the Lamb (Gen. 22:8)

In John’s day, the Lamb wasn’t a new thought to the Jewish people. They KNEW that their Scriptures spoke of a lamb – of THE lamb. Have I emphasized this enough?

Where does God first introduce the Lamb? In the first book...in Genesis! In Gen. 4 we’re told that Abel was a keeper of sheep. *Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock...as an offering to the Lord.* Abel sacrificed a lamb.

In Gen. 22 the story unfolds. We read of Abraham’s near sacrifice of Isaac. Gen. 22 is read at Rosh Hashanah in synagogues.

What is the message in Genesis 22? It’s the story 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 – in Genesis 22. What a DRAMATIC account God has given the Jewish people in Genesis 22.

After Abraham and Sarah waited for a son...after waiting for 25 years, the son of promise, Isaac, through whom Abraham’s physical would come – Isaac is BORN. Then God told Abraham to kill this son??!! God had promised to make a GREAT NATION of Abraham from physical descendants/children! Isaac was born...AND NOW God is telling Abraham to kill his son?

In Gen. 22 we read that after God instructed Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham awakened the next day...EARLY! Abraham would need to start on his trek with Isaac to the region of Mt. Moriah and place his son on an altar and kill him! BUT, we see no resistance on the part of Abraham. 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! Abraham was thinking - “God, You promised this son – Isaac – and descendants through him – descendants as multiple as the stars of heaven – and you are a faithful God. This is Your plan. YOU will provide.”

Abraham had confidence in God Who has a plan...for the world!

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 – *And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide HIMSELF the lamb for a burnt offering.’* God

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will provide **HIMSELF**! 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. And, on the mountain, Abraham bound Isaac and laid him on the altar. Abraham stretched out his hand, he took the knife to slay his son. ...AND the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham 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**!

Abraham lifted his eyes and looked and behind him was a RAM caught in the thicket. A ram takes Isaac’s place on the altar? A RAM? What about the lamb? A lamb had been promised!!!

This lamb about which God spoke to Abraham – is THE Lamb to come. We have the PROMISE of a **future** Lamb. AND SO...the Jewish people KNEW that THE Lamb – the Lamb that would be sacrificed in their place - was yet to come. And so they WAITED.

That Lamb was reintroduced - in Exodus 12. In Exodus 12 we read of the first Passover – in Egypt. God provided a lamb for each family/for each household (Ex. 12:3-5

[Scripture labels this lamb as **a** lamb (nothing special), **the** lamb (a unique lamb), **YOUR** lamb (a personal lamb). The lamb provided would be according to each man's need.

We are reading of a PERSONAL lamb from a PERSONAL God!

At the first Passover in Egypt, a/the/your lamb was brought into each home; and 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 smear the blood of the lamb on the lintel and on the doorposts of each home. For those who killed their spotless lamb and applied its blood to the doorposts and lintels of their homes, God DELIVERED them out of bondage to slavery in Egypt and set them upon the path to the land He promised them.

What a GRAPHIC picture of salvation through the blood looking forward to Jesus' blood on the cross. One story!

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

BUT WHO is this LAMB? How would the people recognize THE Lamb for Whom they waited? In Isaiah 53, written 700-800 years before Jesus – THAT Lamb – THE Lamb – is identified...it's 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). Isaiah 53 in the Hebrew Scriptures identified HIM! And many Jewish people have followed Jesus!

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.

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Salvation is through the Messiah Jesus ALONE for Jew and Gentile! Tell Jewish people about the LAMB OF GOD and WHO He is as they are reading these passages in the Hebrew Scriptures.

In Rev. 22:1, 3 - John recorded, *And he showed me a pure 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!

In the New Jerusalem there will be 12 gates – EACH gate is a single pearl...1400-1500 miles in height. These pearl gates allow the suffering of the Lamb of God to live on eternally.

John Phillips wrote re: the New Jerusalem and the gates of pearl (Rev. 21:21)...:

“Precious gems are metals or stones...but a pearl is a gem formed within an oyster. The only one formed by living flesh. The humble oyster receives an irritation or a wound – and around the offending article that has penetrated and hurt it, the oyster builds a pearl.

The pearl, we might say, is the answer of the oyster to that which injured it.

The glory land is God's answer in Jesus to wicked men and women who crucified heaven's Beloved and put Him to open shame. How like God to make the gates of the New Jerusalem a pearl.

The saints as they come and go, will forever be reminded as they pass through the gates of glory that access to God's home is only because of Calvary.

What gigantic suffering is symbolized by those enormous gates of pearl.

Throughout the endless ages we will be reminded of the IMMENSITY of the suffering of the Messiah.

Those pearls hung eternally at the access routes to glory will remind us forever of the One Who hung on a tree. And, His answer to those who injured Him is to invite them to share His home – FOREVER!

We shall never forget that HE is the reason why we are here.”